

Scrutiny & Overview Committee Supplementary Agenda



7. **Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) - Deep Dive** (Pages 3 - 16)

As part of its deep dive, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee is provided with a presentation on the development of the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan. The Committee is asked to: -

1. Review and note the presentation on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan, and
2. Consider whether it wishes to make any comment or suggestions to be taken account of in the final version of the delivery plan.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
DATE OF DECISION	26 March 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan	
LEAD OFFICER:	Kristian Aspinall - Director of Culture & Community Safety	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Ola Kolade - Cabinet Member for Community Safety	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION? <i>(* See guidance)</i>	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1. TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS DELIVERY PLAN

- 1.1. Attached at Appendix 1 to this cover report is a presentation on the work to develop a delivery plan for tackling violence against women and girls, which had been provided for the input of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to: -
1. Review and note the presentation on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan, and
 2. Consider whether it wishes to make any comment or suggestions to be taken account of in the final version of the delivery plan.

CONTACT OFFICER:

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Appendix 1: Presentation - Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan

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Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan

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FIRST DRAFT

How we look - Delivery Framework

Key Meetings

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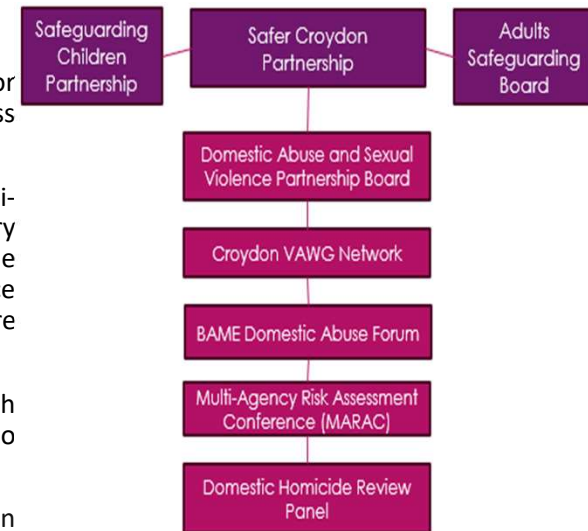
► **Croydon VAWG Network** Quarterly forum to support VCS and grassroots organisations that provide support for victim/survivors of domestic abuse. Support with access to funding, share practice/trends. Organisations: BCWA, Lioness Circle, ARC, Hersana, Anima Youth, Cassandra Learning Centre, BME Forum, Encouraging Her, Walk With Me, Hestia

► **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board (DASV)** This group exists to have a strategic oversight of multi-agency responses to domestic abuse within Croydon, working in partnership to provide scrutiny to progress on the delivery of the DASV work and ensure the multi-agency management of domestic abuse is victim focused, efficient and effective. The group brings together key agencies and services whose remit has a direct impact on the domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy. Members are committed to effective partnership working based on trust and open communication and are aware of and understand the organisational frameworks within which colleagues in different agencies work.

► **Risk and Vulnerability Management Panel (RVMP)** The RVMP is a meeting where information is shared on complex/high risk cases between various stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting is to work together to take appropriate action to prevent people with vulnerabilities being a victim and or perpetrator of crime and or ASB.

► **Domestic Homicide Reviews** are carried out so that agencies such as the police, social services and the health service can examine how they handled a murder case and if there are any ways they might work better together in the future.

► **Croydon's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic domestic abuse partnership forum (BDAP)** The BAME Domestic Abuse Partnership Forum is to create a space for VAWG practitioners, advocates, grassroots activists and BAME-led Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services to work together to address the issues that are affecting Black and Brown people in Croydon, bring statutory services and voluntary organisations together and to highlight the voices of BAME/Black and Brown women and work towards structural shift in how BAME women are supported



Croydon & VAWG - SWOT Analysis

The EIS

Croydon VAWG Network
BAME DA Forum
MARAC
Community buy in
Strong partnerships
Co-location of IDVA's
Strong relationship with Government agencies
Probation DASV Audit

Short funding streams
Language barriers
LaHarmful Practice
Communication and awareness of DASV/VAWG services
in Croydon - stat and voluntary
Targeted interventions for children who are victims of
domestic abuse.

Croydon
VAWG

Safer Streets Funding
DRIVE
Bridging the borders funding
DAPO/DPVN Pilot area

Domestic homicides
Limited funds Voluntary Sector
Lack of communications & campaigns
Increase demand (VAWG)

VAWG: What has worked well

Strengths	Why?	Evidence
Croydon VAWG Network	Provided a forum for voluntary organisation working with victims/survivors to come together	32 organisations attend each quarter
BAME DA Forum	Provided a forum for 'by and for' organisations to raise barriers faced by black and brown victims/survivors	Tackling VAWG Delivery Plan
MARAC	Risk is being identified and mitigated on a weekly basis.	100 MARAC heard on average each month and increased frequency to weekly
Community Buy in	Strong partnership work within DASV/VAWG services and organisations	Attendance at DASV board, MARAC, DAPP, Croydon VAWG Network, BAME DA Forum
Co-Location of IDVA's	Strengthens partnerships working, multiagency response, better outcomes for victims/survivors. IDVAs in Hospital, Police Station, MASH, Housing	The team have helped practitioners to better understand what to look for and this is reflected in referrals into MARAC
Strong Relationship with Government agencies	DRIVE implementation and pilot, DAPO/DAPN Pilot.	Drive externally funded for the BCU for 4 years. Selected for new pilot with Home Office.

RC0 We need a narrative for each line about why has it worked well and how we can evidence that
Rowney, Christopher, 2024-03-13T08:44:59.833

VAWG: What has worked well

Strengths (Police)	Why?	Evidence
NEW VAWG Strategy	Fundamental shift in prioritising the safety of women and girls, aiming to provide them with consistent high-level support	Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) action plan 2023 Metropolitan Police
SN BCU VAWG Board	Ensures a coordinated response and operation overview	Quarterly meetings have been organised.
Chair MARAC	Accountability and quicker response to high risk victims	MARAC outcomes
Health	Why?	Evidence
Chair DASV board	Accountability, multiagency response, partnership working	DASV Board minutes and action log
DASV GP Leads	Identifies training gaps and updates staff on DASV news/offers	82% of GP surgeries have identified a lead
IRISi	Identifies DASV sooner preventing escalation of risk	IRISi national stats
Probation	Why?	Evidence
DASV Audit	Audit of how well NPS in Croydon; works with victims and perpetrators	Audit report

VAWG: Opportunities

Opportunity	How?	Impact
Safer Streets Funding	Croydon secured funding to deliver VAWG patrols in the Town Centre to assist young girls.	Change attitudes and behaviours and prevent crimes happening in the first place
DRIVE	Focus on high-risk, high-harm and/or serial perpetrators,	Reduces the number of child and adult victims by disrupting and changing perpetrator behaviour.
Bridging the Borders	Supports marginalised victims of DASV/VAWG in Croydon	Reduces barriers to accessing refuge in Croydon and provides specialist support for migrant women
DAPN/DAPO Pilot Area	Croydon, Bromley and Sutton selected to conduct pilot in their BCU – this will include development of the triage team within the courts and a dedicated team within Public Protection.	DAPNs/DAPOs provide for a wider range of restrictions and the introduction of positive requirements. These orders can be applied for in the magistrates and family courts

VAWG: Areas for development

Area for development	Why this impacts?	What/How can it improve?
Short funding streams	Staff retention, lack of opportunity to demonstrate project value, quality of service, time consuming , resource intensive, no co-production planning, lack of referrals	Ease the issues raised in previous column, more resilient offers.
Language Barriers	Lack of referrals from certain communities in Croydon continue.	More available communications in other languages
Communication and awareness of DASV/VAWG services in Croydon - stat and voluntary	Residents unaware of where to look for support including young people	Dedicated DASV/VAWG Website and literature - posters/leaflets. Builds stronger awareness of the FJS and voluntary VAWG organisations ensuring that victims and survivors have better routes to safety and breaks down barriers to access for certain groups.
Targeted interventions for children who are victims of domestic abuse.	Educational outcomes, physical and mental wellbeing, learning healthy relationships, behavioural impact	More investment in support for children, particularly in CSC. Systemic changes internally needed for social workers. Better outcomes for children living in Croydon.
Harmful Practice	No steering group in Croydon to drive forward promotion and awareness of these crimes and support victims/survivors. Lack of resources and no clear lead on responsibility.	Develops a strategic approach between the council, health, voluntary sector. Ensure that victims of HP are not 'forgotten'

VAWG: Risks to manage

Risks	Impact on service
Domestic homicides	Loss of life, cost of reviews, capacity of DHR review panel, panel 'fatigue',
Limited Funds for voluntary sector	Organisations stop delivering support in Croydon, loss of expertise and experienced VAWG leaders, lack of options for minoritised groups, loss of connection to certain communities.
Lack of communication and campaigns	Builds stronger awareness of the FJS and voluntary VAWG organisations ensuring that victims and survivors have better routes to safety, breaks down barriers to access for certain groups, supports professionals to find suitable support outside of stat services
Increase demand (VAWG)	Impact on services, staff capacity, reduction in provision of other areas of service as MARAC would take priority

What we have done– the consultation

Croydon commissioned a consultation with victims/survivors in Croydon as part of our plan to implement a new Tackling VAWG Delivery Plan. The purpose of the consultation was to guide key themes as well as to ensure that survivors/victims were provided with a sensitive and appropriate response. Key objectives were to engage, listen, and encourage participation from survivors and the professionals who support them.

Orchard High – Girls Focus Group

Woodcote School – boys focus group

Croydon VAWG Network consultation

BAME DA forum consultation

Women of colour survivor focus group

FJS survivor focus group

Male consultation sessions

Community engagement board & DASV Board consultation

FJS Professionals 123 sessions

2 public surveys – professional/victim/survivor

The VAWG Delivery Plan draft contents:

- ▶ Foreword
- ▶ Executive Summary
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ definitions
- ▶ Why do we need a strategy
- ▶ Priority areas and commitments
- ▶ Legislative context (DA act 2021)
- ▶ National and regional context
- ▶ VAWG in Croydon
- ▶ Consultation/Expert through experience results
- ▶ Conclusion
- ▶ Partnership action plan

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