



Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2011 - 2015

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Foreword

Cllr Barbara Sidnell.

I am delighted to support Islington's first Violence against Women and Girl's (VAWG) Strategy. The Safer Islington Partnership is committed to tackling all forms of VAWG.

The strategy sets out a firm commitment to addressing local needs in our borough and developing responses that support survivors and their children whilst holding perpetrators to account. This strategy is intended to be a constructive contribution towards the enhancing, strengthening and development of both existing and future work within a wider strategic framework.

The impact of VAWG is wide ranging and it is linked to anti – social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying, child abuse, fear of crime, health and mental health, social exclusion, homelessness and poverty. It affects individuals of all ages, cultures, genders, economic situation and religions and incidents of VAWG occur every day in the homes and streets across Islington.

Islington has a number of key initiatives to tackle VAWG including a BAMER outreach project, counselling services, community based group work for children and their mothers who have been affected by domestic violence, interventions for perpetrators, interventions for young people who use violence in close relationships, support for female and male victims of domestic/sexual violence, and specialist health based projects for victims of violence who present at A& E.

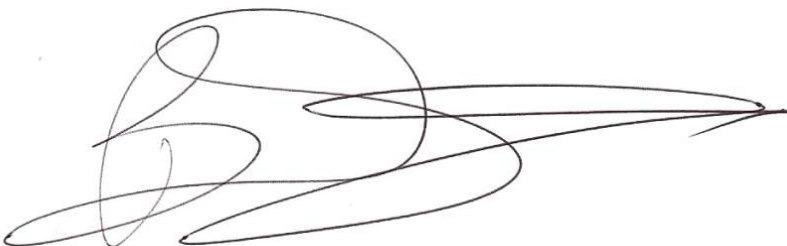
This workstream is overseen by the VAWG Project Team who meet quarterly and continue to support the development of the partnership and implementation of the strategy.

I firmly believe that VAWG should not remain hidden and that together we can work to end violence against women and girls. Through its partnership arrangements the Safer Islington Partnership works to raise awareness and understanding of all forms of VAWG and to ensure that appropriate support is available to those affected by these serious violent crimes. Islington will continue to develop initiatives to tackle VAWG with a particular focus on those under 25 years of age.

If survivors are more confident in coming forward to deal with the abuse they have suffered, then this will indicate that the strategy has been successful in sending out a clear message to everyone that VAWG is not acceptable. Each and every resident in Islington has a role to play in tackling VAWG by sending out a clear message that VAWG is unacceptable.

Whilst the aims of the strategy are challenging I believe it is achievable if we work together to tackle VAWG in Islington.

Barbara

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Barbara Sidnell', written in a cursive style.

Vision

The term “Violence against women and girls (VAWG)” defines the range of serious violent crime types which are predominantly, but not exclusively, experienced by women and girls which include the following:

- Domestic Violence
- Rape and sexual Violence
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Forced Marriage
- Crimes in the name of “honour”
- Sexual Harassment
- Stalking
- Trafficking
- Prostitution/ Sexual Exploitation

The Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) is committed to tackling all forms of VAWG and alleviating its effects on survivors, their children and the wider community.

To achieve this we are dedicated to:

- Developing an integrated response to VAWG through co-ordinated action across all agencies, based on consistent and well informed policies, systems, resource sharing and leadership
- Ensuring services are run in such a way that the safety of survivors and their children is the first and over-riding priority for all working methods, communication and inter- agency working
- Providing high quality protection and support to survivors of VAWG and their children so that their safety, family life and protection from violence are upheld
- Working with children and young people to prevent VAWG and promote healthy relationships
- Providing high quality interventions with perpetrators of VAWG in order to hold them accountable for their behaviour and provide them with opportunities for change
- Delivering an effective criminal justice service to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions in a way that maximises safety of survivors and their children and reduces repeat victimisation

1. Introduction

This strategy is Islington's first VAWG strategy and sets out the priorities for the SIP and the key areas for action to tackle VAWG for the next three years.

One of the overriding purpose of this strategy is to ensure that the issues relating to VAWG retain a strong and visible focus for the agencies and partners who form the SIP. It is envisioned, therefore, that this strategy will signal a strong and meaningful commitment on the part of Islington Council to both providing clear policy direction across the key agencies and to support a co-ordinated response to VAWG in the borough.

Much work has been conducted in the borough aimed at addressing all forms of VAWG and from this a great deal of efficient practice has been identified. What is now necessary is to draw these work streams together and develop an integrated response to VAWG.

This strategy was developed in consultations with a number of stakeholders, service users and strategic partners. This included a series of consultation events, one to one interviews and group interviews. From this process, a number of key issues emerged. These have been embedded into the aims and objectives of this strategy and action plan.

The SIP commits to tackle VAWG in all its forms through a co-ordinated approach and by supporting victims through an integrated approach of prevention, provision and protection.

Prevention

Aim: to change attitudes and prevent violence:

How: Raising awareness through campaigns; safeguarding and educating children and young people; early identification and intervention and training

Provision

Aim: to assist victims to get on with their lives:

How: Provide effective provision of services, advice and support; emergency and acute services; refuge and safe accommodation

Protection

Aim: to provide an effective criminal justice system:

How: Effective investigation; prosecution; victim support and protection; perpetrator interventions.

It is recognised that the implementation of this strategy will pose significant challenges to existing agency roles and ways of working. Without the strategy, however, we risk the continuation of the costly consequences of VAWG within Islington.

1.1 Background

The United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) stated that violence against women is both a consequence and a cause of discrimination against women. Under international directives upheld by the United Nations all governments are required to demonstrate their intentions and progress towards eliminating gender based violence.

In recent years tackling violence against women has become a significant priority on the political agenda and it is now a key government priority. HM Government published “Call to End Violence against Women and Girls” (Nov 2010) which together with the GLA strategy “The Way Forward- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, 2009-11” provide the framework for a greater emphasis on tackling all forms of VAWG. These strategies draw upon a number of recent reviews, including the Health Taskforce which examined the National Health Service response to VAWG; the DCSF VAWG Advisory Group findings of the role of schools in preventing VAWG as well as the Stern Review of the CJS and its agencies response to rape complaints.

1.2 Definition

This strategy will uphold the United Nations Declaration on Violence against Women, which was first adopted by the UK Government in 1992 and has been reasserted in recent cross party violence against women and girls strategies as:

“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 private life”.

It is important to recognise that domestic violence is characterised by interpersonal violence (IPV) and is defined by the Home Office as :

“ Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between two adults who are or have been either intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. This includes issues of concern to black and minority (BME) communities such as so called ‘honour killings’ ”

1.3. Equalities

Although the focus of this strategy is on supporting women and girls, there is a requirement to address the needs of men and boys who may be affected by these serious violence crimes. It is important to ensure appropriate service responses are in place to support male victims, as gender may be an additional barrier to seeking help. Other groups of people who may experience additional barriers to seeking help include those from black, asian, minority, ethnic and refugee (BAMER) communities, disabled victims, elderly victims, the LGBT community, those with no recourse to public funds, those with complex needs and/or substance users and those under 18 years of age. We will seek to ensure that services are able to meet individuals' needs in a sensitive and consistent manner. This will be carried out in line with relevant legislation.

1.4. Drivers

This strategy draws on and is consistent with national, regional and local strategies and plans. These include :

National

- Human Rights Act, (1998).
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).
- Every Child Matters and the Children Act (2004).
- Ending Violence against Women Strategy, Conservative Party, (2008).
- Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls, HO (2009).
- Mainstreaming the commissioning of local services to address VAWG, HM Government (2009).
- Specialist Domestic Violence Court Programme Resource Manual. HO, CPS, HMCS, (2008).
- Responding to violence against women and children the Role of the NHS (March, 2010).
- NHS Operating Framework, 2010/11: From Good to Great 2010-2015, NHS (2009).
- Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). Advisory Group final report and recommendations, DCSF 2010.

Regional

- The London Safeguarding Procedures (2008).
- Met Police DV Policy (2009).

Local

- Towards a Fairer Islington: Corporate Plan, 2011-15.
- Islington Housing Strategy 2008-12.
- Islington Strategic Assessment 2011/12.

- Islington Safeguarding Children Workplan.
- Islington Drug Treatment Plan.
- Islington Alcohol Strategy, 2010.
- Islington Domestic Violence Strategy, 2009-12 .
- The Islington Interagency Protocol for Working with Children and Families affected by Parental Substance Misuse. 2010.

1.5 Prevalence in Islington

Considerable difficulties have been experienced in collecting accurate data on VAWG. The problems relate to the hidden and private nature of VAWG and inconsistent approaches to data collection. The statistics available for Islington can therefore only partially contribute to providing an accurate picture of the extent of VAWG in the borough.

Analysis of police data for the period from 2007- 2010 which mapped the reporting of VAWG incidents in Islington confirmed 13,091 offences. Of these 6,386 (49%) were flagged as domestic violence.

In relation to sexual violence during the same period, 665 sexual offences were reported, with 10% categorised as occurring within a domestic abuse relationship.

1.5.1 Recommendations from Islington's VAWG Mapping 2010/11

A number of themes emerged from the SIP mapping exercise which recommendation the following actions:

- Further analysis of non crime domestic incidents: how often do these occur with repeat victims/offenders, the nature of these incidents and whether the incidents are part of a pattern in offences
- Explore how these findings compare with what is known by social services and Islington VAWG services
- Establish how many often the offences above were repeat suspects and victims
- Carry out further exploration of the hotspots for Islington, compare these with demographic and socio economic status
- Explore the general peak of DV incidents reported in the summer
- Explore way to engage hard to reach members of the community
- Develop a flag code for stalking to distinguish between stalking and harassment cases
- Clearer record keeping on children connected to domestic violence (whether present, witnessed, resides with, etc)
- Further analysis on violence against girls and young perpetrators of violence both within the home and in their intimate relationships.

1.5.2 Impact on Children

Violence against women and girls has a significant impact on children. In terms of domestic violence alone, children are affected by witnessing incidents by being present when they occur. Domestic violence is a key issue for Safeguarding and Children's Social Care. During 2009/10, there were 299 cases held within Child Protection proceedings with 151 cases identified as having a domestic violence element.

2. Objectives of the strategy

Aim 1. Protecting survivors

Ensure that survivors of domestic violence and violence against women and girls have adequate access to advice, support and protection to provide survivors and their children with protection from further violence. This includes early identification of abuse by non specialist organisations who come into contact with survivors and their children such as health agencies, housing providers and schools.

Objectives:

1. Improve integrated working practices across SIP for early intervention, identification and multi agency guidelines for all VAWG areas.
2. Ensure information about the range of ways survivors and children can be protected is available to staff across the partnership and includes referral and process guidance
3. Work with partners in Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Education, Health, Housing, Police to deliver programmes aimed at identification and prevention of VAWG and to promote integrated working practices for those experiencing VAWG, to deliver on the London Safeguarding Children Board protocols, embed the revised multi – agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage Guidelines and FGM Guidance.
4. Maintain, develop and, where possible increase the current level of provision services for survivors in the borough.
5. Improve responses to survivors with complex or multiple needs who experience VAWG.
6. Improve responses to victims of elder abuse experiencing VAWG by working in conjunction with Adult Services.
7. Continue to develop the Multi – Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in line with CAADA guidance to ensure all high risk victims of DV are referred to the Islington MARAC.
8. Work jointly with LB Camden to develop a consistent response to domestic violence across cases in the Family, Magistrate and Family Drug and Alcohol Court.
9. Develop a communication strategy to improve access to information, signposting and referrals to appropriate services for survivors and perpetrators of VAWG.

10. Expand service for survivors of historic childhood sexual abuse.
11. Work in conjunction with the North London Rape Crisis Steering Group to deliver rape crisis provision in Islington.
12. Provide support for parent/carers experiencing violence from their children
13. Adopt the recommendations of the report by the Equality and Diversity Working Group 2009/10 on issues affecting victims of Domestic Violence

Aim 2: Holding perpetrators accountable

Ensure that perpetrators of violence against women and girls are held accountable according to the law and are provided with assistance to change their abusive behaviour in order to prevent them from causing harm or violence to their current, past or future partners.

Objectives:

1. Continue to develop and strengthen the co-ordinated approach to detection, arrest, conviction and effective sentencing of perpetrators for domestic violence.
2. Develop a co-ordinated response to all forms of VAWG that replicates the community co-ordinated response to domestic violence.
3. Continue the development of the London Mainstreaming Model at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court.
4. Utilise the new powers attached to the Policing Act into a co-ordinated response to prostitution and sex work.
5. Develop joint working arrangements to ensure the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme is linked to appropriate VAWG initiatives.
6. Ensure that perpetrators mandated by the criminal justice system to the probation service are monitored and sanctioned if they breach their order.
7. Work with probation to ensure that licence conditions of perpetrators convicted of offences other than VAWG reflect that offender is known to be a VAWG offender and, thus protects victim.
8. Work with family courts to ensure that perpetrators of VAWG are not able to use applications for child contact or residence as a means to continue to harass or abuse survivors and their children.
9. Ensure that social landlords are aware and encouraged to use powers to evict anyone who is clearly established as a perpetrator of domestic violence and review how this may also be applied to other VAWG crimes.
10. Ensure that appropriate agencies understand the nature and purpose of community based perpetrator programmes and refer as appropriate.
11. Improve the response to perpetrators with multiple needs by working with relevant agencies to combine skills and knowledge of staff

12. Develop processes/policies to address young male perpetrators of VAWG in their personal relationship or as part of gang related violence.
13. Develop and support appropriate work for female perpetrators of VAWG in their personal relationships or as part of gang related activity
14. Further develop the pilot Domestic Violence and Substance Misuse perpetrator programme
15. Develop work with Pentonville Prison to link offenders to VAWG support.

Aim 3: Children

Ensure that children affected by violence, and where this overlaps violence against women and girls, are identified, protected and where appropriate provided with support to deal with their experiences.

All Islington agencies are committed to using the London Child Protection Procedures and Islington Safeguarding Children Board Protocol on domestic violence and other forms of VAWG. The following objectives are designed to strengthen our interagency collaboration and to improve outcomes for all children who are affected.

Objectives:

1. All statutory and voluntary agencies will continue to use the London Child Protection Procedures, the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) Domestic Violence Protocol and the London Continuum of Need to ensure that children affected by violence (and where this overlaps violence against women and girls) are identified, protected and supported.
2. The ISCB will undertake multi-agency audits to identify the strengths and areas for development in interagency working related to children who are affected by domestic violence, and where this overlaps violence against women and girls.
3. The SIP and the ISCB will continue to promote the use of CAF and Lead Professional as mechanisms to identify, protect and support children who are affected by domestic violence, and where it overlaps violence against women and girls.
4. When reporting to the courts on matters of child contact and residence, CAF/CASS and Children's Social Care (CSC) will ensure that an assessment of risk related to potential domestic violence, and where this overlaps violence against women and girls, to ensure that children are not exposed to harm/risk through contact arrangements.
5. SIP in partnership with ISCB will continue to work with agencies across Islington to raise awareness of child trafficking and harmful traditional practices to ensure children who may be at risk are identified and protected.
6. SIP and Whittington Health to raise awareness of FGM across health providers to ensure that any safeguarding issues are addressed when FGM has been detected during antenatal care.
7. SIP, ISCB and Cambridge Education to continue to raise awareness in schools of the violence against women and girls agenda and link to the national guidance on VAWG.

8. CSC to ensure that training for social workers and foster carers is reviewed and if necessary strengthened regarding risk of sexual exploitation facing missing children and Children Looked After.
9. SIP, CSC and ISCB to review the implementation of the Barnardos Domestic Violence Risk Indicator Matrix within Children's Social Care with a view to implementing this across the partnership.
10. ISCB and SIP to evaluate the effectiveness of interagency practice where violence against children, and where this overlaps violence against women and girls, has caused harm to children.
11. ISCB and SIP will review and analyse local data to identify any trends and issues related to violence against women and girls and use to influence service development.
12. ISCB and SIP to evaluate the effectiveness of interagency practice where violence against children, and where this overlaps violence against women and girls, has caused harm to children.
13. Follow current good practice guidelines on the use of parenting and specific fatherhood programmes as part of a co-ordinated response.
14. Work with partners from Police and Children's Services to ensure children who have been trafficked are identified and linked to child protection.

Aim 4: Young People

To ensure that young people affected by violence against women and girls (both at home and their own experiences either in their relationships, community or gang related activity) are, where possible, provided with support to deal with their experiences or linked into support systems to mitigate gang related activity. We will work with partner agencies to deliver programmes aimed at prevention work.

All Islington agencies are committed to using the London Child Protection Procedures and Islington Safeguarding Children Board protocol on Domestic Violence. The following objectives are designed to strengthen our interagency collaboration and to improve outcomes for all young people who are affected.

Objectives:

1. SIP and ISCB to develop communications aimed at young people about violence against women and girls with special emphasis on the risk of, and to raise awareness of sexual exploitation.
2. SIP and ISCB to develop and implement a communication strategy aimed identification of, and response to, trafficking and the links between trafficking and sexual exploitation.
3. SIP, Targeted Youth Services (TYS), ISCB, Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator, Young Parent Support Co-ordinator, Victims of Violence Co-ordinator and Whittington Health to develop and implement a strategy complementing the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy to ensure young people who are identified by health providers as being victims or perpetrators of violence are identified and linked to appropriate services for young victims and perpetrators into appropriate support services.
4. SIP, PSHE Co-ordinator and Cambridge Education to develop and implement a strategy within secondary schools, sixth form colleges and local universities to improve the identification of, and response to, Harmful Traditional Practices including Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence among staff and students
5. SIP, PSHE Co-ordinator and Cambridge Education to develop and implement a strategy within secondary schools, sixth form colleges and local universities to raise the profile of “the Havens” and rape crisis services for victims of sexual violence. Further develop work within secondary schools, sixth form colleges and local universities to raise the profile of “The Havens” and Rape Crisis Centre services for victims of sexual violence.

6. SIP and TYS to develop and implement a strategy to ensure that young people attending, and staff working within the 'Hubs' are made aware of how to identify and respond to physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated against young people.
7. SIP, Cambridge Education and TYS to develop peer support groups for girls who have experienced or are at risk of violence from peers or partners.
8. SIP, TYS and Metropolitan Police Service to link the current work plan related to gang activity to the VAWG agenda and ensure this agenda is prioritised at the Bronze group.
9. Identify the young people who experience forms of VAWG from their parents and integrate support services for this group into the wider co-ordinated response to VAWG.

Aim 5: Delivering services to a diverse community

To ensure that violence against women offences are taken into account when planning, providing and monitoring services for survivors, perpetrators and children.

Objectives:

- 1 Promote capacity building within communities to develop VAWG work.
- 2 Ensure equal and fair access to information about services for survivors and perpetrators of VAWG.
- 3 Ensure equal and fair access to services for survivors with distinct needs based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexuality.
- 4 Work with community based groups, MAGPIs, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Neighbourhood Watch groups to include “trafficking watch” groups locally.
- 5 Develop work with faith groups to raise awareness of violence against women and girls agenda and of the support that is available.
- 6 Work with LGBT groups to raise awareness of support that is available in Islington.
- 7 Roll out workshops to local Police in relation to culturally specific forms of VAWG.
- 8 Work with Police to ensure that VAWG offences are given parity over immigration status when dealing with offences. (GLA forthcoming guidance)
- 9 Disseminate Islington MARAC Information pack to community groups.
- 10 Hold a roundtable to identify specific action for victims with No recourse to Public Funds
- 11 Work with local Police to ensure they priority of escaping violence over immigration status in line with forthcoming regional guidance
- 12 Improve support for refugees/ asylum seekers children who have witnessed rape/violence used as weapon or threat in line with forthcoming regional guidance
- 13 Conduct a yearly EIA on Islington’s MARAC

Aim 6: Partnership working

Develop co-ordinated response to VAWG for Islington. Improve early identification of VAWG incidents and improve co-operation and joint working practices between key agencies to ensure that responses to survivors and perpetrators of violence against women and girls and their children are safe and consistent.

Objectives:

1. Islington council Violence against Women and Girls Strategy to be adopted by SIP and Islington Safeguarding Boards
2. Develop governance arrangements for VAWG with clear structures and lines of accountability, with robust reporting and monitoring processes. These will be embedded at strategic and operational level. (see appendix i)
3. Develop improved data monitoring for violence against women and girls across Safer Islington Partnership
4. Develop a co-ordinated response to VAWG for Islington.
5. Roll out national guidance on VAWG specifically revised guidance on FGM, Forced Marriage and Stalking (forthcoming)
6. Develop strategic work plan linked to forthcoming Home Office action plan.
7. Continue to improve and develop joint working with partner agencies
8. Continue to develop and improve standardised protocols for responding to domestic and sexual violence which include other VAWG elements
9. Continue to develop and maintain the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for high risk victims of DV.
10. Encourage all Safer Islington Partners to have work based VAWG strategies which support victims whilst holding perpetrators to account.
11. Ensure that VAWG objectives are integrated into the strategies and plans of other service areas and agencies
12. Continue to monitor domestic and sexual violence provision in key partner agencies.

13. Work in conjunction with partners to promote the White Ribbon Campaign and awareness of the power of men to challenge violence and make a stand against male violence.
14. Work in conjunction with HAC, HFI and the RSL sector to carry out specific work on VAWG and ASB and to develop sector specific process and referral for appropriate signposting and referrals for VAWG cases.
15. Deliver on the recommendations of CSPU VAWG Mapping
16. Work in conjunction with Rape Crisis provision to ensure provision integrated into the core business of hub providers and include provision for survivors of historic childhood sexual abuse via Rape Crisis Provision.
17. Work in conjunction with substance misuse agencies to improve support for those affected by VAWG.
18. Scope the way forward to implement to the recommendations of the Ministry of Justices “Breaking the Cycle” in relation to VAWG.
19. Work in conjunction with Licensing to encourage awareness of VAWG in public entertainment venues
20. Conduct borough based VAWG Needs Assessment
21. Map VAWG service provision across borough
22. Undertake a VAWG training needs assessment for all agencies.
23. Continue to develop the London Mainstreaming Model to continue to improve outcomes at court.
24. Set up a Domestic Violence Homicide Review Panel

Aim 7: Increasing awareness

Increase public understanding of the nature and impact of domestic violence, in order to reduce tolerance of VAWG and to increase practitioner and public knowledge of the issues and of available responses.

Objectives:

- 1 Undertake awareness raising initiatives to ensure that survivors, perpetrators and witnesses of VAWG know about what services exist and how to access them.
- 2 Improve and develop the work with children and young people in schools and youth services to prevent VAWG and promote gender equality.
- 3 Ensure that children and young people are informed of support services available to them as witnesses of VAWG or as young people experiencing VAWG.
- 4 Develop a communication strategy that allows for regular themed messaging across the partnership and redesign SIP DV pages to include all VAWG areas
- 5 The DV network will develop into a VAWG Network to aid the transition from a domestic violence single focus to the broader VAWG agenda.
- 6 Service users wherever possible to be involved in the VAWG Network
- 7 Education within schools – further develop existing work on domestic violence, sexual violence and honour based violence and link with gangs.
- 8 Provision of information / advice for victims and those at risk – to focus upon development and distribution of information re services for HBV, Rape, Prostitution.
- 9 Training to be revamped and focus on VAWG and MARAC.
- 10 Publicise the new powers in the Police and Crime Bill – Implementing powers to prosecute those paying for sex and impose the closure of brothels.

Appendix 1.

Governance and Delivery Structure

A new governance structure and processes are proposed to oversee the development of an integrated response to violence against women and girls.

In addition revised monitoring arrangements will be developed and will include:

Performance

VAWG incidents reported to police

Domestic and sexual violence in Child Protection cases as % of cases

Abuse by family members as a percentage of Adult Social Service Cases

Equalities

Early intervention work

Training

MARAC

Court Data.

The governance proposed in the delivery structure map. In addition, a number of time limited groups relating to specific work strands will continue to meet to deliver on the following;

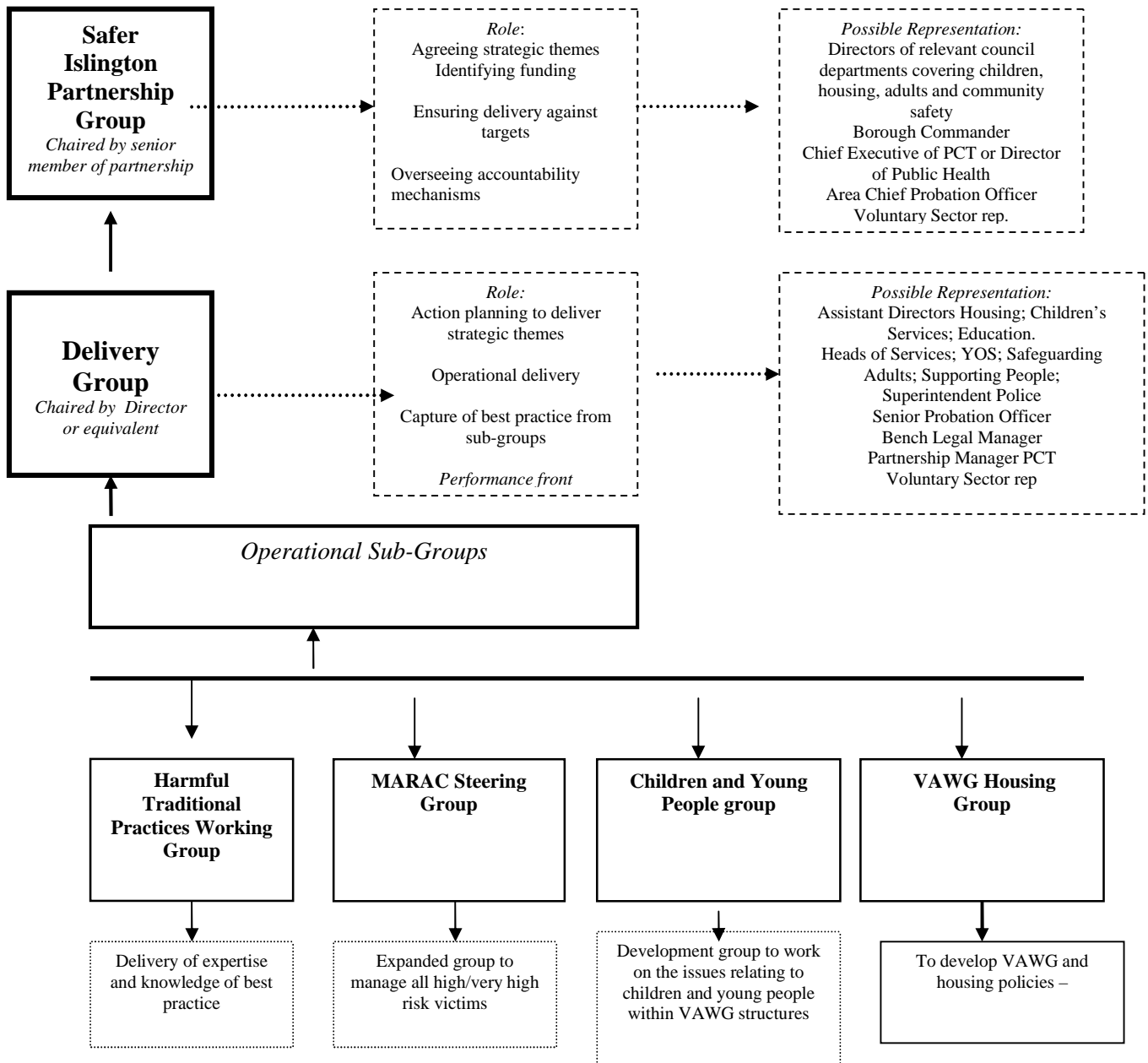
Domestic violence and substance misuse Working Group

Rape Crisis Provision Steering Group.

LMM and Court Group.

Islington's VAWG Network will deliver themed quarterly network meetings aimed at practitioners will deliver themed workshops. SIP will continue to support the development of integrated working via the Health DV Steering Group at Whittington Health.

VAWG Delivery Structure



Appendix ii

Transitional VAWG Workplan

Action	Tasks	Key Partner	Timescale
Governance structure	Establish new structure Appendix i	SIP	2011
Subgroups Transition from DV to VAWG will entail new subgroup structure (Appendix i) .	Set up new groups – Develop TOR Develop a workplan for VAWG subgroups with prevention, early intervention and equalities embedded into each workplan	CSPU	2011
Employer Response	Establish workplace VAWG policy across SIP partners	SIP	2011-15
Monitoring	Develop integrated monitoring across partnership	CSPU	2011
VAWG Communications	Integrated multi agency approach to be supported by practitioner resources and Community Safety Partnership web pages	CSPU	2011
DV	Existing response to domestic violence to be maintained and incorporated into broader VAWG response.	SIP	2011-2015
Sexual Violence	Co-ordinated response to sexual violence to be developed	SIP	2011-2015
Prostitution	Olympics	SIP	2011-2012
	Tackling demand- work with youth services and student unions	CSPU, Youth Service, Education	2011 -2015
Trafficking	Review local workplans on trafficking	CSPU and ISCB	2011-2015

	Set up community work with SNTs, MAGPI, Tenant Management Organisations	CSPU and Police	2011-2015
Sexual Exploitation	Communications aimed at young people to raise awareness of sexual exploitation.	CSPU/HO	2011-2015
HBV	Supporting victims via MARAC	CSPU	2011-
FM	Roll out of FCO e - earning tool to all agencies	CSPU	2011
FGM	Work with Whittington and Manor Gardens to ascertain prevalence and trends of FGM in Islington.	CSPU, Manor Gardens, Whittington	2011-2015
Stalking and harassment	Implement forthcoming HO guidance	CSPU /Police	TBC
Prevention	Communication Strategy which raises awareness of and challenge attitudes that underpin VAWG	SIP	2011-14
	White Ribbon	SIP	2011
	Improve early identification of risk	SIP/ISCB	2011-2015
	Training	SIP	2011-2015
	Promote capacity building in diverse communities	SIP	2011-2015
	Build capacity of front line practitioners to recognise signs and ask question.	SIP	2011-2015
	Develop risk management and referral processes	SIP	2011-2015

	Facilitate access to rape crisis provision and the Havens by improving links with grass roots organisations, youth services and schools	GLA/SIP	2011/12
	Expand service for survivors of historic childhood sexual abuse	SIP/GLA	2011/12
	Launch toolkit for Identification of children who have been trafficked and at risk of sexual exploitation	GLA/ISCB	2011
	Targeted focus Older Women, Asylum seekers and refugees, Disabled women and male victims	SIP	2011-2015
Provision	The violence against women and girls strategy seeks to contribute to reducing incidents of VAWG in all its forms including murders and serious violent crime.	SIP	2011-2015
	The Safer Islington Partnership will monitor the incidents of VAWG reported to the police and the percentage of reported	SIP	2011-2015
	VAWG offences resulting in sanction detections. In addition, the Safer Islington Partnership will develop integrated cross service monitoring to establish	SIP	2011-2015

	the prevalence of VAWG in Islington.		
	Commissioning based on needs assessment	SIP	2013/14
Protection	Reduce re offending through the improved management of offenders	CSPU/Probation	2011-2014
	Deliver a robust criminal justice system for VAWG from report to Court	Police. CPS, HMCS, Probation, IDVAs/ CSPU	2011-2015
	Work in conjunction with health to develop Health's CCR to VAWG	Health/SIP	2011-2015
	Work with communities to mitigate risk of VAWG	SIP/ Community and Vol Sector/ SNT's	2011-2015
	Work in conjunction with partners to develop pathways for victims with complex needs	CSPU, Substance Misuse services, Prison Services	2011-2015
	MARAC Quality Assurance Process	SIP/MARAC Steering Group	2011

Appendix iii

Glossary of Terms

BAMER	Black Asylum Minority Ethnic Refugee
BME	Black Minority Ethnic
CAF	Core Assessment Framework
CCR	Community Co-ordinated Response
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CSPU	Community Safety Partnership Unit
DCSF	Department of Children, Schools and Families
DV	Domestic Violence
DVRIM	Domestic Violence Risk Indicator Matrix
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GLA	Greater London Authority
HFI	Homes For Islington
HO	Home Office
HMCS	Her Majesty's Court Service
IDVAs	Independent Domestic Violence Advocates
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
IPV	Inter Personal Violence
ISCB	Islington Safeguarding Children's Board
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
SIP	Safer Islington Partnership
SNTS	Safer Neighbourhood Team
SWA	Solace Womens Aid
RSL	Registered Social Landlord
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

Appendix iv

Legislation

In recent years a legislative framework has been created which places the protection of victims of violence at the heart of both criminal and civil law, and seeks to hold perpetrators of violence accountable for their abuse:

- **Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985** made the practice of Female Genital Mutilation illegal in this country.
- **The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003** restated and extended the provisions of the 1985 Act providing extra territorial effect.
- **Protection from Harassment Act 1997** – created the offences of harassment and putting someone in fear of violence and gave greater protection to victims such offences through the creation of restraining orders. This was amended by Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 which extended the 1997 Act to enable courts' to impose restraining orders on those convicted of **any** offence. This will be possible if the court considers it to be necessary to protect a person from harassment by the perpetrator
- **Sexual Offences Act 2003**-Widened the definition of some offences (e.g bringing non consensual penile penetration of the mouth within the definition of rape), created new offences for behaviour that was not previously specifically covered by an offence(e.g paying for sex with a child), extended the age covered by certain offences against children from 16 – 18 (e.g. familial sex offences), and give additional protection to vulnerable adults. This legislation introduced for the first time, a statutory definition of consent, requiring that someone" aggress by choice (to sexual activity)', and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice. It also strengthened arrangements for monitoring of sexual offenders.
- **Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004**-strengthened Non-Molestation Orders, by making the breach of an order a criminal offence and enabled the extension of restraining orders under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- **Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) 2007**-aimed at protection the victims of forced marriage and preventing them from taking place.
- **Policing and Crime Act 2009** – introduces a range of measures to help tackle prostitution. This includes making it an offence to pay for sex with someone who has been subject to exploitative conduct or deception. In addition, the Act has introduced key measures: removing the requirement to prove kerb-crawlers: and powers to allow police to close down brothels associated with certain prostitution- and pornography –related offences.
- **Coroners and Justice Act 2009**- Section 71 relates to trafficking and makes it an offence to hold someone in slavery or servitude.
- **Gender Equality Duty, EHRC 2009**

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