



SOUTHWARK COUNCIL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY

2019 - 2024

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Foreword



This is Southwark's first Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy and sets out our priorities for tackling and preventing gender violence going forward until 2024. This strategy builds on our current Domestic Abuse Strategy to include all areas of VAWG, aligning with current national and regional strategies.

The strategy considers all forms of VAWG and its impact on those who, live, work and visit Southwark. The strategy aligns with the aims of the Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 where we have committed to a "*Fairer Future and for All*". The strategy aligns with a number of existing work streams and priorities; VAWG is a priority for our Community Safety Partnership, whilst helping vulnerable parents is a priority of our Children's Safeguarding Board. In October 2019 the Community Safety Scrutiny Commission conducted a review of VAWG, with a particular focus on girls, with an emphasis on prevention, protection and support, and working with our partners to improve effectiveness. I welcome the recommendations from this review which are incorporated in this strategy and associated delivery plan.

This strategy builds upon the firm foundation what has already been achieved through delivery of our 5 year Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015 to 2020. This includes the introduction of a holistic domestic abuse service, which not only supports survivors of domestic abuse, but also provides therapeutic support for children and a perpetrator programme working with perpetrators towards behavioural change. Our Housing Solutions Service approach to domestic abuse is recognised as best practice; they were the first Housing Service in the country to achieve the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation in 2018. Southwark has also been at the forefront of tackling harassment within the night time economy. In 2015, we introduced our Woman's Safety Charter which has been signed up to by some 180 business premises across the borough.

Violence against women and girls in all its forms is unacceptable. It affects all communities and has an incalculable impact on the lives of those individuals affected, their families and the wider community. Tackling violence against women and girls is therefore '**everybody's business**'. Southwark benefits from the diversity of its statutory, voluntary and community partners whom contribute to tackling gendered violence both formally and informally. We acknowledge that support networks provided by friends, family and faith groups have an important role to play in our response to tackling violence against women and girls. Through building on the community foundations we already have in place, I am confident that by working together we will achieve our vision, and reduce the harm caused by gender violence for future generations.

Councillor Evelyn Akoto

July 2019

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1. Executive Summary

Southwark Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019 - 2024

This is Southwark Council's first Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and is an opportunity to expand our current work on Domestic Abuse (as reflected in our current Domestic Abuse Strategy) to include the wider forms of VAWG including harassment, forced marriage and honour based violence, rape and sexual violence, and prostitution.

Research undertaken for this strategy has identified that for many of the VAWG areas data collection by services is minimal with little or no information being available. As a result the full prevalence of these areas including harassment, prostitution, and harmful practices is not fully understood. Consultation with service providers has highlighted knowledge gaps for these areas. Two of the key recommendations therefore from this strategy are the need to increase awareness raising for all forms of VAWG and improved data collection to gain a better understanding and more accurate picture of the levels of VAWG in Southwark, which will inform our future work and commissioning.

Violence Against Women and Girls:

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) affects a significant number of people in Southwark every day. Southwark Council has committed to enabling everybody to have "A Fairer Future" and building Safer Communities. We will contribute to this commitment by developing a coordinated agency and community response to VAWG.

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 private life

Vision:

Our vision is to be a borough with zero tolerance to violence against women and girls. Where it is not tolerated and where no resident, visitor or worker need fear violence whether at home or on the streets of Southwark.

Why we need a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy:

Violence against women and girls in all its forms is unacceptable. It affects all communities and has an incalculable impact on the lives of those individuals affected, their families and the wider community.

The development of a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy is one of

the council's Council Plan commitments.

Reducing violence against women and girls is a key national policy area

Violence against women and girls is recognised as a cause and effect of inequality

Southwark has the 4th highest volume of recorded Domestic Abuse offences in London.¹ The number of DA offences has increased by 27% since 2015/16 and referrals to commissioned specialist services by 52%

It is estimated that the prevalence rate of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Southwark is 7 times the national rate among 15–49 year olds.²

Priority Areas:

- **Priority 1: Partnership:** Development of a coordinated agency and community response
- **Priority 2: Prevention and Early Intervention:** Identification of individuals and families at risk prior to point of crisis
- **Priority 3: Protecting Victims:** Reduce harm and impact of VAWG on individuals and families
- **Priority 4: Perpetrators:** Provide support to change behaviour, tackling the attitudes that support VAWG, and enforcement

Key Areas Supporting Delivery Work Plan:

- Develop revised governance and leadership arrangements for VAWG.
- Develop a coordinated response to all forms of VAWG
- Incorporate the findings of our Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews into local practice
- Improve data collection
- Include lived experience in commissioning
- Carry out an annual needs assessment
- Review approach to perpetrators
- Improve crisis intervention
- Improve prevention and early intervention across all equalities groups
- Trauma informed, person centred support will be offered to children affected by VAWG issues

¹ <https://www.london.gov.uk>

² <https://www.southwark.gov.uk>

2. Introduction

Southwark developed a five year Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2015. Although this strategy is still valid until 2020, there is a need to develop a broader Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy to ensure that we are delivering a strategic partnership response to all areas of VAWG, not only domestic abuse. This includes harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Honour Based Violence as well as Rape and Sexual Harassment and Stalking.

This is Southwark's first Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and sets out our five year (2019-2024) commitment to tackling all forms of VAWG in Southwark. The strategy will inform future commissioning plans.

The strategic governance for delivery of this strategy rests with the Safeguarding Adults Board (includes statutory Community Safety Partnership). This strategy is underpinned by high-level commitment to deliver our agreed priorities, working collaboratively with our partners in statutory and voluntary services. This will build on the transformative work already happening across the borough.

This strategy has been developed after extensive consultation with survivors and our partners across a range of statutory, voluntary and community organisations delivering services for those affected by VAWG in Southwark. The consultation findings are woven into this strategy and provide considerable insight into what is required for Southwark to make the transition towards tackling all forms of VAWG as key to its approach to violence reduction.

The strategy has identified the following priority areas:

- **Priority 1: Partnership:** Development of a coordinated agency and community response
- **Priority 2: Prevention and Early Intervention:** Identification of individuals and families at risk prior to point of crisis
- **Priority 3: Protecting Victims:** Reduce harm and impact of VAWG on individuals and families
- **Priority 4: Perpetrators:** Provide support to change behaviour, tackling the attitudes that support VAWG, and enforcement

The Strategy will:

- Enable **ALL** Council Services and partners to contribute to our agreed priorities and consider these within their own strategic plans
- Inform future commissioning priorities across service areas
- Support our citizens and communities to directly contribute to making Southwark a safer place where VAWG is not tolerated
- Enable those affected by VAWG to seek support and feel safer
- Enable those perpetrating VAWG to be supported to change their behaviour

Delivery of the strategy will be achieved via delivery of the Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan

3. What Do We Mean by Violence Against Women and Girls?

Violence Against Women and Girls is defined 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

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is the umbrella term which brings together multiple forms of serious violence under a single policy strand.

- Crimes committed in the name of “honour”
- Domestic abuse
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced marriage
- Sexual violence, abuse, exploitation and rape
- Stalking
- Harassment
- Trafficking for sexual exploitation
- Prostitution

A detailed description of each form of VAWG is available in Appendix 1.

It is important to note that these forms of violence are **not** discrete strands and that victims often experience more than one form of VAWG at any given time, or during the experience of abuse. Some victims are affected by multiple forms of VAWG within intimate and/or family relationships whilst others experience of VAWG is perpetrated by the wider community.

The Impact of Violence on Children

Children are often the silent witnesses to VAWG. Although there are no official statistics on how many children are affected by forms of VAWG, the findings of recent research by SafeLives into the impact of domestic abuse on children has highlighted that “at the time they start school, at least one child in every class will have been living with domestic abuse since they were born”³. SafeLives hold the largest dataset on domestic abuse nationally which is drawn from Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) data.

SafeLives Insights dataset reveals that two in five children (41%) in families where there is domestic abuse, have been living with that abuse since they were born. For some children, this exposure to abuse does not only start early, but persists into later childhood. Of all the children in the dataset who had been living with abuse for their whole lives, over a third (37%) were more than five years old.

Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on children, whatever their age.

SafeLives Insights dataset findings indicate that families known to Children’s Services were more likely to have children under the age of 5 years old compared to those not known to services (65% vs 55%). National data on the ages of children who are referred to children’s services is not available, but the ages of children who are subject to a child protection plan indicates that younger children are more likely to receive this safeguarding intervention. Fifty children out of every 10,000 aged 1-4 were subject to a plan, compared with 44 of those aged 5-9 and 38 of those aged 10-15.

While older children may be at less physical risk, exposure to abuse has an effect on children of all ages, unrelated to their ability to keep themselves safe. For instance, children over ten were much more likely to try to intervene to stop physical abuse (27% of children over ten, compared to 15% of those under ten). Additionally, Children’s Insights data reveals that over half (52%) of children exposed to abuse said they found it difficult to sleep, and almost a third (30%) felt like the abuse was their fault. The same children exhibit higher rates of behavioural problems than their peers, and engage in more risk-taking behaviour, making them vulnerable to other forms of abuse, exploitation and harm.

Two in five children living with abuse had not been referred to children’s services before the family entered domestic abuse support. Many more who had been referred did not receive substantial help.

Unsurprisingly, Insights data suggests that families with Children’s Services involvement are more likely to be experiencing physical violence (71% vs 57%); one of the most visible forms of abuse. But there are many other forms of abuse that can more easily remain hidden, such as coercive and controlling behaviour.

³ <https://www.safelives.org>. Children living with domestic abuse. Nov 2017

Families known to Children's Services are also significantly more likely to have disclosed complex needs, including drug misuse (6% vs 2%), alcohol misuse (8% vs 3%) and/or mental health issues (36% vs 26%), compared to families with children who are not known to Children's Services. However many victims do not disclose these needs, as identified by SafeLives' report *Cry for Health*. Where there are children in the family, this can be an added barrier to disclosing both domestic abuse and other needs.

Overcoming these barriers to disclosure and understanding the full range of experiences within the household is vital to supporting children affected by DA. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), such as being exposed to DA or substance misuse in the home, have been found to have an impact on long term health and behavioural outcomes, and a combination of ACEs can increase this risk even further.

The recent joint inspection report by Ofsted, HMIC, the Care Quality Commission and the Inspector of Probation found that where children are living with domestic abuse, accepted practice is to prevent, protect and repair, but that in reality far too little is being done to prevent domestic abuse and repair the damage it does. In particular, the inspectorates called on Children's Services teams to be bold in more actively focusing on and holding accountable the perpetrator of harm, rather than the non-abusive parent.

In Southwark, around 31% of all Child Protection and 40% of Child In Need cases have a DA element.

During 2018/19 the boroughs MARAC dealt with 609 high risk DA cases involving 712 children.

This strategy acknowledges the immeasurable impact on children of all forms of VAWG and that there is a need to develop earlier interventions for children and young people affected by all forms of VAWG.

Preliminary findings from the Prevent and Change (PAC) perpetrator programme cohort has highlighted that as children most were from families known to Children's Services where DA was an issue. This highlights the need for prevention work from an early age, and points to an opportunity to consider a longer term approach to how we tackle VAWG via early intervention.

Domestic Abuse, mental health, and substance misuse

These three factors sometimes referred by the term 'toxic trio' has been used to describe the presence of domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance misuse, identified as common features of families where harm to children and adults has occurred.

If all three factors are present there is an increased risk of harm to families and are significant factors in IPV (Interpersonal Violence) and AFV (Adult Family Violence). Work in this area has shown that there is large overlap between these parental risk factors and impact on outcomes for children into adulthood through the research into Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE).⁴

The findings from analysis of Domestic Homicide Review cases identified the toxic trio of domestic abuse, mental; health and substance misuse as a major factor in domestic homicides.⁵

Violence against Women and Girls and the link to exploitation

The National Crime Agency have highlighted the explicit link between gender based violence and exploitation. The key finding of the *Intelligence Assessment County Lines Drug Supply, Vulnerability and Harm, 2018*⁶ included the following:

- Victims are sometimes subjected to sexual exploitation through forced engagement in sexual activity within criminal networks. This is largely, but not exclusively, restricted to female victims. A minority of female victims may be sexually exploited for the financial gain of offenders, although this is likely to be on an opportunistic rather than organised basis.
- County lines offenders have been involved in the direct sexual abuse of vulnerable young people. Adults involved in county lines activity have been identified offering their children to controlling offenders for sexual activity
- Offenders have been identified both cuckooing the properties of sex workers and using cuckooed properties to host parties at which vulnerable female minors are encouraged to consume drugs. Vulnerable females provided with drugs and subsequently held in debt bondage to the offender who may be sexually exploited within the offending network as a form of “payment”.

What Drives Violence Against Women and Girls?

What drives violence against women? The drivers of men’s violence against women include:

- Misogyny
- Gender norms
- Accepting and sometimes approving of men’s violence against women
- Men controlling decision-making
- Limits to women’s independence in public and private life
- Interactions between men that are aggressive and disrespectful towards women.

⁴ Risk, threat, and Toxic Trio, Safelives Focus on Families 2017

⁵ <http://www.standingtogether.org.uk>

⁶ National Crime Agency: Intelligence Assessment, County Lines Drug Supply, Vulnerability and Harm 2018

There are also a number of reinforcing factors that, while not a direct cause of men's violence against women, increase its likelihood and severity:

- Discrimination
- Experience of and exposure to violence
- Alcohol and substance use
- Some cultural and religious practices
- Loss of traditional family and community support systems

Only some men use violence against women. Most men think that violence against women is never acceptable.⁷

4. Violence as an Equalities Issue

It is acknowledged that violence against women and girls is a form of inequality and violation of human rights. The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an expert body established to oversee equality issues for the United Nations adopted in 1979. Recommendation 19 of the convention relates to VAWG and specifically requests “states to consider family violence and abuse, forced marriage, dowry deaths, acid attacks and female circumcision as prejudice’s and practices that may justify gender violence as a form of protection or control of women”⁸

The Equalities Act 2010 has grouped 9 protected characteristic together under one policy strand. These are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The legislation places a duty upon Public Sector agencies and others whom conduct public functions to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.⁹ As VAWG is a cause and consequence of gender inequality it is directly aligned to the Equalities Act. It is acknowledged that some individuals may have multiple protected characteristic which intersect and are impacted upon by race, gender, class, ability and ethnicity. While gender based violence can happen to anyone, anywhere, some women and girls are particularly vulnerable; for instance, young girls and older women, women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex, migrants and refugees, women from black and minority ethnic communities, and women and girls living with disabilities. The adverse psychological, sexual and reproductive health consequences of VAWG can affect women at all stages of their life and contribute to health inequalities.

⁷ White Ribbon Australia. [Whiteribbon.org.au](http://whiteribbon.org.au)

⁸ <https://www.unwoman.org>

⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>

The Woman and Equality Committee

The Woman and Equality Commission¹⁰ meet to consider government performance on Woman and Equality issues. The 8th Special Report on Sexual Harassment of Women and girl in Public Places¹¹ highlighted the following issues:

- Sexual harassment pervades the lives of women and girls and is deeply ingrained in our culture
- For many women and girls it is a routine and sometimes relentless experience, many of whom first experience it at a young age
- Includes a wide range of behaviours including unwanted sexual comments in the street, rape threats on public transport, sexual assault in bars and clubs, racial abuse when sexual propositions were rejected, men exposing themselves in public, being masturbated at, sexual rubbing on a crowded train
- Being shouted at or 'cat-called' was the most common form of sexual harassment reported by girls and young women in research by Plan UK¹²
- 63% of girls and young women aged 13–21 experience (or know someone who has experienced) not feeling safe walking home alone, according to the Girls Attitudes Survey 2018
- A range of other findings from this survey indicates that girls feel less safe online than they did five years ago; 25% said they had had threatening things said about them on social media compared with 21% in 2013, and 24% had been sent photos or content by people they knew that they found upsetting, compared with 17% in 2013

The experience of disabled victims with mental health and/or physical disabilities

This strategy acknowledges that some groups of victims have additional barriers to seeking help. Studies indicate that women with disabilities are sexually assaulted at a rate at least twice that of the general population of women. In the case of women with a cognitive or communication disability, their lack of understanding of the situation during a sexual assault and/or their inability to say no can be wrongly perceived as their consent.¹³ Girls with disabilities experience discrimination and heightened vulnerability on account of their gender, age, and disability, and girls with intellectual disabilities are particularly vulnerable. It is estimated that between 40 to 70 per cent will be sexually abused before they reach 18 years of age. We do not know the true extent of the VAWG acts against those with disabilities but during the lifetime of this strategy we will deliver targeted training to improve our response to the most vulnerable victims.

¹⁰ <https://www.parliament.uk>

¹¹ <https://publications.parliament.uk>

¹² <https://plan-uk.org>

¹³ [http:// www.PlanUK..org](http://www.PlanUK..org)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender

This strategy acknowledges the needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT¹⁴) community. Data from Southwark's MARAC shows of the 609 high risk cases heard in 2018/19, there were 20 LGBT cases. The following are key findings from a recent report from GALOP 'LGBT+ Peoples Experience of Domestic Abuse'¹⁵

Key findings highlight:

- LGBT+ survivors share similar types of DA as their heterosexual/cisgender peers, but their experiences often differ because their sexuality and gender identity.
- LGBT+ survivors disclosing DA often report multiple vulnerabilities as a result of their sexual orientation, gender identity, physical/mental ill health or substance abuse.
- The majority of LGBT+ survivors disclosed DA from intimate 'same-sex' partners, though a significant proportion reported abuse from family members, particularly younger victims/survivors, those from black and minority ethnic communities and trans men.
- Nearly two-thirds of survivors identified as a gay, bisexual and/or transgender male and the majority were abused by a male perpetrator.
- Over four-fifths of lesbian women disclosed abuse from a female perpetrator.

We are aware that there are additional barriers for transgender people, how they define their gender and choose services that are appropriate to their needs. There is a need for further training in this area to organisations within the borough. We are aware that there may be under reporting from the transgender community. In order to respond appropriately and effectively to the needs of the LGBT community we are working with GALOP in collaboration with the VAWG Forum to inform our approach to VAWG issues within the LGBT community.

Men and boys

It is important to acknowledge that men and boys can also be victims of most of the types of abuse and violence that we address in this strategy. Their specific needs are recognised within Southwark Council in partnership plans and in the services we commission. However it is the disproportionate impact of these types of abuse on women and girls that warrant the specific attention that the development of a gender informed strategy affords.

Evidence shows that DA is predominantly committed against women. According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending 31 March 2018, 24.9% of women and 10% of men aged 16 to 59 had experienced partner abuse at least once since the age of 16, while 6.3% of women and 2.7% of men aged between 16 and 59 had experienced partner abuse once or more in the last year (Office for National Statistics, 2018a).

¹⁴ this is the definition used by Stonewall, please note other variants are used such as LGBTQ+

¹⁵ <https://galop.org.uk>

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) reports that in the year to March 2017, 24% of victims of Domestic Abuse and 14% of victims of sexual; assault were men. During the same period, only 4% of referrals to the Southwark Advocacy Support Service (SASS) were male.

Male referrals to our commissioned DA service are low partly due to under reporting. It is recognised that male victims of domestic and sexual abuse are often reluctant to come forward for help. We need to ensure that we promote our local services and London wide services for men, to ensure that they feel able to seek support.

5. Legislative Context

The Law

In recent years a range of new legislative measures have been introduced which provide a firm framework in the national drive to tackle VAWG. These include:

- The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2014 made it a criminal offence in England, Wales and Scotland to force someone to marry
- The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (known as Clare's Law) 2014
- The Care Act 2014 which included new duties to protect vulnerable adults affected by gender violence
- The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Serious Crime Act 2015
- The Modern Slavery Act 2015 which can be used to address the cross border issues linked to Trafficking
- The Domestic Abuse Bill 2019

For full transcripts of all these legislations please refer to <https://www.legislation.gov.uk>

In 2013 the UK Government revised and extended the definition of Domestic Abuse (non-statutory) to include young people aged 16–17. At the same time, the introduction of **coercive control** has provided a legal context for non–physical abuse offences for domestic violence and abuse cases.

“any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.”

UK Government 2013

The **Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme** (known as Clare’s Law) was rolled out nationally in 2014. It gives individuals the “right to ask” police where they have concerns that a partner may pose a risk or where they are concerned about a family member. DVPO Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) and Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) were introduced across England and Wales in 2014. A DVPO is a civil power order that enables the Police and magistrates to put in place protective measures in the immediate aftermath of DA.

The law now criminalises Forced Marriage and has introduced the mandatory reporting of child female genital mutilation cases by teachers, health professionals and social workers; as well as the use of FGM Protection Orders (FGMPO).

The **Modern Slavery Act 2015** can be used to address the cross border issues linked to trafficking, including sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude.

Our strategy acknowledges the provisions of abuse contained within the Care Act (2014)¹⁶ as well as the Pan – London Child Safeguarding Procedures¹⁷ and Adult Safeguarding Procedures.¹⁸

In January 2019 the government published the draft Domestic Abuse Bill. Key measures include:

- A new statutory definition of domestic abuse which includes economic abuse and coercive control
- Strengthened responses to perpetrators through the introduction of new civil orders
- Establishment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner in Law

Alongside the legislative reforms there are a range of additional measures planned by the government which focus on four main areas:

- Promoting awareness
- Protection and support for victims
- Transforming the justice process and perpetrator response
- Improving performance

The Domestic Abuse Bill, 2019 places a strong focus on criminal justice sanctions and for Housing Services to use their powers to tackle perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse. <https://www.gov.uk>

In May 2019 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government launched a consultation on proposals to establish a new delivery model for accommodation based domestic abuse services, including introducing a statutory duty on local authorities. This will be incorporated into the Domestic Abuse Bill.

6. The National and Regional Context

Why do we need a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy?

Tackling violence against women and girls is an international, national, and regional priority

National Context

In 2010, the Government published the cross government Strategy “Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls”¹⁹ which detailed a series of actions plans to address VAWG across all agencies. This has been followed by “The National Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, 2016 – 2021” .²⁰ The Government strategy introduced a new National Statement of Expectations. The strategy reiterated the framework of prevention, provision of Services, partnership working and perpetrators as the model to tackle VAWG. It also created a number of opportunities for all responsible authorities to address VAWG, which included a new dedicated VAWG funding stream, the VAWG Service Transformation Fund. Southwark is currently in receipt of funding for two programmes under this scheme; **Project Mia** which is for high risk women with a history of non engagement with services whom have children on a Child Protection Plan, and **Prevent And Change (PAC)** working with high risk repeat DA perpetrators.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) have been a statutory requirement since 2011. Local areas are required to undertake a multi-agency review after a domestic homicide to identify lessons learned to help prevent future incidents. The findings from analysis of DHR cases identified the “toxic trio “of domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse as a major factor in domestic homicides²¹.

Regional Context

The Mayors Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) published its strategic vision in “A Safer City for Woman and Girls”. The London Tackling Violence Against Woman and Girls Strategy, 2018 – 2021²² which detailed a framework for London to be at the global forefront of tackling VAWG.

Since 2013/14 MOPAC’s London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) has provided targeted funding to each London Borough for initiatives that aim to prevent crime, this includes VAWG. As part of its LCPF VAWG funded activities, Southwark currently deliver safe and healthy relationships workshops to children in secondary

¹⁹ <http://www.gov.uk>

²⁰ <http://www.gov.uk>

²¹ <http://www.standingtogether.org.uk>

²² <https://www.london.gov.uk>

schools, counselling support to domestic abuse survivors, and a behaviour change programme for young people who are using abuse and/or violence in close relationships.

Victim Support is commissioned by MOPAC to deliver the London-wide Integrated Victim and Witnesses Service. The provision includes a dedicated domestic abuse service with two Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) based at Kings College Hospital, one located 1 at the Metropolitan Police's South East London BCU Headquarters and one based at the South East Witness Care Unit at Southwark Magistrate's Court.

London Councils fund a number of Pan London services through the ASCENT Project which is a consortium made up of 29 specialist services and Rape Crisis. ASCENT delivers a range of services under six themes: prevention, advice and Counselling, domestic and sexual violence helplines, specialist refuges, woman against harmful practices and support services to organisations. Rape Crisis provides counselling and support to women who have been affected by sexual violence including historical sexual violence.

Most recently, the Greater London Authority introduced the **Violence Reduction Unit**, for which delivery is overseen by MOPAC. The aim of the unit is to tackle the root cause of crime, including domestic abuse, by bringing communities and partners from criminal justice, public health and education together as part of a public health approach to tackling violent crime. The purpose of which is to:

1. Stabilise and reduce violence across London
2. Find the major causes of violence and co-ordinate action across London to tackle them at scale, delivering a long term reduction in crime and associated harms
3. Involve communities in the work of the VRU and build their capacity to deliver the best long-term solutions to reduce violence.

Research²³ commissioned by MOPAC evidences a number of worrying trends including the steep increase in levels of VAWG in the capital²⁴. DA offences in London rose by 63% between 2011 and 2018²⁵. Three quarters of victims were female and victims were more likely to live in deprived areas. In 2018 there were 29 domestic homicides, up from 9 the previous year. This significant increase of domestic homicides has sadly been mirrored in Southwark where we have 4 concurrent domestic homicide reviews (DHR) underway in 2019. Prior to this, we had not had to conduct such a review since 2013.

²³ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/201902_an_increase_of_the_increase_of_recorded_domestic_abuse_and_sexual_offences.

²⁴ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/201902_an_increase_of_the_increase_of_recorded_domestic_abuse_and_sexual_offences.

²⁵ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/201902_an_increase_of_the_increase_of_recorded_domestic_abuse_and_sexual_offences.

7. Violence Against Women and Girls in Southwark

Southwark has an ethnically diverse and young population. The 2017 Public Health projections, estimated the population of Southwark to be 314,200. Southwark has one of the fastest growing populations in South East London. Our population is projected to grow by almost 20% by 2030; equating to an extra 60,000 residents. The median age of residents is 33.1. This is two years younger than the London average and almost seven years younger than the national average. Just over half (54%) of the population is white ethnicity, a quarter (25%) black, and a third of Asian (11%) or other (10%) ethnicities. Over 120 languages are spoken in Southwark, with 11 per cent of households having no member of the household who speaks English as a first language²⁶. Southwark has the highest proportion of residents in the country who were born in Africa (12.9 per cent), as well as a significant population from Latin America, with 70 per cent of reception-age children from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups²⁷. Southwark has the highest level of social housing in London with 40% of the capitals social housing stock located in the borough. Southwark has an abundance of faith groups worshipping in the borough with some 400 faith groups,

What do we know about VAWG in Southwark?

Whilst we acknowledge that VAWG and girls is a significant issue in the borough, we also accept that the true extent of the issue is greater due to under reporting in all areas of VAWG. What we do know is that recorded offence numbers are increasing year on year, mirrored by increased referrals to our commissioned DA service. The number of Police recorded DA offences in Southwark has increased by 27% since 2015/16 whilst the number of referrals to our commissioned DA service has increased by 52% over the same period, as illustrated in figure one below.

²⁶ Overview of Southwark's Population JSNA Factsheet, People and Health Intelligence, Southwark Public Health, July 2018

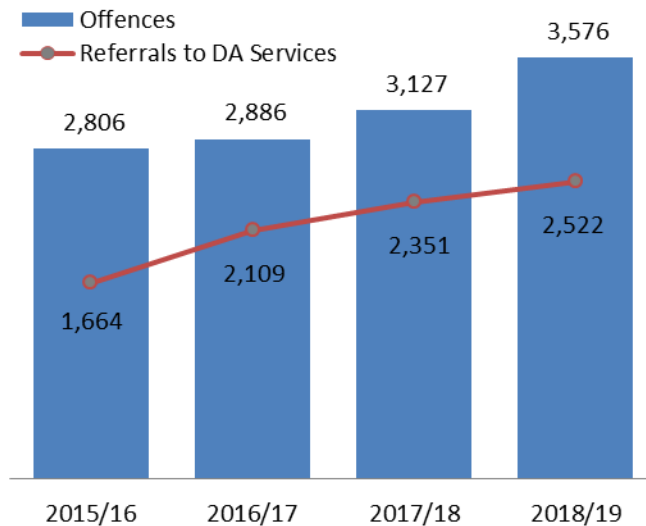
²⁷ <http://www.southwark.gov.uk>>JSNA

Figure 1. Domestic Abuse in Southwark

Domestic Abuse in Southwark

FY 2015/16 to 2018/19

Source: MET Police and Southwark DA Services



Since 2014/15 referrals to Southwark's Domestic Abuse Service have increased year on year although this growth has slowed:

- 2014/15 - 2015/16: 26% (1324 to 1664)
- 2015/16 - 2016/17: 27% (1664 to 2019)
- 2016/17 - 2017/18: 10% (2109 to 2351)
- 2017/18 - 2018/19: 7% (2351 to 2522)

High Risk: The Southwark MARAC which puts action plans in place to manage high risk cases of domestic abuse received a total of 609 referrals between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019, an average of 51 per month. This compares to 551 in 2017/18, an average of 46 per month, an increase of 10%

For the other VAWG areas there are some challenges when capturing data to gain an accurate picture of the levels of gendered violence in Southwark. These include under reporting by those affected, Home Office changes to the way MPS record these offences, and limited data capture on the wider forms of gender violence. Due to the hidden nature and stigma attached to VAWG the true prevalence is likely to be much higher.

Police data

Domestic Violence and Abuse

- In Southwark in the 12 months to January 2019 the Police recorded 3,487 DA Offences. This was the 4th highest in the London Metropolitan Police Area (includes the City) and a 10% increase on the previous year.
- For the 12 month period to January 2019 some 5,380 DA incidents were recorded. This was a 4.7% decrease compared to the same period the

previous year. Domestic incidents are reports whereby an incident has occurred but not categorised as an offence.

- Southwark has a DA incident rate of 18 per 1,000 population, which places us 11th highest in London, the highest being 23 in Barking and Dagenham and lowest 11 in Richmond upon Thames.

Harassment

- In Southwark in the 12 months to February 2019 the Police recorded 588 Harassment records (522 unique crime records)
- The police provided the following information on sexual harassment/ assaults in schools²⁸. From 1st September 2018 there were 14 reported incidences on school premises:
 - 3 of them are inappropriate sexual touching between children under 10
 - 4 are allegations against teachers by pupils (2 are ongoing investigations)
 - 1 is an allegation between teachers.
 - 4 are teenage girls alleging against similar age boys and involve sexual touching to varying degrees.
 - 1 relates to sexual touching between parties aged 10 in primary school.
 - 1 relates to allegation of video of teen female and younger male sexual touching

Forced Marriage

- Between September 2016 and February 2019 the Police recorded 9 Forced Marriage records (9 unique crime records) in Southwark. This was the 21st highest in the London Metropolitan Police Area (excludes the City).

Female Genital Mutilation

- Between September 2016 and February 2019 the Police recorded 3 Female Genital Mutilation records (2 unique crime records) in Southwark. This was the 13th highest in the London Metropolitan Police Area (excludes the City).

Honour Based Violence

- Since October 2016 Police have recorded 32 Honour Based Violence records (26 unique crimes) in Southwark

Stalking

- In Southwark in the 12 months to February 2019 the Police recorded 62 Stalking records (57 unique crime records)

Prostitution

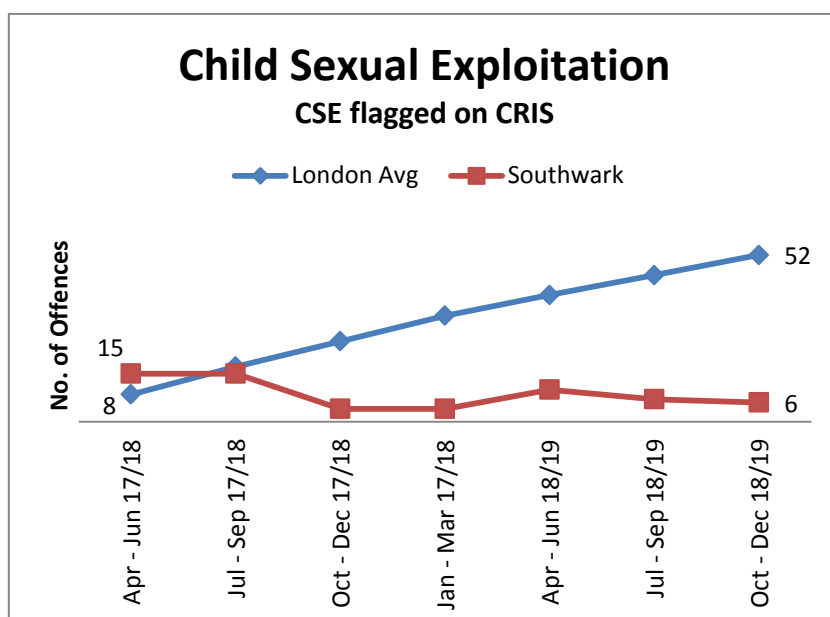
- The Police recorded 0 Soliciting for Prostitution offences for the 12 month period to December 2018. For the MPS area a total of 91 offences were recorded

²⁸ Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) & Modern Day Slavery, Community Safety Scrutiny Commission Report May 2019 'Making Southwark a safe place for EVERYONE'

Other Data Sources

Children’s Social Care – Evaluation of data from Social Care Assessments shows the prevalence of DA in families in need, 31% of assessments carried out between May 2015 and March 2019 recorded DA as a factor (either impacting the child, parent or other household member). It is estimated that 40% of Southwark Children In Need have experienced DA²⁹

Child Sexual Exploitation - The graph below shows the number of CSE quarterly Offences flagged on CRIS (Crime Reporting Information System) for the period April 2017 to December 2019 shows a steady increase in the London averages offences whilst Southwark flagged offences shows a decreasing trend.



Complex Multiple Needs - Assessment of data from PAUSE³⁰ Southwark highlights that this group are significantly impacted by multiple disadvantage with 89% affected by domestic violence and abuse, 71% experienced childhood abuse, 21% were involved in sex work and 100% experienced mental health issues, whilst 46% had a history of care.

Female Genital Mutilation - Southwark is estimated to have 7,000 women aged 15-49 years old affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This is 7 times the national rate. It is estimated that 8% of women in Peckham and Camberwell Green are estimated to be affected by FGM. (JSNA 2018)

Yuva - is a service for young people using or experiencing violence in close relationships. In the overwhelming majority of cases, the young people referred to the service are males who have used violence against their mothers, 94% in 2018/19³¹

²⁹ Stocktake of LBS Children’s Services where domestic abuse is a factor, September 2018

³⁰ The PAUSE team works with women who have had 2 or more children removed from their care. These women may have experienced complex difficulties like homelessness, violent relationships or substance abuse

³¹ Monitoring Data, Southwark Community Safety Partnership

8. Consultation Findings

This strategy was developed after extensive consultation with staff from statutory and voluntary sector services in Southwark (see Appendix 3. for list of agencies included in the consultation).

The consultation process was invaluable as for many of the VAWG areas published data is minimal, capturing the experience from frontline practitioners has helped fill some of the gaps, adding value to the information that is available. Speaking to practitioners also reinforced the impact of VAWG on the everyday lives of residents in Southwark.

Survivor's Views

The views of a group of survivors who participated in the Freedom Programme delivered by Bede were consulted on the contents of this VAWG Strategy and given the opportunity to provide comment. The group of 20 women who represented a cross section of women from a range of ages, ethnicities, employability, immigration status, marital status, parenthood status and socio economic backgrounds. All the women had experience of multiple forms of VAWG. All were past immediate crisis point but continued to have significant ongoing issues which impacted upon their ability to fully recover from their experience of VAWG.

The key findings were:

- All the women had experienced some form of mental health issue associated with the experience of VAWG
- All the women only accessed support services after the Police attended incidents at their home
- Women welcomed the support they received from voluntary sector services and considered the support of the voluntary sector crucial to navigating through the complexity of dealing with children's services, housing and immigration services.
- Women stressed the need for wraparound services which work with women for longer periods
- Working women face significant barriers to accessing support
- Women wanted services to work in a more flexible way so they could access services outside 9am – 5 pm timeframe. Women could not access counselling services during work hours or if they did not have child care.
- Two working women confirmed that they had to take time off work without pay to attend support services.
- Women supported wide scale awareness for young children and all young people.
- Women reflected upon their own experience of growing up in families with domestic abuse and how they had considered domestic abuse as normal until they attended the Freedom Programme. They felt that if they had been given information as young people they may have recognised unhealthy relationships as adults.

- Women were visibly distressed when talking about the impact on their children
- Women reported the distress of their children after leaving their homes in a non planned way (after Police intervention)
- 40% of the victims experienced ongoing problems with their temporary accommodation remarking on its suitability for young children
- Women commented on the impact on their children of leaving their homes and jobs and living in “limbo” for many years after the crisis violent incident
- Women queried why social workers asked about their immigration status rather than their safety
- Women commented on the disparity in response levels across Council front line services
- Women explained why they could not return to work when they had moved to a new area with no support system to help look after their children
- One woman said “After leaving an abusive situation. It is like services keep the abuse going on ”
- Women suggested that the development of an expert panel of service users (Critical Friends) to advise Commissioners and Council staff. They expressed the view that this would inform how services are delivered in Southwark

Community Safety Scrutiny Commission Report

In October the Community Safety Scrutiny Commission undertook a review into VAWG & Modern Day Slavery, the findings of which can be found in the report “**Making Southwark a safe place for EVERYONE**”. The Commission chose to focus on three areas:

- Safe and healthy relationships; teaching in schools and youth clubs as this is an opportunity to influence young people at a young age and there is evidence of high rates of domestic abuse amongst young people .
- Safeguarding practices; to try and understand how effectively girls are protected and to look at data trends around levels of sexual harassment and assault.
- The Scrutiny Commission also reviewed Women’s Safety Charter (WSC) which was established in 2015 to tackle harassment of women in Southwark at night time.

As part of the review the Commission collected evidence from a number of sources. The findings of which have enhanced the consultation process carried out as part of this strategy. This included:

- Focus groups with students and teachers at the City of London Academy (COLA) and Harris Girls School, and with Salmon Youth Club attendees.
- Online survey to seek the views of Southwark teachers on PHSE and safeguarding
- Interviews with anti-slavery and VAWG experts.

Feedback from young people included the following:

Healthy Relationships

The majority of young people could not identify with any depth of understanding what a healthy relationship was and many said they received little or no relationship education in school. Frequently young people said the current curriculum was perceived as largely informational.

Overwhelmingly young people said they would prefer more on skills and the emotional side of relationships.

Often media has become a significant or main educator, alongside peers and family. Media portrayal of relationships was considered often unrealistic and unhelpful.

As well as developing their relationship literacy young people said that LBGTQ+ education needs to be improved and girls, in particular, wanted more information on how to protect themselves from infection and pregnancy

Young people said they would benefit from more education about feelings and relationships rather than just teaching about biology. They wanted this to start in primary school.

Sexual Harassment

Street harassment is an issue with young women reporting grown men whistling and also groups /gangs of older boys, some of whom are acquaintances, making comments, and sometimes reacting in a hostile manner when these are not welcomed. Students said that there are girls who are vulnerable to this kind of sexualised attention, which they seemed to view as predatory. Some girls said they always walked home with friends for mutual support and protection, while others said they only did this for company.

Some young people (girls) had no clear understanding of what sexual harassment was but people felt that it means what you don't want to happen and said it has to be repeated to be harassment. They all thought that someone pinning your bra strap was not harassment. Many of the girls felt boys had a different understanding of what consent is. The girls said that you had to explicitly say yes for it to be consent whereas boys feel only if girls say no it is not consent. Many girls were not sure where to go for support or help. There was much concern about the rise in sexual violence / harassment online and how to combat this.

The consultation undertaken as part of this strategy together with the consultation undertaken by the Scrutiny Commission has highlighted a number of key areas and significant gaps for which action is required to improve the borough's response to VAWG. These have been incorporated under the priority areas in the Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan. A summary of the key areas and gaps identified is shown in the table below.

Key Areas

- **Prevention and early intervention where possible** – break the cycle of abuse. Focus on wellbeing rather than just crisis support.
- **Public awareness raising** – for all VAWG areas, particularly around the issues of honour based violence, harassment, and modern slavery
- **Importance of staff training and awareness raising** – recognition and that this is a continuous process. There is a lack of understanding of coercive control amongst professionals. Training should include developing knowledge to identify VAWG and give the individual the confidence to discuss with manager and refer; particularly in relation to harmful practices.
- **Importance of a whole systems approach** – VAWG are issues that cut across everyone's roles and is everybody's responsibility.
- **Improved flexibility of current DA service offer** – survivors with complex needs (such as Project MIA cohort) will need a longer term sustained support.
- **Housing offer** – we will explore how we can continue to improve our offer to clients fleeing DA. If a survivor doesn't feel safe they are unable to address other issues.

Significant Gaps

- **Improved Healthy Relationships offer** – a revised Healthy Relationships offer to be developed to include the wider VAWG issues such as harassment should be developed. This will involve improved working with schools.
- **Improved partnership response for Honour Based Violence** - stakeholders highlighted concerns that this occurs in Southwark but is hidden.
- **Improved partnership response for Harassment** – many stakeholders expressed concern at the increase in harassment which they are seeing. This is impacting young women and also women in lower paid roles.
- **Improved approach to dealing with perpetrators** – stakeholders are not confident about or completely aware of current perpetrator provision and its objectives/outcomes.

9. What has been achieved?

To date VAWG delivery in Southwark has chiefly focussed on domestic abuse which is reflected in what has been achieved. This strategy will ensure that Southwark continues to retain its strong focus on domestic abuse whilst developing an integrated response to the wider forms of VAWG, addressed in the Strategy Delivery Plan.

Prevention and Supporting DA Survivors

Domestic abuse has been the major focus of Southwark's VAWG response in recent years and remains the volume crime area. Since the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015-2020 progress has been made particularly in awareness raising and early identification of victims. This includes raising awareness of early signs of abuse, educating young people, tackling perpetrator behaviour, building community capacity and leadership, increasing the opportunities for disclosure, developing appropriate responses, and building survivors resilience. This is delivered through:

Primary prevention: that seeks to prevent the onset of domestic abuse, via risk reduction by seeking to influence behaviours that can lead to abuse, this includes:

- Commissioning specialist services which include an IDVA Service, Refuge and Perpetrator programme
- Local DA awareness campaign
- DA community champions programme
- Children's Therapeutic Support (for children who have been exposed to DA)
- Delivery of healthy relationships programmes in schools

Secondary prevention: aims to reduce the impact of abuse that has already occurred and likelihood of it happening again in the future. This is done by having systems in place to detect signs of abuse as soon as possible in order to halt or slow its escalation, encouraging personal strategies to prevent recurrence, and implementing programmes to return people to their original health and function to prevent long-term issues. This includes:

- Comprehensive offer of awareness and resilience building programmes for survivors of DA to break the cycle of abuse
- Peer supporters programme
- A GP based DA programme (IRIS)
- Comprehensive training for council and external professionals, service providers, community organisations and elected members
- Counselling for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse
- IDVA co-location with housing, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Police
- Perpetrators behavioural change programme

Following a needs assessment and competitive tendering process, in 2015 Southwark Council commissioned Solace Women's Aid to deliver its core domestic abuse service as seen below.

Figure 2. Southwark Advocacy Service



Source: Solace Women's Aid

In line with the development of our Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and a comprehensive needs analysis, we will look to redesign our core service offer to respond to VAWG in 2020 and onwards. The current support offer to DA survivors can be seen in Appendix 2.

Case Study - DA Survivor. Nia

Nia³² was referred to a specialist service following attendance at A&E with injuries caused by her partner. Nia was not a UK national, and Nia's partner was using both violence and her immigration status to control her. The Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) risk assessed Nia and found she was at risk of significant harm and/or death and a referral to the MARAC was made. During the course of specialist support, Nia made further disclosures suggesting that she may also be at risk of **'honour' based violence** from her wider family. Nia's immigration status meant she was unable to access public funds, and as such had very limited options to leave the relationship without ending up destitute and street homeless. Nia was supported by an immigration solicitor to make an application to remain in the country, allowing her access to benefits. On the basis of this, the IDVA was able to arrange for Nia to reside safely in a refuge, whilst her application was considered by the Home Office.

Other DA/VAWG Support for survivors

The council commissions a number of additional DA/ VAWG services outside of the core service offer. This includes:

Refuge

Southwark Refuge supports women who experience DA and provides a place of safety and support for single women and women with their children fleeing DA.

Women are referred mainly through various national voluntary bodies such as the National Domestic Violence Helpline, Social Services and by the police, although some customers approach independently.

The service provides a package of support for every woman and her family based on their individual needs. All support is provided with the aim of empowering women, giving them the skills, confidence and knowledge to move on, successfully resettle and maintain independence. The service also helps women find other accommodation, setting up and maintaining that home or tenancy.

The service consists of:

- 26 units for women and their children spread across four safe houses on three sites

³² Name has been changed

- 6 units are self-contained, 20 in shared accommodation (from which 4 are accessible)
- The service employs 4 full-time specialist refuge workers and a part-time service manager

The service provides a low to medium support service and delivers 150 hours of frontline support a week. The core service hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm with an on-call service provided out-of-hours.

Project Mia

Project MIA which commenced in February 2018, is a 2 year initiative funded by the Home Office VAWG Transformation Fund. Delivered by Solace Women's Aid, the project provides bespoke, tailored support to women who are victims of domestic abuse and whose children are subject to Child Protection Plans. Many of these women have multiple needs and have not previously engaged well with traditional support services. The aim of the project is to provide a personalised offer to these women to encourage them to engage with the support available and improve their own wellbeing as well as that of their children. The programme also offers a Child Therapeutic service for the children involved, to ensure the effects of witnessing abuse are addressed and its long-term effects minimised.

The support these women require is intensive and long term, with interventions lasting 9 months on average. Despite this, the project has seen significant successes in its first year with 7 service users being stepped down from Child Protection Plan intervention to Child In Need.

Case Study – Children's Therapy Project Mia

When referred to Mia therapy, Simon³³ had been exposed to a few incidents of domestic violence in his family home from his Dad perpetrated towards his Mum. Simon, his Mother and his younger brother relocated to the other side of London and have had no further contact with his father. Simon became anxious and withdrawn but did not wish to discuss the incidents with anyone.

The specialist service arranged a play/art therapist to work with Simon at school in school hours. In sessions Simon initially presented as very quiet and wary, but quickly felt safe to explore and engaged well with the therapist as well as with the materials in the room.

As therapy continued Simon become more comfortable and was able to express his worries and feelings regarding home life. Simon also started creating art work.

In total Simon had 17 sessions, his mother has seen positive changes from the therapy. She stated that he has gained self confidence and is being more open and communicative with his mother about his feelings.

³³ Name has been changed

PAUSE Programme - the PAUSE team works with women who have had 2 or more children removed from their care. These women may have experienced complex difficulties like homelessness, violent relationships or substance abuse. Without support, they often enter a cycle of repeat removal, becoming more traumatised with every removal. The team provides intensive one to one practical and emotional support.

Safe Healthy Equal Relationships (SHER) – Sher is an educational toolkit to promote awareness of healthy relationships and combat domestic and dating abuse, delivered to young people in schools across Southwark.

Housing Solutions – The Housing Solutions Service are recognised as being at the forefront of excellence in relation to domestic violence and abuse. In 2018, they were the first Housing Service in the country to achieve the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation³⁴. These service improvements have been achieved via upskilling front line staff and utilising the options available including the Pan London Housing Reciprocal Protocol³⁵ arrangements to increase safety, whilst minimising the material harm to families who otherwise may lose their secure tenancy status and spend years in temporary accommodation.

Housing Solutions continue to lead on innovation with staff working alongside qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and are in the process of developing a community coordinated response outreach offer to single women where offending and street homeless is a risk factor.

Operation Encompass - is a Police and education early information sharing partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

Women's Safety Charter – The Women's Safety Charter is a voluntary pledge for bars, clubs and other licensed premises, with five principles on how they will support women experiencing sexual harassment in their premises. 180 premises have signed up to the scheme since its launch in 2015.

³⁴ <https://dahaalliance.org.uk>

³⁵ <https://saferlondon.org.uk>



Southwark
Council

**We want you
to have a good
night out**

**We take women's
safety seriously
and believe
harassment has
no place on a
night out.**

*As part of Southwark's Women's
Safety Charter our staff are trained
to help you deal with any
problems you might have.*

*If you're feeling uncomfortable
please talk to them so you can get
on with having a great night.*

**We are signed up to the Southwark
Women's Safety Charter. To find out more
and tell us what you think go to
www.southwark.gov.uk/womenssafety**



www.southwark.gov.uk/womenssafety



Perpetrators

In order to reduce the number of victims of VAWG there is a requirement to address the underlying cause of the violence; perpetrators. Those who perpetrate VAWG must be challenged to be accountable for their choice to use violence. The Domestic Abuse Bill 2019 places an emphasis on tackling perpetrators through the criminal justice system and calls upon local authority housing departments to use their powers to tackle perpetrators.

There is significant work to be done to change the attitudes that support VAWG. Southwark will develop a more holistic, tiered approach to service delivery aimed at prevention and protection of survivors and by doing so limit the harm to women and children. However, there is much work to be done with regard to VAWG in all its forms and the Council will undertake an annual assessment of its response to perpetrators of all forms of VAWG.

Perpetrator Programmes

Southwark Council is committed to delivering programmes designed to support perpetrators of abuse to change their behaviour and to take tough enforcement action against those who are not willing to change. The council commissions a number of programmes to work with perpetrators, including the Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme, Prevent And Change Programme, and Yuva. We also have the multi agency Domestic Abuse Tenancy Panel, which supports delivery of the Council Plan commitment to 'prioritise domestic abuse survivors over their abuser so they can stay in their own home'. This includes working with our partners such as the Police and Probation Services, utilising opportunities for enforcement options.

Operation Dauntless - is a London-wide Metropolitan Police operation whereby serial domestic abuse perpetrators are identified and prioritised. Particularly those who have victims in multiple London boroughs. In Southwark nominals are referred to the Prevent and Change (PAC) Project.

Building Better Relationships - The Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) delivers behaviour change programmes for all domestic abuse offenders who are under supervision by either the CRC or National Probation Service.

Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme

The Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme (DVPP) has been a core element of Southwark's response to domestic abuse since 2015. The programme is for men who have had some history of being violent or abusive towards a partner or family member and want support changing this behaviour. It is a group based programme that runs for 26 weeks. Each session lasts 2.5 hours and takes place in the evening. The main object of the programme is to increase safety for victims and children. Underpinning this is an understanding that domestic abuse is a systematic pattern of behaviour, which is learned and has intent. As such the person perpetrating the abuse is 100% responsible for their behaviour.

In the last 4 years of the programme, a total of 93 perpetrators have engaged with the programme which has resulted in a positive change in behaviour and the risk to survivors being reduced in 74 cases.

Case Study - Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme

Juan³⁶ was referred to the programme as part of a social services intervention in respect of his two children. Both children were attending a local school/nursery and aged 5 and 3 respectively. Following an abusive argument and assault of his wife Flavia, police were called by neighbours and Juan was subsequently arrested. He was later released without charge as Flavia did not wish to pursue matters. As children were present during the incident Police referred to social services and they in turn referred the case to Solace.

As Juan's first language was Spanish he was seen for his assessment with a Spanish interpreter present. In interview he was candid about using physical violence towards Flavia, shouting and yelling at her regularly and also a high amount of sexual abuse. He also admitted to using physical chastisement towards the children and conceded they were afraid of him. He became very tearful in the interview. Juan was offered regular weekly 1-2-1 sessions, with a Spanish interpreter present to address his behaviour.

Juan initially moved out of the family home for a limited period to allow for a "cooling off" time while he engaged with the programme and Flavia engaged with Solace support services. In sessions Juan engaged well; he was open to challenge and able to empathise with both Flavia and the children.

As Flavia was indicating she wished to try and reconcile with Juan, social services organised a phased return home for Juan while he was still working with the programme.

Progress appeared to accelerate. Flavia reported that all sexual abuse had ceased and there had been no further abuse or violence. Both parents reported things at home were calmer. The school/nursery reported the children appeared settled and calm.

Social services reported that home visits (including unannounced visits) with the children were overwhelmingly positive. The family continue to work with social services on issues around parenting as part of their final support package before discharge.

Yuva

Southwark Council also commissions the Yuva Programme run by DVIP to support behaviour change in young people (aged 11 – 18) who have used violence/abuse in their close relationships. The programme works with the young person and their victim to increase safety and support positive relationships for all involved.

³⁶ Name has been changed

Prevent And Change

Southwark (together with Lambeth and Lewisham), was successful in receiving funding from the Home Office VAWG Transformation Fund to deliver the PAC Project. The project delivers a whole system approach to tackling prolific VAWG perpetrators. The focus is on how perpetrators are managed in partnership, supported to change, and/or held to account for their harmful behaviour. Perpetrators are encouraged to accept responsibility for their behaviour and work towards change. Where a perpetrator is unwilling to engage, appropriate enforcement action is taken against them.

The project will deliver this approach to 40 serial perpetrators of DA in Southwark over the 2 year period. The priority outcome of the project is to increase the safety and wellbeing of victims and associated children by preventing new and/or further victimisation and harm.

Preliminary findings from the PAC cohort have highlighted that most were known to Children's Services as children living in families where DA was an issue. This highlights the need for prevention work from an early age, and points to an opportunity to consider a longer term approach to how we tackle VAWG via early intervention.

Domestic Abuse Tenancy Panel

Southwark Council is committed to prioritising DA survivors over their abuser so they can stay in their own homes. In addition to the Sanctuary Scheme which assists survivors by providing targeted emergency security upgrades at their properties, in January 2018, the Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Tenancy Panel was launched. This is a multi-agency initiative which aims to take appropriate action against DA perpetrators who are tenants of Southwark Housing properties. Since its inception, the panel has considered 22 cases, and with the safety of the victim of prime importance, has taken tenancy action against 5 perpetrators of abuse.

Partnership Working

There is a need to extend the good work in relation to DA to the wider VAWG response, developing a new cross partnership approach; raising awareness of the wider related issues outside of DA, identifying and offering support to individuals and families at risk or experiencing VAWG at an earlier point, at first point of contact

It is recognised that no one agency can resolve the issue of VAWG. We need to work in partnership across the council and other statutory agencies, working alongside the communities we serve.

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. Due to its cross cutting nature it impacts on multiple partnership policy areas such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Gang related crime, and Community Harm and Exploitation. The arrangements for these areas are within Southwark's Children's Safeguarding Board policies³⁷.

The Partnership Response to Exploitation

Southwark has committed to tackling the criminal sexual exploitation (CSE) of children and young people living in the borough and those in care placed out of the borough. Between April 2017 and December 2018 the following activity took place:

- 108 community learning and awareness raising workshops delivered, involving 870 residents, parents and community group volunteers.
- Implementation plans created by Children's Social Care and the Police supporting the work lead by the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Group (MASE).
- New partnerships created with Barnardos and the Children's Society linking local businesses and support for children into the work of the MASE.
- Southwark Council is part of **Rescue and Response**, a consortium of charities and local authorities who are working together to support vulnerable young people operating at pan- London level. This project develops and delivers a support service for young people who are vulnerable and caught up in county lines drug distribution networks.

The Partnership Response to Female Genital Mutilation

FGM is an illegal, extremely harmful practice and a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls. Southwark Council, working with our partners through the Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board, has agreed a multi-

³⁷ <https://www.safeguarding.southwark.gov.uk>

agency intervention framework for identifying, assessing and responding to Female Genital Mutilation. Together we are committed to supporting vulnerable female children and adults and to end the practice of FGM

Central to the partnership approach is community engagement, communication, and awareness raising. This includes delivery in collaboration with statutory agencies, Public Health, the National FGM Centre, Barnardos, Community Southwark, African Advocacy Foundation and schools.

The development of a community profile of FGM in Southwark was undertaken by the Community Engagement Subgroup and the Southwark Multi Agency FGM Steering Group. ROSA, which is a charitable fund set up to support initiatives that benefit women and girls in the UK and the National FGM Centre. With support from Public Health this work was completed in June 2017 and informed the JSNA.

A number of targeted actions have been undertaken to respond to the challenges posed by practicing communities, to directly respond to the needs of girls and women at risk of FGM or who have experienced FGM prior to coming to the UK. The further development of the FGM Community Profile will ensure that the protected characteristics of those concerned are very well understood and responded to effectively in a culturally sensitive and appropriate way. This approach permeates the current work on FGM and will be at the heart of future developments.

Targeted actions include:

- A collaboration between Health and a local School to set up an FGM clinic within the school/children centres. This model of FGM clinics within children centres is a good way of encouraging wider community engagement.
- A joint FGM conference was held in March 2016 by the Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards resulting in the attendance of 144 people across agencies and partners.
- NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group provided a Protected Learning Time (PLT) event on Safeguarding for Primary Care/GPs with FGM as headline topic. There were approximately 200 GPs and Practice Nurses in attendance.
- An event was held in June 2016 providing an FGM open forum and luncheon inviting women, young people and parents to attend. The forum provided answers to questions and reassurance about the Mandatory Reporting by health staff. .
- FGM is included in the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) & Wellbeing curriculum offer. It is one of the areas covered in the three yearly whole school safeguarding INSETs and in the two yearly schools Designated and Deputy Designated safeguarding leads training.
- FGM training is included in the Safeguarding training for school staff.

The Partnership Response to Multiple Complex Needs

A number of services work with survivors with multiple complex needs. These include:

PAUSE Programme - the PAUSE team works with women who have had 2 or more children removed from their care. These women may have experienced complex difficulties like homelessness, violent relationships or substance abuse. Without support, they often enter a cycle of repeat removal, becoming more traumatised with every removal. The team provides intensive one to one practical and emotional support.

The Housing First Model: Housing Solutions have committed to the Housing First Model and have funded a specialist worker to work with women with VAWG issues including DA, prostitution, offending behaviour, substance misuse to prevent homelessness. This worker will provide outreach to women across the borough and link in with the Women's Hub provide by **PECAN** providing a safe space for women involved in the criminal justice system.

Southwark's Voluntary Sector

Southwark's Voluntary sector services have contributed significantly to Southwark's wider response to violence against women and girls. Whilst the Council commission a specialist DA Service which works closely with statutory services, for many survivors, the first steps to accessing support to safety are via self referral to community based services who provide wrap around support including vocational programmes. These include BEDE whose Freedom Programme DVA awareness has proven successful over a number of years (40 women in 2018). Whilst Southwark's Women's Space (delivered by Pecan) provides a range of multi agency support to women involved in offending and substance misuse issues. There are a number of local, regional and national voluntary sector organisations and services that are identifying and supporting victims and survivors of VAWG in Southwark. A comprehensive list is included as Appendix 4. We must ensure that we work collaboratively with all agencies to ensure that all survivors have appropriate routes to support and advice.

The Business Sector is severely impacted when individuals experience violence from family members, work colleagues or others on their way to work. Often the individual is unable to participate in work which has an impact on the economy and economic growth. Many businesses in Southwark have policies which support staff and signpost to support. Over the lifetime of this strategy we will work more closely with local businesses to take forth opportunities to ensure those affected are offered appropriate support and do not experience economic disadvantage and to improve employment opportunities for those affected by VAWG.

The majority of businesses in Southwark are actively involved in tackling VAWG. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires all businesses to take steps designed to combat modern slavery and publish their policies. In addition, some 2018 local businesses have signed up to Southwark's Woman's Safety Charter. Violence also affects the individual's ability to participate in employment and enterprise.

10. Priority Area Commitments

The strategy has identified four priority areas. For each priority area a set of commitments has been developed. These will be implemented through the delivery work plan 2019/21. A further three year work plan will be developed in 2021 incorporating learning from the first two years of implementation of the strategy.

Priority One: Partnership: development of a coordinated agency and community response

Delivery of a coordinated response to all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

Southwark will provide strong leadership to ensure violence against women and girls is “Everybody’s Business“ and ensure that an integrated approach to tackling VAWG is developed, modelling best practice principles.

Southwark will adapt the national best practice coordinated community response to domestic abuse and extend this as our framework for all forms of violence against women and girls. This model acknowledges that no one agency can meet all the requirements of those affected by VAWG.

We will use the lessons learned from our Domestic Homicide Reviews to improve local practice.

We will develop a revised VAWG data set across all service areas. This will improve our knowledge of the prevalence of VAWG

We will support agencies, business and communities to work together to prevent and respond to all forms of VAWG. This includes a more integrated approach on prevention and promoting healthy relationships. To include improved working with schools particularly on the area of harassment this links to both exploitation and VAWG.

We will review our existing Women’s Safety Charter assessing the impact and effectiveness. We will encourage all businesses and licensed premises to sign up to the charter.

Southwark council as an employer – we will continue/improve our response as an employer and ensure that victims and witnesses feel able to recognise and report harassment and that any issues are dealt with appropriately.

Southwark Council will work with the Business Sector to ensure the boroughs overall response is coordinated with common referral pathways to support.

We want to identify victims at an earlier stage and will continue to work in partnership with our partners in Health towards earlier identification and to mitigate the health impact of VAWG.

Priority Two. Prevention and Early Intervention: identification of individuals and families at risk prior to point of crisis

Southwark is committed to preventing violence and abuse. Early intervention is key to reducing harm and we will draw from local and national evaluations to further develop our approach.

We will tailor our VAWG awareness raising to meet the needs of all communities and through a range of channels including future communication strategies.

We will work with Children's Centres and Multi Agency Teams to support earlier intervention. These services are well placed to participate in awareness raising activities and early intervention.

We will develop a public awareness campaign to address harassment in private and in public and in the workplace. This will include targeted age appropriate messages.

We will target work with schools and colleges to address attitudes that support VAWG, including education events focused on the links between gang involvement, serious and sexual attitudes and beliefs amongst young people.

We will target work at faith groups to ensure that there all members of our community are aware of the support available.

We will look to continue funding for specialist VAWG support in the MASH and Housing Solutions to ensure early intervention.

We will target work at the LGBT+ Community and work with specialist agencies including GALOP and Stonewall to ensure our response is appropriate across VAWG strands.

Witnessing violence in the home, in their own relationships, or in the wider community can have a significant impact on young people ability to participate fully in school and achieve academically. We will explore the findings from the Contextual Safeguarding pilots <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk> to inform how we work with children and young people and communities to reduce the harm caused by exposure to trauma.

We will extend our network of DA community champions across the borough and expand the programme to include the other forms of VAWG.

We will target young people to ensure that future generations are educated about gender based violence from an early age. To include improved working with schools.

We will continue to support the provision of services that focus on the prevention of learned behaviours for individuals at risk of being future perpetrators.

Priority Three. Protecting Victims: reduce harm and impact of violence against women and girls on individuals and families

The protection of victims is central to the focus of this strategy. Although it is recognised that men and boys can be victims of VAWG, women and girls are disproportionately affected.

Southwark will incorporate the guidance within the national and regional Violence Against Women and Girls Strategies which call for support services to target wider vulnerability/exploitation and offer wrap around support.

Where possible we will ensure “lived experience is incorporated into our response. We will ensure this by including stakeholder and services user’s in future consultations to inform commissioning and our future service delivery model.

One of the key findings from our consultation was the need to improve early identification of those affected by VAWG particularly those in hard to reach groups. We will do this through ensuring individuals understand what VAWG is and capacity building our communities to identify those at risk and raise appropriate alerts.

We will develop a VAWG Service User Group composed of post crisis VAWG survivors who will function as the Councils critical friend.

We will consider developing a peer support programme in collaboration with our partners in the voluntary sector

We will revise our service delivery model to work across risk levels after conducting a full review of existing services and a comprehensive needs assessment.

A new service delivery model will be developed which includes support for victims (children, young people and adults) and perpetrators (across age ranges).

We will continue to deliver appropriate support using a wide range of gender and culturally sensitive services to ensure that all Southwark residents are able to access appropriate support.

We will incorporate the Foreign and Commonwealth Guidance on FGM, Forced Marriage, and Honour Based Violence into our service processes. We will ensure that the additional guidance relating to the heightened risk for Disabled and LGBT people are also embedded into practice.

We will target young people at the place they frequent including those using Family Nurse Partnership Services as well as substance and/or sexual health clinics to ensure they are offered support in relation to VAWG issues.

We will encourage the best practice approach of Housing Solutions to DA is extended across the partnership so all will receive a premium service.

We will strive to provide survivors with effective Housing Options.

We will review the referral pathways and procedures across the partnership to ensure they are robust and reflect current legislation and best practice.

We will include clear expectations in all our new contracts that gender based violence is not acceptable.

We will work to ensure that any barriers to services and safety are removed so that all victims are provided with adequate support.

Priority 4. Perpetrators: Provide support to change behaviour, tackling attitudes that support VAWG, and enforcement

Perpetrators of violence against woman and girls are responsible for their behaviour which is an intentional behaviour/choice. We will continue to work to change attitudes and misogyny that drive VAWG.

We will raise awareness that in the wider context of VAWG, perpetrators can be intimate partners but also wider family members, sometimes in collusion with the community. Many forms of gendered violence are carried out by strangers including rape and sexual violence and harassment

We will continue to pursue perpetrators of VAWG through the criminal justice system

The Domestic Abuse Bill 2019 explicitly instructs Housing Departments to tackle perpetrator behaviour. Southwark will review its current response to tackling perpetrators introducing a tiered approach of prevention, protection and provision of services.

Southwark has commissioned some perpetrator work and will take forward the learning from our commissioned services, to develop a tiered response to VAWG which will include criminal justice interventions and support to change behaviour.

Southwark will consider the findings from the pilots in Bristol of perpetrator work linked to GP Surgeries to enable earlier identification of perpetrators and reduce harm.

We will capacity build professionals to have a greater understanding of working with perpetrators, ensuring that support and safety measures are put in place to support change.

11. Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan 2019/21

This strategy will be achieved through the delivery work plan for the four priorities. The delivery plan is supported by 10 work areas:

Develop revised governance and leadership arrangements for Violence Against Women and Girls
Develop a coordinated response to all forms of VAWG
Incorporate the findings of our Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews into our practices
Improve Data Collection
Include lived experience in commissioning
Conduct an annual needs assessment
Review the approach to perpetrators providing support to change. Taking tough action on those who perpetrate abuse.
Improve crisis intervention
Improve prevention and early intervention across all equalities groups
Trauma informed, person centred support will be offered to children affected by VAWG issues

The delivery plan included in this document highlights the key areas of action to take forward. A final partnership delivery plan will be agreed by the VAWG Partnership Steering Group.

Priority 1: Partnership: development of a coordinated agency and community response

Outcome	Action Linked to Outcome
1A. Southwark will provide strong leadership to ensure that an integrated approach to tackling VAWG is developed, utilising the principles of best practice modelling.	The delivery of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy will require strong leadership. Oversight and responsibility for delivery will be held by the VAWG Steering Group chaired by a senior officer (Head of Service or above) from Southwark Council. The group will maintain strong links to the Safeguarding Boards and submit quarterly updates on delivery progress to the Community Safety Partnership Delivery Group.
1B. Southwark will adapt the national best practice of the coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic abuse, and extend this as our framework for all forms of VAWG.	Framework to be agreed by VAWG Steering Group will have oversight of implementation of new framework.
1C. The CCR model acknowledges that no one agency can meet all the requirements of those affected by VAWG. There is a requirement to utilise the expertise of the wider Voluntary Sector to ensure routes to safety and early intervention.	The VAWG Steering Group working with the VAWG Forum will utilise the skills and expertise of the wider voluntary sector to ensure hard to reach groups have routes to safety.
1D. We will use the lessons learnt from Domestic Homicide Reviews to improve local practice.	Targeted work plans and task and finish group will be set up to deliver on finding of the 4 concurrent DHRs taking place in 2019.
1E. We will support agencies and communities work together to prevent and respond to all forms of VAWG.	We will review our Champions programme to measure impact and use the findings to improve processes and referral pathways.
1F. A shared understanding of risk factors relating to VAWG will be rolled out across Southwark.	Training will be provided across the partnership to ensure all practitioners have the knowledge to identify risk and refer appropriately.
1G. Development of clear information sharing processes and referral routes for VAWG	Review of current information sharing protocols and referral routes, to ensure they are fit for purpose.

<p>1H. All partners to review their policies and procedures around VAWG issues to ensure that if clients present with any of these, the right information, offer of a service and signposting and/or referral are universally offered across the borough.</p>	<p>The VAWG Steering Group will oversee an audit of policy and procedures and advise and support where required.</p>
	<p>Guidance written which gives a clear understanding of expectations and action required from 'home' agency if a referral is declined by the MASH/IDVA Service through not meeting thresholds.</p>
	<p>Review and improve how frontline services engage and deal with cases of DA, particularly low or medium risk where there is not an immediate safeguarding risk.</p>
<p>1I. A revised training and awareness programme will be developed to enable all practitioners in Southwark to improve their response to all forms of VAWG.</p>	<p>Experts from the partnership will deliver VAWG awareness sessions on a rolling programme.</p>
<p>1J. We will revise our existing Woman's Safety Charter to align with the MOPAC Women's Charter.</p>	<p>Southwark will work with businesses to improve support for the Woman's Safety Charter.</p>

Priority 2. Prevention and Early Intervention: identification of individuals and families at risk prior to point of crisis

Outcome	Action Linked to Outcome
<p>2A. Awareness raising needs to be tailored to meet the needs of communities and through a range of channels including future communication strategies Raise awareness of VAWG to make it 'Everybody's Business'.</p>	<p>Develop a communications strategy on key VAWG issues. This will include communication for National FGM Day, National Stalking Day, and White Ribbon.</p> <p>We will utilise national campaigns aimed at young people to dispel some of the myths around sexual behaviour and consent. To deliver positive messages to combat some of the negative message and imagery that exists on social media.</p> <p>We will develop BAME specific awareness raising activities.</p> <p>This will work be developed in partnership with the voluntary sector and targeted where appropriate at different groups.</p>

<p>2B. Multi-agency Practitioners are sufficiently trained to identify, respond and support those affected by the different forms of VAWG and have an improved understanding of multiple needs.</p>	<p>Ensure that frontline staff have the skills, knowledge, and confidence to identify and deal with VAWG via workshop programmes and training.</p>
<p>2C. We will target young people to ensure that future generation are educated about VAWG from an early age. We will endeavour to engage with young people in spaces accessed by young people other than schools.</p>	<p>Delivery of healthy relationships programmes in schools. From 2020 delivery of the health and relationships aspects of PSHE will be compulsory in all schools. As a result we will be reviewing the delivery of our own healthy relationships programme (SHER) to compliment delivery in schools.</p>
<p>2D. Witnessing violence in the home or in their own relationships or in the wider community can have significant impact on young people ability to participate fully in school and achieve academically.</p>	<p>We will continue to use the principles of contextual safeguarding when working with children and young people and communities to highlight the harm caused by exposure to trauma.</p> <p>Southwark will review the evidence from the national Contextual Safeguarding sites led by University of Bedford.</p>
<p>2E. A more family orientated approach engaging and working with families and young people experiencing DA at an earlier stage.</p>	<p>Consider other boroughs approach to this work. Report back to VAWG Steering Group.</p>
<p>2F. Children and young people who witness or are victims of VAWG will be safeguarded and provided with support to recover and move forward.</p>	<p>Develop our young persons DA programme to accept referrals and offer advice and guidance on wider VAWG issues such as sexual harassment.</p>
<p>2G. Incorporate VAWG as a standard consideration in all services/programmes working with vulnerable young people</p>	<p>A review of existing procedures will identify any gaps or areas for improvement.</p>
<p>2H. We will extend our DA champions training to include other forms of VAWG.</p>	<p>We will review the impact of this programme and make recommendations as to how it could be better utilised/referral pathways.</p>
<p>2I. Resident Services; DAHA National Best Practice to be implemented</p>	<p>Resident Services will work to achieved DAHA accreditation.</p>

Priority 3 Protecting Victims: reduce harm and impact of VAWG on individuals and families

Outcome	Action Linked to Outcome
3A. Council Services respond adequately to the full range of VAWG issues.	Ensure that frontline staff have the skills, knowledge and confidence to identify and deal with VAWG.
3B. Service provision responds to the full range of VAWG experienced. Support will be available for crisis and longer term recovery.	To be included in commissioning strategy.
3C. Commissioned services across the partnership are required to respond appropriately to VAWG Services are trauma informed.	Tender document and future monitoring
3D. Victim's will have access to appropriate specialist VAWG services that meet their needs.	Victim's will be provided with integrated support pathways from across the partnership.
3E. Police roll out of Project Encompass; early intervention – information shared with Safeguarding leads in the school when the child/children have witnessed a DA incident.	VAWG Steering Group to be updated with progress.
3F. Explore whether the IRIS approach currently for GP's can be implemented in other agencies in line with Housing Solutions example.	Continue delivery of IRIS programme in GP surgeries.

Priority 4. Provide support to change behaviour tackling the attitudes that support VAWG, and enforcement

Outcome	Action Linked to Outcome
4A. Southwark will develop a tiered approach to tackling perpetrators. This will include enforcement and supporting perpetrators to change.	<p>A full review and evaluation to be undertaken of current service provision.</p> <p>Survey of how other boroughs approach perpetrator work.</p> <p>What is the best practise/evidence base for what is a good perpetrator intervention</p>

<p>4B. Working with perpetrators is a key area of the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019. Southwark will need to incorporate this legislation into local response.</p>	<p>Southwark will review and evaluate how it is performing in relation to the provisions of the Domestic Abuse Bill. This will include a review Housing's approach to DA households; how they can utilise current legislative powers to work with perpetrators better readdressing the imbalance in moving the victim out of the address rather than the perpetrator (if the victim wishes to remain in the property).</p>
<p>4C. Ensure that frontline staff have the skills, knowledge and confidence to identify and work safely with perpetrators in an evidence based framework of what works.</p>	<p>Improved engagement, early intervention and working with perpetrators.</p>
<p>4D. Increase community and voluntary sector involvement in identifying and working with perpetrators.</p>	<p>We will include awareness raising on perpetrators to be extended to the wider community and voluntary sector and include in Community Champions Training.</p>
<p>4E. Information on the RESPECT Helpline will be promoted widely.</p>	<p>All staff will be aware of this service to and pass on as appropriate.</p>
<p>4F. Information sharing processes will be reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>Review how information is shared. Review how partners currently share information about perpetrators.</p>
<p>4G. Ensure key agencies still engage with perpetrators when they are on a perpetrator programme.</p>	<p>Work with Children's Social Care and other partners to prevent them from withdrawing support too soon. Local evidence suggests that engagement of perpetrators on perpetrator programmes is greater when the family is also engaging with other services such as Social Care.</p>
<p>4H. Develop better links with Health. Most perpetrators engage with frontline Health Service's at some point.</p>	<p>Explore how Health are currently tracking perpetrators and referral pathways when DA is present.</p> <p>IRIS Steering Group to ensure they raise awareness of working with perpetrators and stress the importance of GP's advising and signposting perpetrators to support.</p>

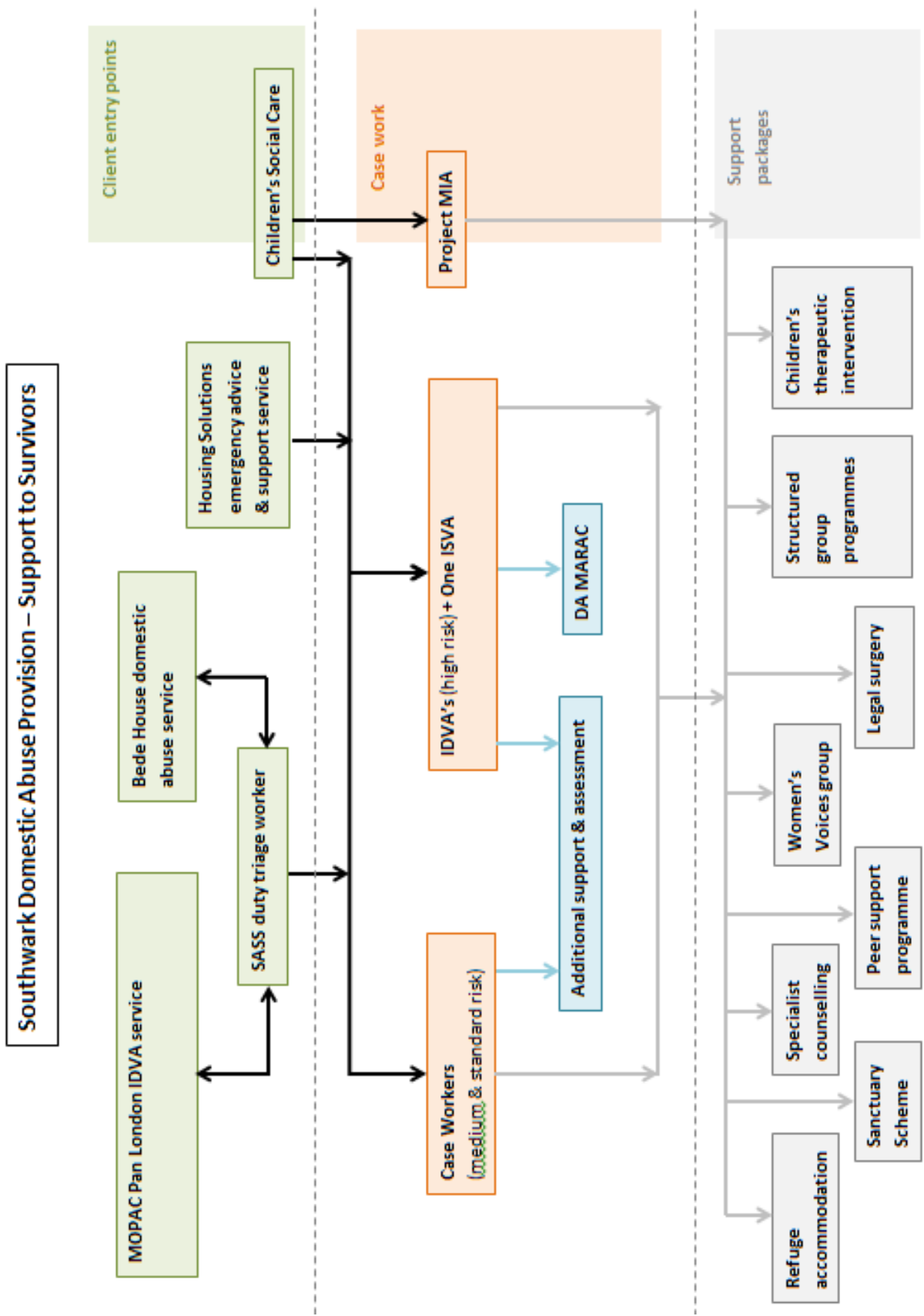
Appendix 1: Types of Violence Against Women and Girls

Area	Description
Violence Against Women and Girls	<p>It is acknowledged that VAWG is a form of inequality and violation of human rights. The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1) was issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993, it defines violence against women as:</p> <p><i>“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.”</i></p>
Domestic Violence and Abuse	<p>The UK government’s definition of domestic abuse is <i>“any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.”</i></p> <p>Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and regulating their everyday behaviour.</p> <p>Coercive behaviour is: an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.</p>
Female Genital Mutilation	<p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.</p>
Forced Marriage	<p>Forced marriage (FM) became a crime in England and Wales in 2014, and is defined as a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor (CPS, 2014). Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.</p> <p>In the cases of children under 16 and some vulnerable adults who lack the capacity to consent, coercion is not required for a marriage to be forced.</p>
“Honour Based Violence”	<p>“Honour” based violence (HBV) is any act of violence which is committed by family or community member/s to defend their perceived honour. HBV is normally collectively planned and carried out by the victim’s family, sometimes with the involvement of the wider community. There is no specific offence of HBV, but it encompasses other offences such as murder, forced marriage, rape, forced suicide, acid attacks, mutilation, imprisonment, abduction, beatings, death threats, blackmail, emotional abuse, surveillance, harassment, forced abortion and abductions.</p>
Prostitution	<p>Prostitution describes the offering and provision of sexual services for financial gain. In the UK, prostitution itself is not illegal but there are a number of offences linked to it. For example it is an offence to control a prostitute for gain, or to keep a brothel. Prostitution has a close affinity with a host of other important social issues, in particular and health. Although there are exceptions, most prostitutes are women selling their services to men</p> <p>Research published in 2015 indicated that there were approximately 72,800 sex workers in the UK; 88% were women, 6% men and 4% transgender.</p>

Sexual violence, abuse and exploitation	Sexual violence, abuse and exploitation covers a wide range of abuses and includes; child sexual exploitation; peer sexual exploitation; sexual violence experience by woman in prostitution ; woman who have been sexually exploited into prostitution; sexual violence linked to gangs as well as the wider spectrum of sexual violence experienced by woman and men.
Sexual violence and rape	<p>Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual act or activity. In the UK, rape is legally defined as the penetration with a penis of the vagina, anus or mouth of another person without their consent.</p> <p>Sexual or indecent assault is defined as an act of physical, psychological and emotional violation, in the form of a sexual act, inflicted upon someone without their consent. It can involve forcing or manipulating someone to witness or participate in any sexual</p>
Sexual harassment	<p>Sexual harassment is any unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature that makes you feel distressed, intimidated or humiliated. It can take lots of different forms.</p> <p>Sexual harassment can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • someone making sexually degrading comments or gestures • your body being stared or leered at • being subjected to sexual jokes or propositions • e-mails or text messages with sexual content • physical behaviour, including unwelcome sexual advances and touching • someone displaying sexually explicit pictures in your space or a shared space, like at work • offers of rewards in return for sexual favours
Stalking	<p>The Legal Definition of stalking is: the act or crime of wilfully and repeatedly following or harassing another person in circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to fear injury or death especially because of express or implied threats.</p> <p>Repeated (i.e. on at least two occasions) harassment, causing fear, alarm or distress. It can include phone calls, texts and/or letter; damage to property, spying on and following victim.</p>
Trafficking/Modern Slavery	<p>The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labour or sexual exploitation. It also includes domestic servitude.</p> <p>Sex trafficking is a crime when women, men and/or children are forcefully involved in commercial sex acts. Worldwide, it's estimated that there are 4.5 million victims of sex trafficking.</p> <p>Domestic servitude is the seemingly normal practice of live-in help that is used as cover for the exploitation and control of someone, usually from another country. It is a form of forced labour, but it also warrants its own category of slavery because of the unique contexts and challenges it presents.</p> <p>Victims of domestic servitude may appear to be nannies or other domestic help, but the moment their employment arrangement transitions into a situation whereby they cannot leave on their own free will, it becomes a case of enslavement.</p>

	<p>Forced labour is any work or service which people are forced to do against their will, under threat of punishment. Almost all slavery practices contain some element of forced labour.</p> <p>Forced labour is the most common element of modern slavery. It is the most extreme form of people exploitation.</p>
Other Forms of VAWG	
Acid attacks	Usually involves sulphuric acid, a cheap and accessible weapon, which is used to kill and/or disfigure women. Commonly, acid attacks are in retaliation for family/dowry-related feuds, or rejection of a marriage proposal.
Breast ironing	A form of breast reduction, where at puberty breasts are flattened with a hot grinding stone, hammers, pestle for up to 2 months. Mothers do this to their daughters, aiming to protect them from rape and early marriage.
Dowry-related violence	A form of domestic violence, and involves violence and death associated with dowry demands (UN Women, 2012).
Faith-based child abuse	Physical, emotional and sexual abuse, or neglect of children, linked to beliefs in five areas: (a) Abuse as a result of a child being accused of being a 'witch'; (b) Abuse as a result of a child being accused of being possessed by 'evil spirits'; (c) Ritualistic abuse which is prolonged sexual, physical and psychological abuse; (d) Satanic abuse which is carried out in the name of 'Satan' and may have links to cults; (e) Any other harmful practice linked to a belief or faith (Metropolitan Police, 2016).
Homi-suicides	This is when women are coerced or forced to take their own lives, through pressure from intimate and extended family. This is increasing, particularly in regions where there are severe penalties in place for HBV.
Image based sexual offending	<p>Image based sexual abuse can also be referred to as 'revenge porn', non-consensual pornography or intimate image abuse. It is the act of sharing intimate images or videos of someone, either on or offline, without their consent.</p> <p>This crime can be committed by anyone, often the person responsible is an aggrieved former partner, but NOT always. You do not have to be in a relationship with the perpetrator for it to be considered image based abuse. It can be anyone who shares content without consent.</p>

Appendix 2: Support to Survivors Provision



Appendix 3: Consultation Participants

	Agency
Survivors	Bede
Victoria Agnew	LBS Early Years and Family Focus Team
Linda Andrew	DVIP
Nikru Asiegbunam	GSTT
Lynda Bartlet	CCG Children's Safeguarding lead
Nike Baruwa	CRC
Rueneaka Baptiste	LBS YOS Women's Officer
Talia Boshari	LBS Public Health
Lucy Brazener	SLaM
Tamya Bustamante Jenke	LAWRS
Joseph Cahill	LBS CSC
Patricia Comely	LBS Adult Safeguarding Lead
Sarah Connelly	LBS CSC
Senay Dur	Solace
Kevin Dykes	LBS Child Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator
Teresa Foster	MPS
Julie Foy	LBS HR
Celia John	LBS Adult Safeguarding Lead
Richard Kalu	Richard Kalu
Katie Kelly	Pecan
Ahalm Laabori	Bede
Koreen Logie	NPS
Jackie McGeever	LBS SASBU, Noise Nuisance, Rough Sleepers and Licensing
Lindsey Mosuro	LBS HR
Ruth Murdock	LBS Children's Social Care
Tina Nicholson	MPS
Hannah Norgate	Victim Support
Abi Oguntokun	LBS Resident Services
Liz Ostrowski	DVIP
Viji Rajagopalan	DVIP
Felicity Reed	Southwark Pause
Elaine Reid	LBS Service Manager, Children's Services
Anna Singleton	LBS Resident Services Manager
Lee Souter	PHSE Co-ordinator
Ian Swift	LBS Head of Housing Solutions
Donna Timms	LBS Drug Action and Alcohol Team Unit Manager
Marianna Tortell	DVIP
Yenny Tovar- Aude	LAWA
Various	VAWG Delivery Group
Daniel Woods	LBS Safeguarding and Family Support Team

Appendix 4: VAWG National, Regional and Local Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations*

Organisation	What they do	More information
Aaina Women's Group	The aim of this project is to work towards the empowerment and self-development of women through the provision of a drop in service and a programme of workshops and community based courses.	https://communitysouthwark.org/organisations-venues/organisations/aaina-womens-group
Ashiana Network	Provide housing and support to BMER women and girls experiencing domestic violence and sexual violence. Ashiana runs three refuges; two specifically for women aged 16-25 fleeing forced marriage.	http://www.ashiana.org.uk/
Asian Women's Resource Centre	Specialist women's organisation providing support services to BME women and children who have experienced or are at risk of domestic abuse	www.asianwomenscentre.org.uk
Bede House Starfish Project	Offers advice and support to people affected by Domestic Violence, resident in Southwark.	https://bedehouse.org.uk
Deafhope	Supports deaf victims of domestic and sexual violence	http://www.deaf-hope.org/
FORWARD	The Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development, (FORWARD) is an African Diaspora women's campaign and support charity. Their focus is the elimination of FGM among affected African communities.	http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/
Halo Project	Provides advice and support to victims of honour based violence and forced marriage	https://www.haloproject.org.uk/
Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation	IKWRO provides specialist services to support Iranian, Kurdish, Afghan, Arab and Turkish women and girls subjected to 'honour' based violence (HBV), forced marriages (FM), child marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM).	www.ikwro.org.uk
IMECE Women's Centre	Woman only organisation supporting BMER women, particularly Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot women to improve the quality of their lives. Assists women victims of Violence against Women and Girls through provision of a wide range of services in a safe, secure and women only space.	www.imece.org.uk
Karma Nirvana	A national helpline to support victims in immediate danger of forced marriage and HBV. Karma Nirvana also offers HBV training to professionals.	karmanirvana.org.uk
Latin American Women's Rights Services	LAWRS is human rights, feminist organisation pursuing "equal rights and social justice for all Latin American women and migrant women in the UK".	www.lawrs.org.uk
LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP)	DAP is a way for LGBT survivors of domestic abuse to get the maximum amount of help with a minimum amount of hassle. The DAP is open to any LGBT person experiencing domestic violence who is living or working in London. The DAP is made up of 4 LGBT agencies who each provide different services for LGBT survivors of domestic abuse.	http://lgbtdap.org.uk
Men's Advice Line	Confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic violence from a partner or ex-partner (or from other family members).	http://www.mensadvice.org.uk/

National Domestic Violence Helpline	The National Domestic Violence Helpline is a freephone 24 hour helpline which provides advice and support to women and can refer them to emergency accommodation.	0808 2000 247
Nia	Provides services for women, children and young people who have experienced gender based violence. This includes a specialist refuge for DA survivors with problematic substance misuse.	www.niaendingviolence.org.uk
Palladin	Paladin is a trauma-informed service established to assist high risk victims of stalking in England and Wales.	https://paladinservice.co.uk/
Pecan – Southwark Women’s Space	A women only space offering advice and support on a range of issues including domestic abuse	www.pecan.org.uk
Rape Crisis	Provides a national helpline and rape crisis centres to victims of rape and sexual assault.	https://rapecrisis.org.uk/
Refuge	A national charity providing accommodation and advice and support to victims of domestic abuse	https://www.refuge.org.uk/
SOLACE Women’s Aid	Commissioned by Southwark Council to deliver its comprehensive Domestic and Sexual Abuse support service to Southwark residents.	www.solacewomensaid.org/
Somali Integration and Development Association	Women’s worker providing advice and support to Somali women resident in Southwark	http://sidauk.org/
Southall Black Sisters	Support and advice to Black (Asian and African-Caribbean) women who experience gender related violence.	www.southallblacksisters.org.uk
Tender	Promotes healthy relationships based on equality and respect. Using theatre and the arts, they engage young people in violence prevention. They work in schools, youth centres, pupil referral units, offices and healthcare settings.	http://tender.org.uk/
Victim Support	Provides support and advocacy to victims of domestic abuse in Southwark as part of the MOPAC Pan London Domestic Abuse Service	https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/
Women and Girls Network	Supports women and girls affected by all forms of gendered violence including childhood sexual abuse, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, prostitution (including trafficking and sexual exploitation), rape/gang rape, honour based violence and war crimes.	www.wgn.org.uk
YUVA Project (Delivered by DVIP)	Yuva works with young people (age 11 – 18) who have been abusive to their parents/carers and in their close relationships. They help young people to look at their abusive behaviour and find safe, non-abusive alternatives.	https://dvip.org/yuva-service.htm

We have attempted to include a comprehensive list of ‘VAWG’ support organisations whose advice/services are available to residents of Southwark. It should be noted however that some organisations might not be included in this list.

If you would like further information about the councils work on VAWG please view our website at <http://safeguarding.southwark.gov.uk/specialist-subjects/vawg/>. If you would like to get involved or support this work please contact Community Safety at SSAB@Southwark.gov.uk

Appendix 5. Glossary

Term	Definition
BAMER	Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic, Refugee
CCR	Coordinated Community Response
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
DAHA	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DVA	Domestic Violence and Abuse
DVDC	Domestic Violence Destitution Concession
DVIP	Domestic Violence Intervention Project
DVPO	Domestic Violence Protection Order
DVPN	Domestic Violence Protection Notice
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FGMPO	Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order
FM	Forced Marriage
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GP	General Practitioner
GSTT	Guys and St Thomas's
HBV	Honour Based Violence
HR	Human Resources
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
IRIS	Identification and Referral to Improve Safety
LAWA	Latin American Women's Aid
LAWRS	Latin American Women's Rights Service
LBS	London Borough Southwark
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MASE	Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
MOPAC	Mayors Office for Policing and Crime
MPS	Metropolitan Police Service
NPS	National Probation Service
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
PAC	Prevent and Change
SASBU	Southwark Anti Social Behaviour Unit
SASS	Southwark Advocacy Support Service
SLaM	South London and Maudsley
SWA	Solace Women's Aid
Domestic Abuse Survivor/Victim	The terms "victim" and "survivor" are both used, depending on the context. "Survivor" is, however, preferred as it emphasises an active, resourceful and creative response to the abuse, in contrast to "victim", which implies passive acceptance. Definition: Women's Aid
VAWG	Violence Against Woman and Girls
YOS	Youth Offending Service