

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### Violence Against Women & Girls – Draft Scope and Terms of Reference (2022/23)

<b>Rationale</b>	<p>A key outcome of the Council’s Borough Plan 2019-23 is that levels of violence against women and girls will be significantly reduced.</p> <p>The Council’s Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy for 2016-2026 sets out the Council’s vision to make Haringey one of the safest boroughs in London for women and girls in which no form of abuse is tolerated. The strategy sets out four key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing a Coordinated Community Response</li><li>• Prevention</li><li>• Support for victims/survivors</li><li>• Holding perpetrators accountable</li></ul> <p>The Council’s VAWG Strategy states that 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 VAWG given include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sexual violence, abuse and exploitation</li><li>• Sexual harassment and bullying</li><li>• Stalking</li><li>• Trafficking</li><li>• Domestic violence and abuse</li><li>• Coercive and controlling behaviour</li><li>• Female genital mutilation</li><li>• Forced marriage</li><li>• Crimes committed in the name of ‘honour’ (so-called ‘honour’ based violence)</li></ul> <p>The Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and Adults &amp; Health Scrutiny Panel have monitored this issue in recent years. Evidence collected on VAWG during 2021/22 included:</p>
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- Oral evidence from an Intelligence Analyst in the Council’s Community Safety and Enforcement Team who provided the Committee with key trends and statistics on domestic abuse in Haringey.
- Oral evidence from the Metropolitan Police about the Police approach to VAWG including their partnership working, statistical analysis, offender management plans for identified individuals who targeted women and additional patrols at peak times in identified hotspot areas.
- Oral evidence from the Council’s Director for Public Health and VAWG Strategic Lead, who provided a detailed overview of the Council’s VAWG Strategy for 2016-2026 and responded to a range of questions from the Committee.
- Assembly of written evidence including:
  - o the Council’s VAWG Strategy;
  - o the Council’s VAWG Guidance for Professionals;
  - o the Council’s VAWG Annual Review for 2020/21;
  - o the Government’s Tackling VAWG Strategy (2021);

At the ‘Scrutiny Café’ community consultation event held in September 2022, the prevention of Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) was identified as a high priority. The feedback received was that there needed to be more funding and staff for VAWG services, that victims could experience deep-rooted trauma but often experienced difficulties in accessing support and that VAWG was an issue that particularly affected young people and so more support was needed in schools.

#### **Schools based VAWG prevention**

Developing a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) and prevention are two of the four key priorities of the Council’s VAWG Strategy and this involves all agencies working together in partnership. Part of the Council’s CCR and prevention work has involved the commissioning of a small project which has involved a worker going into schools in the Borough to speak to pupils about healthy relationships. The Committee is aware that this project has only operated on a small scale so far and that extra capacity would be required to meet demand but that this was an approach that was currently being piloted.

	<p>The Committee was also made aware that there was a community engagement project on VAWG with young people involving the development of videos and peer on peer support. Again, this was only a small project at present and could potentially be expanded in future.</p> <p>At a meeting with the Council’s Director for Public Health and VAWG Strategic Lead in 2021/22, the Committee was informed that tackling attitudes and behaviour in men and boys as part of the solution needed to start at an earlier age in primary schools, rather than just through PSHE in secondary schools.</p> <p>An aim of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee’s Review will therefore be to examine the Council’s approach to schools-based engagement on VAWG, including the progress of recent pilot projects, the likely future resource requirements, national policy/guidance and approaches to school-based engagement elsewhere in London and the UK that Haringey could potentially learn from.</p> <p><b><u>Community based VAWG prevention</u></b></p> <p>Another part of the Council’s CCR has involved the development of a Community Engagement model with some specific areas of working with local partners in the community and voluntary sector including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and training Safe Spaces and Community Initiatives</li> <li>• Recruiting and training VAWG Community Champions</li> <li>• Co-producing an effective Communications Campaign with partners</li> </ul> <p>The Committee heard through the Scrutiny Café consultation event that women and girls in Haringey who were affected by VAWG did not always find it easy to access support. An aim of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee’s Review will therefore be to examine the Council’s approach to community engagement on VAWG including the progress of recent work in this area, the likely future resource requirements, national policy/guidance and approaches to community engagement elsewhere in London and the UK that Haringey could potentially learn from.</p> <p>The Panel will seek to consider evidence from a broad range of witnesses and to develop recommendations to Cabinet on how best to support the Council’s VAWG team to achieve the objectives set out in the Borough Plan.</p>
<b>Scrutiny Membership</b>	The Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that will carry out this review are:

	<p>Councillors: John Bevan (Chair), Pippa Connor, Makbule Gunes, Michelle Simmons-Safo &amp; Matt White.</p> <p>Co-opted members: Yvonne Denny, Anita Jakhu, KanuPriya Jhunjhunwala &amp; Lourdes Keever.</p>
<b>Terms of reference</b>	<p>The aims of this project are:</p> <p>To review the current arrangements for specific areas of VAWG prevention in Haringey under the remit of the Council's VAWG Strategy 2016-26 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Council's approach to schools-based engagement on VAWG, including the progress of recent pilot projects, the likely future resource requirements, national policy/guidance and approaches to school-based engagement elsewhere in London and the UK that Haringey could potentially learn from.</li> <li>• the Council's approach to community engagement on VAWG, including the progress of recent work in this area, the likely future resource requirements, national policy/guidance and approaches to community engagement elsewhere in London and the UK that Haringey could potentially learn from.</li> </ul>
<b>Links to the Borough Plan</b>	<p>Priority 2: People. "Our vision is a Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential"</p> <p>Outcome 8 (d) Levels of violence against women and girls will be significantly reduced; and, Outcome 5 (c) Children and young people will be physically and mentally healthy and well.</p>
<b>Evidence Sources/Witnesses</b>	<p>A broad selection of interested parties will be invited to take part in the review and to submit evidence, including voluntary and community groups, Police, Schools and Council officers.</p>
<b>Methodology/Approach</b>	<p>A variety of methods will be used to gather evidence from the witnesses above, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desktop research</li> <li>• Evidence gathering sessions with witnesses</li> <li>• Possible site visits.</li> </ul>
<b>Equalities Implications</b>	<p>The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to: (1) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act; (2) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not; (3) Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.</p>

	<p>The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy/maternity; race; religion/faith; sex and sexual orientation. In addition, marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.</p> <p>The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during final scoping, evidence gathering and final reporting. This should include considering and clearly stating: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to service and fair representation of all groups within Haringey; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.</p>
<b>Timescale</b>	<p>Draft scoping document submitted to Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee – <b>13th October 2022</b></p> <p>Evidence gathering sessions – <b>October 2022 to January 2023</b></p> <p>Analyse findings / develop recommendations – <b>February 2023</b></p> <p>Report published – <b>March 2023</b></p>
<b>Reporting arrangements</b>	<p>The Director of Adults &amp; Health will coordinate a response to Cabinet to the recommendations of the Committee’s final report.</p>
<b>Constraints/Barriers/Risks</b>	<p>The issue of VAWG is recognised as a broad topic with cross-cutting areas of policy. The Committee is mindful of the timescales and available resources and recognises that it would be more effective to focus in detail on a limited number of specific areas rather than to examine all aspects of the VAWG strategy. The Committee will therefore need to be conscious of the need to remain focused on the specific policy areas set out in the terms of reference in order to meet the required timescales for the Review.</p>
<b>Officer Support</b>	<p>Lead officer: Dominic O’Brien, Principal Scrutiny Officer, 020 8489 5896, <a href="mailto:Dominic.Obrien@haringey.gov.uk">Dominic.Obrien@haringey.gov.uk</a></p>