

# Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

Strategy outline  
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Focus on Perpetrators

# Definition

*“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”*

# The 8 forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

- Sexual violence, abuse and exploitation
- Sexual harassment and bullying
- Stalking
- Trafficking and forced prostitution
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced marriage
- Crime committed in the name of honour

# Starting point: Seven principles\*

1. Domestic violence and abuse is a form of violence against women and girls
2. Coercive and controlling behaviour has a significant negative impact on the lives of victims
3. **Women and girls are disproportionately the victims** of the crimes and abuses referenced in the definition of violence against women and girls
4. **Men and boys are overwhelmingly referenced as perpetrators** and abusers of violence against women and girls **but they can also directly experience it as victims**
5. Violence against women and girls is about power and control
6. Violence against women and girls is an abuse of someone's human rights and is both preventable and avoidable
7. Perpetrators are responsible for their behaviour

# VAWG in Haringey

In the 12 months to September 2014

- There were **2,123 reported domestic violence offences**, a 24.4% increase (London: 21.2%)
- There were 876 domestic violence with injury offences, a 24.3% increase (London: 18%)
- There were **441 recorded sexual offences**, a 37.8% increase (London 22%)
- There were **160 reported rape offences**, a 55% increase (London 33%)

# Approach to creating the Strategy

- VAWG is a very broad area – we need to find ways of tackling common factors i.e. unacceptable attitudes
- Dedicated resources are limited – we need to mobilise indirect resources effectively (all services, partners and community resources)
- We have taken some valuable steps but we are still at the start of the journey
- We will consult internally and externally
- It will be an incremental process of turning questions into answers

# Prevention

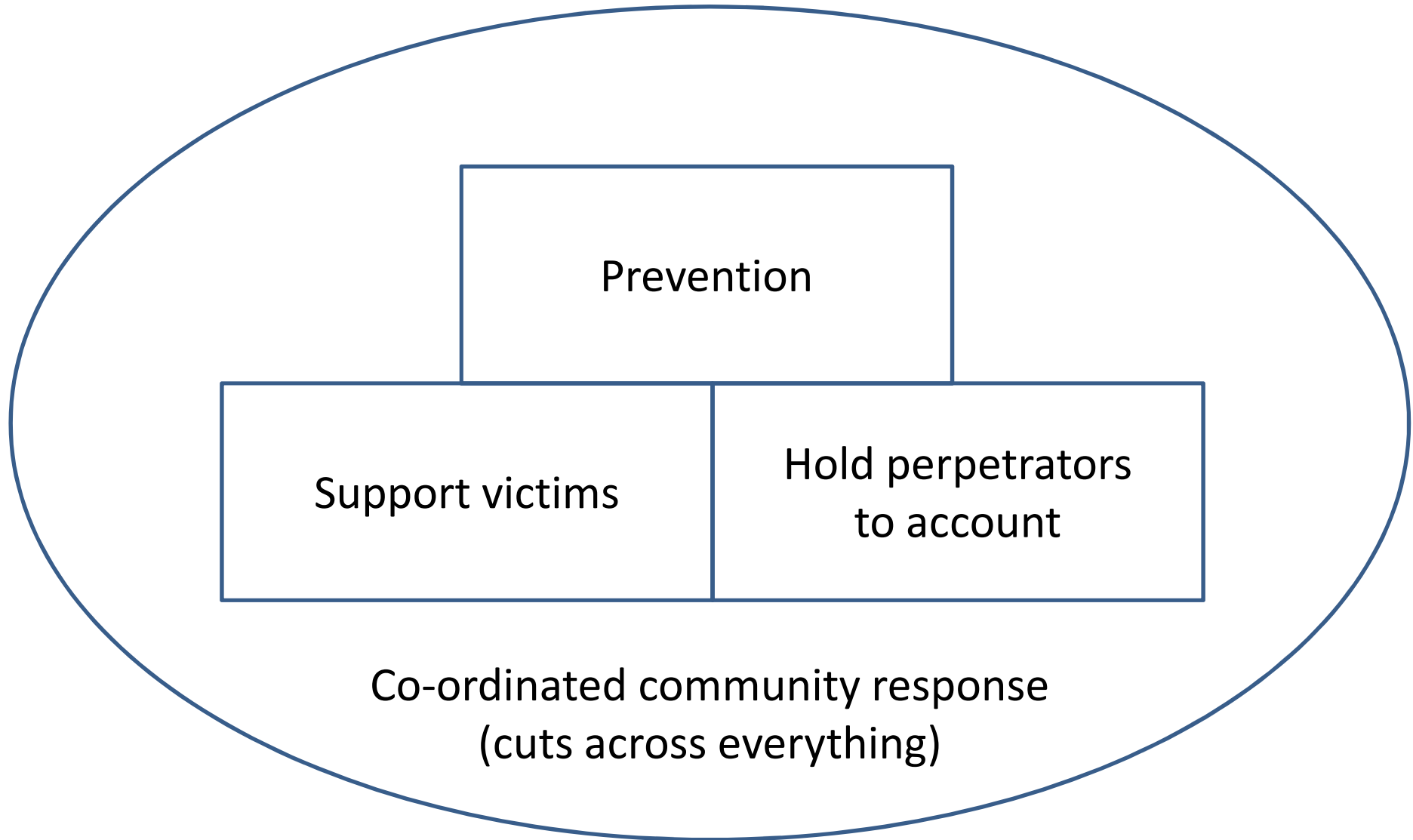
- The Strategy's main purpose is prevention – preventing violence and abuse, and (when it does happen) intervening earlier
- Prevention is fundamentally about challenging and changing unacceptable views
- We need to understand current attitudes to VAWG in different Haringey communities
- We want communities to stand up and challenge unacceptable views – not just the Council
- We therefore need to work with communities in new ways
- Professional agencies also need to speak consistently with one voice, share information and collaborate to deliver preventative initiatives

# Intervention

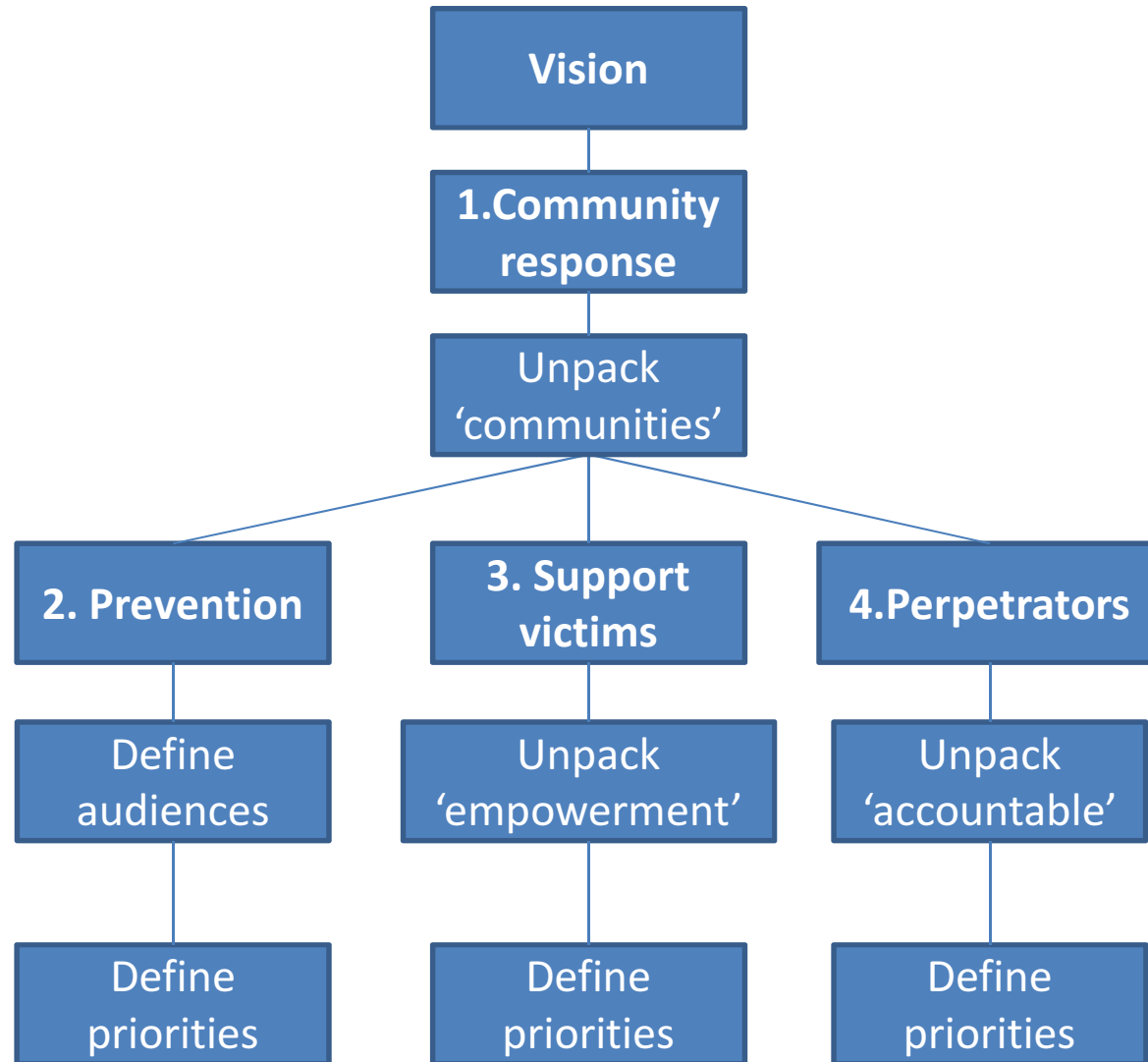
- The Strategy's second purpose is to ensure an effective 'whole-borough' response to incidences of VAWG;
- to support and empower victims;
- and hold perpetrators to account
- This is about understanding the experience of victims, and developing our responses through consultation and co-design
- Communities have a crucial role in supporting victims and holding perpetrators to account
- Professional agencies need to deliver high quality, joined up services to victims, and hold perpetrators to account in a way that is consistent and effective in preventing re-offending



# Strategic themes



# Strategy Structure

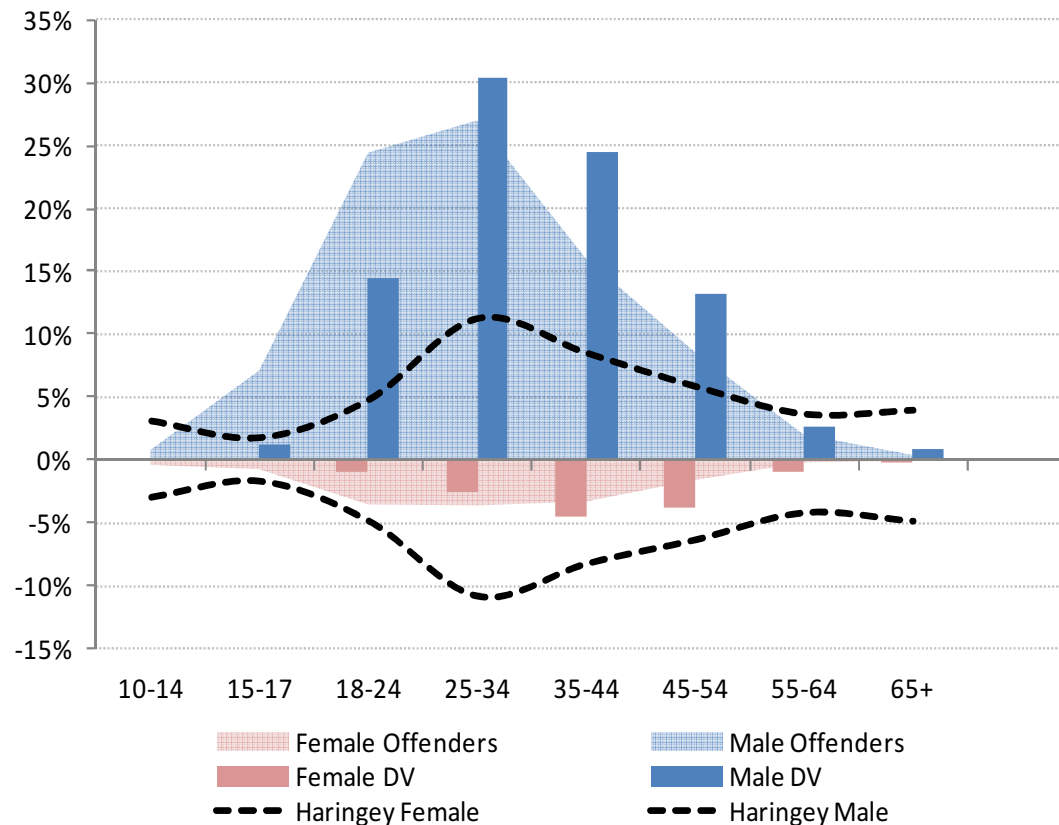


Focus on:  
Holding perpetrators to account

# What do we know about perpetrators?

*(Oct 2013 – Sept 2014: Police accused data flagged for DV)*

- There were **563 domestic abuse offenders**, a 132% increase from the same period the year before (increase could be linked to success Haringey is having encouraging more victims to report incidents – see notes)
- 87.4% of offenders linked to domestic abuse were **male**
- Over a third (35%) of the domestic abuse offenders were **25-34 years old**



## What do we know about perpetrators?

(Source: Oct 2013 – Sept 2014: Police accused 'Nationality' data flagged for DV)

- 41% of domestic abuse offenders were white , 33% were black
- The top five groups of offenders by nationality were as follows:
- The most over-represented groups were Polish nationals; double their Haringey population (Both Bulgarian and Romanian nationalities were equally over-represented but the number of accused involved were comparatively small)

Nationality	Offenders		Haringey		Index
	Count	%	%		
UNITED KINGDOM	319	56.6	55.4		102
POLAND	56	9.9	4.3		231
TURKEY	27	4.8	4		120
BULGARIA	16	2.8	1		284
ROMANIA	14	2.5	0.9		276

- **42% of offenders were unemployed** and 9% were employed in construction
- **820 people were proceeded against** by police for domestic abuse offending
- **Half of offenders proceeded against were charged** (this had risen to 56% for March 2015, just below the London performance of 59%)
- Cautions were used in half of cases (falling to 43% of cases in March 2015)

## Sexual offenders:

*(Source: Record of Risk Assessments for Probation Clients Jan-Dec 2014)*

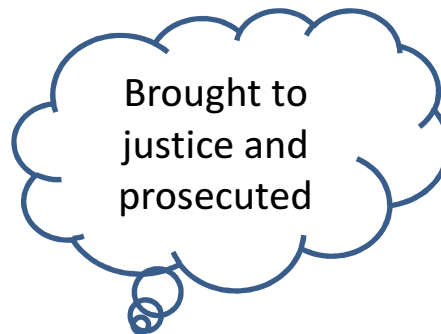
- There were **95 sexual offenders**, approximately 7% of the total offender population
- 92 out of 95 offenders were male
- Males **aged 26-34** were the most prevalent (41% of probation sexual offence clients)
- White British (25%) and White Other (24%) probation clients are slightly over-represented as offenders
- Black/Black British Caribbean are also prevalent (17%) but under-represented
- 38 people were proceeded against by police for Sexual Violence offending
- 30 offenders proceeded against were charged (79% - similar to the London rate of 77%)

## 'Homework' questions:

1. How does your organisation or service currently hold perpetrators of Violence against Women and Girls to account?
2. Are there any new policies or tactics in your organisation or service?
3. What scope is there for stronger partnership collaboration in this complex area?

## Table questions:

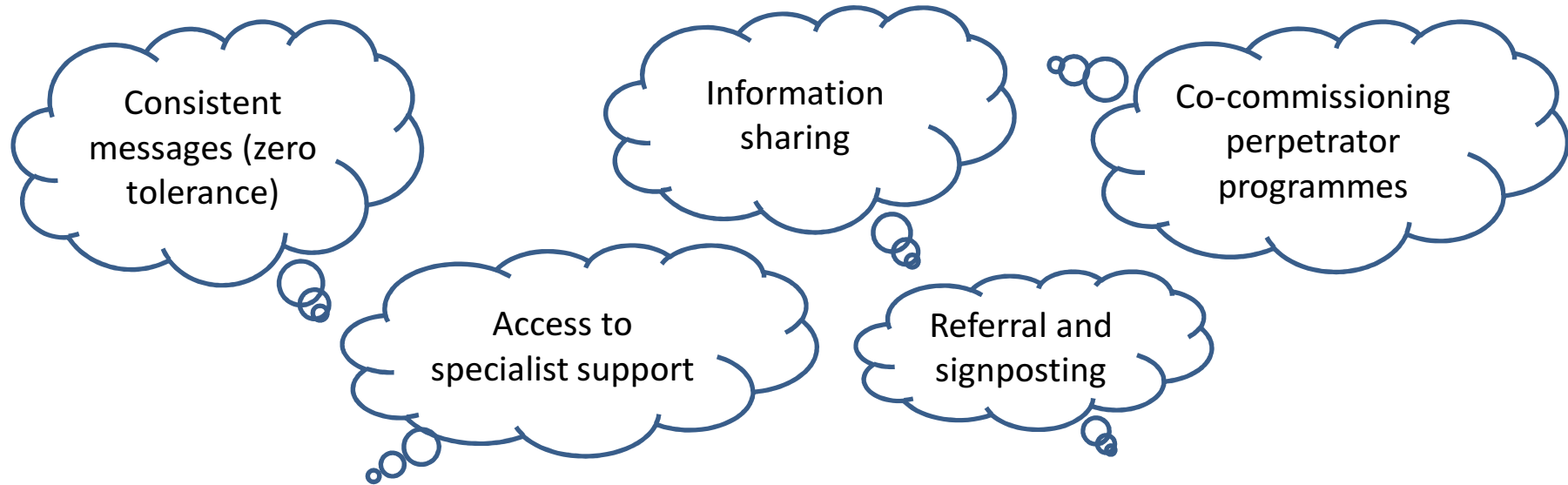
1. How should perpetrators be held to account?



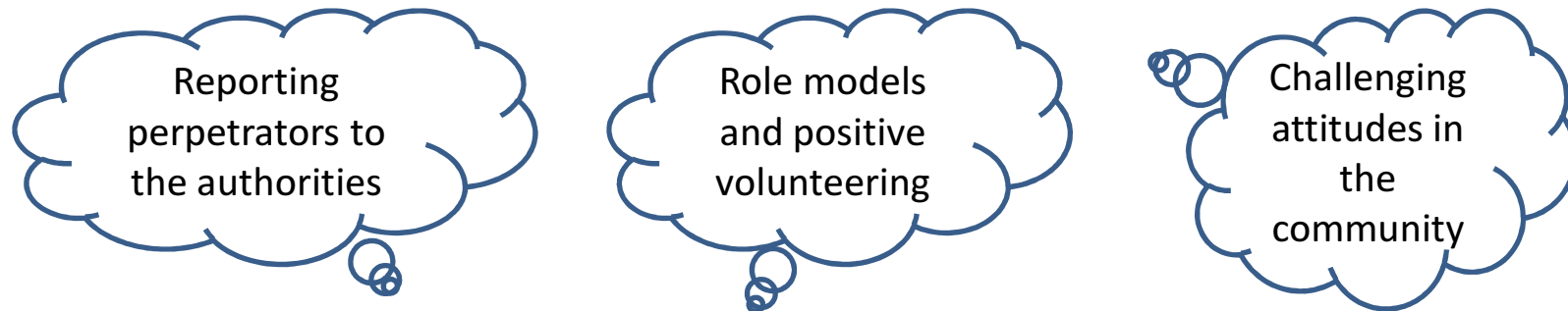
2. How effective are our current approaches to holding *all* types of perpetrators to account? What are the gaps?



### 3. How can partners work together more effectively to hold perpetrators to account?



### 4. What is the role of the community in holding perpetrators to account? How do we encourage that role?



Feedback

## **Possible features of community-based perpetrator programmes**

- Earlier engagement – participants identified earlier by Police and Early Help Locality Teams
- Opportunities for positive volunteering in the community
- Preventative programmes –role models for young men (link to education and careers based role model schemes)
- Perpetrator programmes need to support the victim – keeping them informed about the process to prevent the perpetrator using their participation as part of a manipulation strategy
- Group therapy is regarded as the most effective approach by academics
- Is a degree of empathy/support needed to get perpetrators to engage? How do we balance against the risk of colluding in denial/minimising strategies?
- *We are in the early phases of commissioning a perpetrator programme for Domestic Violence*