

Appendix 2 – Response to the Recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Prevention of Violence Against Women & Girls

No.	Recommendation	Suggested Response (Agreed/Not Agreed/Partially Agreed)	Response to Recommendation
1	The Committee welcomed the introduction of mandatory Domestic Abuse Awareness training for all Council staff and suggested that the uptake and impact of this training should be monitored, including an assessment of the number of VAWG interventions and referrals made by staff over time. The Committee also recommended that mandatory specialist training should be provided for members of staff who deliver services directly to residents.	Partially Agreed	Training will continue to be made available to all Council staff through a range of accessible formats. While mandating completion across all roles may not be proportionate or feasible, uptake will be monitored and learning used to inform ongoing development of the programme. The Council recognises the importance of understanding the impact of training on practice; however, capturing and attributing VAWG-related interventions and referrals made by staff over time is complex, given the range of services involved and varying data systems. As such, a proportionate approach will be taken, drawing on a combination of uptake data, feedback and service-level insights where available. Targeted, specialist training will be prioritised for staff in resident-facing roles to strengthen identification, response and safeguarding practice.
2	The Committee recommended that Domestic Abuse Awareness training should also be made available to the wider community and voluntary sector in Haringey so that more people in a position to intervene are trained to recognise the signs of domestic violence and emotional abuse.	Partially Agreed	The Council will continue to make VAWG training available to the voluntary and community sector, subject to available capacity and funding. This will support a broader network of professionals and community leaders to recognise signs of abuse and respond appropriately, strengthening early identification and community-based support. VAWG training can periodically be made available to the wider community depending on VAWG team capacity and funding available to commission external training

3	Commenting on general issues associated with a local strategic approach, the Committee recommended that, given the short-term nature of some government funded projects, the VAWG team should assemble end of project reports with a brief introduction on the learnings and the future viability of projects within the lifetime of the upcoming local strategy.	Agreed	The VAWG team will incorporate end-of-project learning into programme reviews and strategic planning. This will include capturing key outcomes, lessons learnt and considerations for sustainability, to inform future commissioning and ensure effective use of short-term funding within the longer-term strategic approach.
4	That the Council should signpost to specialist support services, advice and guidance which could be of help to people who have been bereaved by a VAWG-related homicide or suicide.	Agreed	The Council will continue to promote access to specialist bereavement support, including postvention services available across North Central London. This includes signposting through local suicide prevention and safeguarding partnerships. Work will also continue to strengthen pathways for those affected by VAWG-related homicide, ensuring appropriate specialist advice and support is accessible.
5	That the local VAWG Strategy should be linked to the local Suicide Prevention Strategy and its strategic objective of supporting people bereaved by suicide.	Agreed	The development of the new Strategy will be started in 2027. This will be a wider Gender Based Violence Strategy as referenced by the cabinet member introduction. It will be closely aligned with the existing Suicide Prevention Strategy, including shared priorities relating to bereavement support. This will ensure a coherent, whole-system response to overlapping risks and vulnerabilities.
6	Educational programmes such as Protect Our Women (POW) should be delivered in all Haringey secondary schools as there is only partial coverage currently.	Agreed	The Council is committed to expanding the reach of educational programmes such as Protect Our Women (POW). Delivery across all secondary schools will be explored in partnership with schools, taking into account curriculum capacity, delivery models and available resources, with a focus on increasing coverage over time.
7	That the development of a whole-school approach on VAWG in Haringey schools should be a stated objective of the Council, that a detailed implementation plan should be	Partially Agreed	A whole-school approach to VAWG is recognised as a key ambition; however, full implementation will require phased delivery. The Council will work with education partners to develop a longer-term plan, including exploring pilot approaches and identifying funding opportunities to support sustainable implementation.

	established within 12 months and that funding should be sought to develop a pilot programme.		
8	That all Family Hub Navigators are fully VAWG trained so that they can identify individuals and families affected by VAWG and that advice, guidance and referrals to support services is provided within the Family Hubs.	Agreed	All Family Hub Navigators will be supported to undertake VAWG training to enable early identification of need and appropriate signposting. This will be integrated into the wider Family Hub model to ensure consistent access to advice, guidance and referral pathways for affected individuals and families.
9	For the consultation on the new VAWG Strategy for Haringey to proactively involve young people, across different communities and areas of the Borough.	Agreed	Engagement with children and young people will be a central component of the Gender Based Violence Strategy consultation process. A range of inclusive approaches will be used to ensure diverse voices are heard across communities and localities within the borough in 2027.
10	For the new VAWG Strategy for Haringey to include a strong emphasis on the needs of children and young people who are affected by VAWG, including online harms.	Agreed	The new Gender Based Violence Strategy will include a strong focus on the needs of children and young people, recognising their experiences both as direct victims and as those affected within families. This will include specific attention to emerging risks such as online harms and exploitation, alongside prevention and early intervention approaches.
11	To establish long-term co-design structures to include children and young people in the development of VAWG policies in Haringey.	Agreed	The Council will seek to establish sustainable co-design approaches to involve children and young people in shaping Gender Based Violence policy and practice. This is critical to ensuring that services and interventions are relevant, accessible and responsive to lived experience.
12	That the Council should promote Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation to other housing providers in Haringey.	Agreed	The Council will promote DAHA accreditation across housing partners in Haringey. Progress will require partnership working and a phased approach, recognising the resource and system challenges and changes required to achieve and maintain accreditation standards

13	That the Cabinet Member should emphasise to all multi-agency partners the Council's strong support for the MARAC coordination of action plans and the importance of ensuring that this process operates effectively when brought in-house from April 2026.	Agreed	The Council will continue to emphasise the importance of effective MARAC processes to all partners, including robust coordination and accountability. Bringing MARAC in-house from April 2026 provides an opportunity to strengthen oversight, consistency and multi-agency response.
14	That advice for women and girls on the options available to them to report concerns and/or specific incidences of VAWG crime to the Police should be included in the new local VAWG strategy, through local VAWG-related services and wider communications on VAWG issues.	Agreed	Clear advice on reporting options will be included within the Gender Based Violence Strategy and associated communications. This will ensure that women and girls are aware of the range of pathways available, including police reporting as well as alternative support routes.
15	That a review be carried out of the council's VAWG policy, and all services and risk assessments, to ensure they reflect the definition of "sex" in the Equality Act as established by the Supreme Court ruling in 'For Women Scotland v The Scottish Ministers'.	Partially Agreed	The Council has a duty to comply with all aspects of the law, including protections within the Equality Act for all protected characteristics. Our primary focus is to have inclusive services that meet the needs of all our residents, and that our services are maximally trans inclusive as legally permitted. This includes consideration of VAWG-related services and policies, where safeguarding, risk management and gender-based considerations are integral to service delivery. The Council will continue reviewing policies via the working group and will additionally explore how to increase uptake of services for trans women who face significant barriers accessing appropriate support.
16	To ensure that specialist provision is available in Haringey for people who fall outside of the legal definition of "sex" in the Equality Act.	Partially Agreed	The Council recognises that following the Supreme Court ruling and the EHRC's Code of Practice to the Equality Act 2010, that trans women who experience GBV, for the purposes of the protected characteristic of sex, are considered to be the sex they were assigned at birth, regardless of their gender or certified sex.

			The EHRC's own impact assessment to its Code of Practice notes that any exclusion from services will have a negative impact on trans people. The Council will review the low uptake and referrals of trans women to its services, noting evidence that trans women experience sexual violence and domestic abuse at higher rates than non-trans women and work to reduce barriers in access to services.
--	--	--	--