



Haringey Council

Report for:	Cabinet	Item Number:	
Title:	Response to the Project Violence Against Women and Girls recommendations		
Report Authorised by:	Jeanelle de Gruchy – Director of Public Health		
Lead Officer:	Victoria Hill (interim Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Lead)		
Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions: Non-key		
All			

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 The Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel examined the council and partners' role in the identification, prevention and reduction of domestic violence and abuse in Haringey. Their resultant report was considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their meeting in March when a range of recommendations presenting workable solutions designed to build on the already good work being undertaken by the council and partners were agreed.

1.2 This report, and more specifically Appendix 1, lists the recommendations and presents the Cabinet Member's response to them.

2. Cabinet Member introduction

Violence against women and girls is a corporate priority as part of outcome 3. As deputy leader of the council and the Cabinet Member of Communities, I welcome the work of the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel on this issue and endorse the recommendations they have made. I am pleased that a violence against women and girls strategy is now being developed and these recommendations will be further considered as part of the strategy's development. We note that some of the recommendations will be challenging and will require working with partners as part of the coordinated community response to violence against women and girls which we are implementing locally.



3. Recommendations

That Cabinet note the recommendations arising from the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel review of the health services' response to domestic violence and agree the response to these set out in Appendix 1.

4. Alternative options considered

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out a considered response to all of the Overview & Scrutiny recommendations. In arriving at these responses officers have had regard to the intention behind the recommendations and the practicality of their delivery in terms of both staff and other resources. Appropriate option comments are contained in the individual responses. A number of the recommendations are 'partially agreed', primarily due to the budget implications.

4.2 A Violence against women and girls strategy is being developed. The Overview & Scrutiny recommendations and the funding requirements will be further considered within the priorities identified by the overall strategy.

5. Background information

5.1 The council has a role in leading a comprehensive community response to violence against women and girls. In undertaking their review, the Scrutiny Panel placed a particular focus on health service partners' response to domestic violence.

6. Comments of the Section 151 Officer and financial implications

6.1 The total cost of the recommendations is approximately £338k. Because of funding constraints the Cabinet cannot agree a share of the £250k required for a hospital-based IDVA Service, however the redesign of the referral pathway has been agreed and funding of £49k for an additional IDVA will be found following a realignment of existing Domestic Violence resources. The remaining £39k of recommendations are only partially agreed due to budget implications. With no additional money identified in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan such funding would probably need to be prioritised against other council wide priorities. The Violence Against Women And Girls strategy will consider the prioritisation of funding further and we will report on this when it is brought back to Cabinet at a later date. There are also health budget implications. We have discussed these with the CCG and the current status is given in Appendix One.

7. Comments of the AD Governance and legal implications



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The Assistant Director Corporate Governance has been consulted on the contents of this report.

Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 (“LGA”), Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any of Cabinet’s functions and to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet with respect to the discharge of those functions. Overview and Scrutiny also have the powers to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet on matters which affect the Council’s area or the inhabitants of its area. The Constitution provides that the Scrutiny Review Panels must refer their findings/recommendations in the form of a written report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval and afterwards, final reports and recommendations will be presented to the next available Cabinet meeting together with an officer report where appropriate.

Under Section 9FE of the LGA, there is a duty on Cabinet to consider and respond to the recommendations indicating what if any action Cabinet proposes to take and to publish its response.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

Improving the Council’s response to violence against women and girls demonstrates a commitment to address inequality issues for that group.

Equalities considerations should be factored in when forming the composition of the service user consultation group (recommendation 1), i.e. is there a representative mix of women service users in terms of their race, religion, age, disability, marriage and maternity status in this group? This should allow for a more balanced and reflective consultation.

The publicity campaign (recommendation 4) surrounding the new IDVA service should also factor in equalities considerations, to ensure that it outreaches to the diverse range of women and girls in the community who may be at risk from violence.



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Multi-disciplinary training on FGM (recommendation 5) and domestic violence (recommendation 6) should highlight to professionals any characteristics (e.g. young age, disabilities, race and religion) which are known to present particular vulnerabilities.

9. Head of Procurement Comments

There are a range of recommendations within the report which need to be developed further to identify whether there will be cost implications to the Council and its partners and in the manner that pathways are commissioned.

At this point there are no procurement needs to be addressed.

10. Policy Implication

A Violence against women and girls strategy is being developed, and these recommendations – and funding requirements – will be further considered within the priorities identified by the overall strategy.

11. Reasons for Decision

This report seeks Cabinet agreement to the proposed response to the Overview & Scrutiny recommendations on the council and partners' response to domestic violence.

12. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1: Response to Scrutiny Panel recommendations.

13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/a



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Appendix 1: Response to the recommendations of Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel Violence Against Women and Girls report – August 2015

No	Scrutiny Panel Recommendation	Agreed Partially agreed Not agreed	Budget implications	Response	Timescale and lead
1	<i>That information be shared with the Panel by the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group for their plans on how the views of service users will be obtained and responded to. (Paragraph 3.15) (Strategic Group)</i>	Partially agreed	Approximately £4 000 required to support survivor consultation, along with additional officer capacity to be identified to progress this work	A position paper on service user consultation has been agreed by the Strategy and Advisory Group Service user consultation will be used to help inform the development of this agenda, including an awareness campaign to coincide with the launch of the new IDVA service	If budget and support agreed, by March 2016 Advisory Group
2	<i>That a clear timeframe be set by the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group for the approval of a referral pathway. (3.17) (Strategic Group)</i>	Agreed	None	A timetable for redesign and approval of the new domestic violence referral/care pathway is now agreed to commission the new Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service - to launch on the 1 st April 2016	Complete
3	<i>That work to develop the referral pathway focus upon simplifying the process and establishing a single point of entry. (3.17) (Strategic Group)</i>	Agreed	Note that the pathway would require one additional IDVA: £49 000	*Pathway has been consulted on and final options have been agreed. Additional IDVA resource will come on line once existing resources within the current DV pathway are reviewed and realigned as part of the longer term work on the violence against women and girls strategy	By July 2015 VAWG Commissioning Group



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4	<i>That the Strategic Group develop proposals for publicising domestic violence and abuse services and, as part of this, consideration be given to joint commissioning. (3.20) (Strategic Group)</i>	Partially agreed	Partnership communications and publicity campaign budget to be identified and agreed – approximately £10 000 for year one Bid made for this to the joint police and community safety team Performance Related Grant	A violence against women and girls service directory for professionals and practitioners is produced and circulated across the partnership. This is updated on a quarterly basis. A borough publicity campaign that will be developed and launched to coincide with the new IDVA service and referral pathway	By 1 st April 2016 VAWG Strategy Group, VAWG Advisory Group, VAWG Commissioning Group and LBH Comms
5	<i>That the Strategic Group, working together with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), develop proposals for multi agency training on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for health and social care professionals and that Members also be included in relevant training on the issue. (3.25) (Strategic Group)</i>	Partially agreed	A budget to commission training would be required – approximately £5000 for 5 multi agency sessions, Officer capacity to coordinate the courses would also need to be identified	A Harmful Practices Working Group looking at free training offer via Ascent. Government FGM E learning course circulated by LSCB and VAWG partnership (and to members). Other free training opportunities will be identified and circulated to the partnership (and members) Twilight violence against women and girls trainings session for members to be delivered to coincide with the UN Day for the eradication of violence against women (25 Nov 2015 and the accompanying 16 days of activism)	By March 2016. Co Chairs of Harmful Practices Working Group – with support of VAWG Strategic Lead, VAWG Coordinator and LSCB SAB joint business manager
No	Scrutiny Panel Recommendation	Agreed Partially agreed Not agreed	Budget implications	Response	Timescale and lead



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6	<p><i>That consideration be given by the Strategic Group to developing multi agency and multi disciplinary training on domestic violence and abuse. (3.25) (Strategic Group)</i></p>	Partially agreed	<p>A budget to commission training would be required – approximately £20 000 for a range of knowledge awareness raising and skills/practice based sessions.</p> <p>In addition a new officer role would be necessary to coordinate all aspects of the training</p>	<p>A training needs assessment has been conducted with support of the LSCB Training Subgroup and SAB training Subgroup. There was a very low response rate. The LSCB Training Sub Group will undertake an agency audit of DV training delivered in partner agencies</p> <p>The LSCB deliver 2 training sessions a year on safeguarding children and domestic violence</p> <p>Minimum standards for violence against women and girls training is being drafted, and will be presented to the two training sub groups and the VAWG (advisory and strategy group) for endorsement</p>	<p>By September 2015 Chair of Strategic Group in conjunction with SAB and LSCB and training sub groups and joint business manager</p>
7	<p><i>That consideration be given by the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group on how best to secure the regular engagement of local NHS acute trusts and the Mental Health Trust on a basis that is achievable and sustainable. (4.2) (Strategic Group)</i></p>	Agreed	None	<p>Key health representatives have been written to by the chair to request their attendance and engagement</p> <p>The new Vice-Chair of the Strategic Group has had a specific focus on engaging health partners</p>	Completed



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No	Scrutiny Panel Recommendation	Agreed Partially agreed Not agreed	Budget implications	Response	Timescale and lead
12	<i>That the options of providing hospital based IDVAs by joint commissioning between boroughs whose residents use the same hospitals and/or the re-location of one or more of the boroughs IDVAs to local hospitals be considered by the Community Safety Partnership, in consultation with the CCG. (4.40) (Community Safety Partnership)</i>	Not agreed	Additional resources will need to be identified by all boroughs and agreed to fund IDVA provision A hospital based IDVA Service working across 3 boroughs would require approximately additional funding of £250 000 to be secured across the boroughs for 4 FTE IDVAs and a service manager	This is a complex issue as further discussion and agreement is required with various Community Safety Partnerships and various CCGs and project development and coordination.	To be part of the discussions by the Violence Against Women and Girls Commissioning Group
13	<i>That the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group work together with partners to ensure that all relevant professionals understand and receive training on completing the referral form for domestic violence and abuse (the CAADA DASH RIC) in order to promote its wider use. (4.44) (Strategic Group)</i>	Agreed	None	As part of the coordination arrangements for the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, training and briefing sessions are delivered every quarter by the MARAC Coordinator on the use of the CAADA DASH RIC (and the MARAC process) to professionals and practitioners	Ongoing (business as usual) Chair of MARAC, Chair of MARAC Steering Group and MARAC Coordinator



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8	<i>That, in view of the strong evidence of the effectiveness of the IRIS scheme in facilitating the detection of domestic violence and abuse, the Haringey CCG reconsider its decision not to commission it. (4.18) (Haringey CCG)</i>	Agreed	None for the council	CCG has recently agreed to commission IRIS for 25 practices in the borough	CCG and VAWG Commissioning Group
9	<i>That the CCG explore further the potential of joint commissioning of IRIS with neighbouring boroughs in north central London. (4.18) (Haringey CCG)</i>	Agreed	To be identified and confirmed	To be discussed further with the CCG	CCG and VAWG Commissioning Group
10	<i>That staff training provision on domestic violence and abuse be reviewed by Whittington Health to ensure that sufficient time is allocated and that it is delivered in an appropriate and interactive format, with the use of e-learning avoided (4.26) (Whittington Health)</i>	Partially agreed	To be identified and confirmed	To be discussed further with Whittington Health, however changes have been implemented since the report was published: Level 1 to level 3 training provided either face to face or via e-learning depending on role and priority groups. I.e. Maternity, Health visitors, school nursing. Training to cover basic awareness, recognising and responding to domestic abuse and referring on to specialist agencies, (DASH risk assessment / MARAC) – domestic abuse champions to be trained from the priority groups as above	Whittington Health NHS Trust



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No	Scrutiny Panel Recommendation	Agreed Partially agreed Not agreed	Budget implications	Response	Timescale and lead
11	That the business case currently under development by NMUH for the establishment of a post of hospital based IDVA be supported and recommended for approval by the CCG and that consideration also be given to establishing a similar post at the Whittington hospital. (4.39) (Haringey CCG)	Partially agreed	To be confirmed	The CCG recognises and acknowledges the benefits of having a hospital-based IDVA and will consider the NMUH business case. Whilst not the lead commissioner for the Whittington Hospital, the CCG will also be discussing their plans	NMUH with VAWG Commissioning Group