

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

5 February 2019

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

Venue Committee Room 1 - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Linda Leach (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Simon Bennett (Con)

Labour

Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Asha Mattu
Cllr Barbara McGarrity
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Zee Russell

Conservative

Cllr Sohail Khan

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Earl Piggott Smith
Tel/Email 01902 551251 email:earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Democratic Services, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
1	Apologies
2	Declarations of Interest
3	Minutes of previous meetings (Pages 3 - 10)
4	Matters arising
5	City of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Statement (Pages 11 - 28) Emma Bennett, Director for Children’s Service, to present report
6	Healthy Ageing Portfolio Public Health (Pages 29 - 30) Dr Ankush Mittal, Consultant in Public Health, to present report
7	Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy - 2019 - 2022 - Consultation (Pages 31 - 52) Lynsey Kelly, Community Safety Manager, to present report
8	Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2020-2022 - Consultation (Pages 53 - 84) Lynsey Kelly, Community Safety Manager, to present report

Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Item No: 3
Minutes - 27 November 2018

Attendance

Members of the Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Simon Bennett (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Sohail Khan
Cllr Linda Leach (Chair)
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Zee Russell

Witnesses

Ashely Bertie
Mary Jacobs

Assistant Police Crime Commissioner
Partnerships and Engagement Officer

Employees

James Barlow
Earl Piggott-Smith
Alison Shannon
David Watts

Senior Accounting Officer
Scrutiny Officer
Chief Accountant
Director of Adult Services

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following:

Councillor Rupinderjit Kaur
Councillor Sandra Samuels
James Barlow

Apologies had been submitted previously by Cllr Sohail Khan but were not recorded.

The panel agreed to note the apologies.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

3 **Minutes of previous meetings (25.9.18)**

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 **Matters arising**

Agenda Item 7 Overview of the Adult Education Offer and Outcomes for residents

Cllr Sohail Khan reported back from a visit to the Adult Education Service. The visit included a meeting with staff and students. Cllr Khan commented that the visit was very positive, and he had learnt a great deal and encouraged by the response from students about the importance work being done to improve skills and knowledge. Cllr Khan met with staff who outlined the current curriculum education offer for adults and the future development of the City Learning Quarter. Cllr Khan encouraged others to attend.

5 **The West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2016-20**

Ashley Bertie, Assistant Policy Crime Commissioner, APCC thanked for panel for the invitation to attend the panel meeting. The APCC introduced Mary Jacobs, Partnerships and Engagement Officer, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The APCC outlined the role and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the relationship with Chief Constable of West Midlands Police. The PCC responsibility covers seven local authorities' regions.

The APCC explained that the priorities of the PCC are detailed in the Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020, against which he is held to account by the public and representatives of the Police and Crime Panel.

The APCC commented on the low level of re-offending across the region and reduction in recorded crime rate. The APCC commented that an important success of the work done by PCC was fewer people entering the criminal justice, as a result of focusing on reducing violent crime and street gangs.

The APCC commented on work done to increase confidence by the public in the police and also managing the challenge presented by the loss of 2000 police officers and delivering budget savings of £125 million. The APCC commented on the areas of increased demand on the police to deal with complex issues ranging from child sexual exploitation to female genital mutilation, which has presented a number of challenges.

The APCC commented on the impact of reduced spending by other public sector bodies which has reduced services which in the past would have supported many of the groups that the service is having to care for with limited resources.

The Chair invited members of the panel to question the APCC on the performance of PCC. The panel queried what changes had been made in the list of priority areas detailed in the Police and Crime Panel, and also if any new priorities had emerged since it was produced. The APCC commented on the increase in reports of hate crime, domestic violence as new emerging issue that the police are dealing with. The APCC explained that the PCC is not involved in any decisions about policing operational matters but is working with the Chief Constable who will be held to account by the PCC to achieve them. The changing nature of drug misuse has had a

major impact on policing resources and the view of the PCC was that the 'war on drugs' had failed.

The APCC accepted that the police are not giving the public the right level of service based on the complaints about response times reported on the non-emergency numbers. The APCC accepted that the police service do not always get it right in terms of responding promptly to calls from the public, but they are working hard to improve the situation.

The APCC commented on issue of vehicle crime and the work being done to reduce the number of illegal 'chop shops' where car parts are sold abroad from cars stolen in the region. The APCC added that 600 illegal 'chop shops' involved in this crime had been closed down.

The APCC commented on the increased numbers reported incidents of hate crime but added that in some situations people do not want to report the matter and would like someone to talk a third-party charity. The APCC added that work is being done with police neighbourhood teams and the Head of Hate Crime in preparation for when the UK leaves the European Union, if there is an increase in reported incidents. The panel were advised that the University of Birmingham have been commissioned to research the issue of hate crime.

The panel queried the lack of explicit reference in the Police and Crime Plan to the PCC meeting its responsibilities as detailed in the Equality Act. The APCC explained that the responsibilities of the Act are at the heart of the work being done by the PCC. The PCC wants the police force to be more representative of the population, at present the number of officers is well below the 34% of the population who are BME background. The APCC commented on the importance of improving the situation and that work continues with the police to create a more diverse workforce. In addition, the PCC wants to give women better opportunities so that they can progress at the same rate as male police officers.

The panel commented of the major delays in getting a response when contacting the police using the non-emergency telephone number and the poor service given to the public. The panel added that the public had struggled to speak to anyone and there was little confidence in the service. The APCC accepted that their problems with the service and reported that there had been fewer complaints received recently and that the performance is being monitored.

The panel queried if a decision had been made to close Wednesfield Police Station. The APCC commented that the PCC view is that the station should not close.

The panel expressed concern about the reduction in special constables and PCSOs and the negative effect that this had on public confidence in the police and reinforced the view that the crime situation is getting worse.

The APCC commented on efforts to consider alternatives to prison for young people such as restorative justice, which is a key part of the PCC's aim that people should be offered support where appropriate rather than prison to reduce the level of crime.

The panel queried the policy of 'stop and search'. The APCC commented that the number of cases has reduced significantly from 64,000 (2011/12) to 1200. An analysis of the cases showed that only 4% of the 64000 cases led to a positive outcome.

Following a change in policing policy to a more intelligent led approach this resulted in an increase of 34% increase in the number of positive outcomes, where something illegal had been found during the search.

The APCC commented that the PCC will investigate complaints arising from 'stop and search' and is working with the police to get a satisfactory solution to the issue for all concerned, when then are complaints.

The panel expressed a high level of dissatisfaction with the 101 non-emergency number and wanted to see progress made to improve the situation. The APCC that the service is driven by demand and there is acceptance that more resources are needed to give the public a better service to reduce lengthy waiting times. The APCC commented on the range of factors contributing to increased demand on the non-emergency service.

The panel discussed progress made to recruit more police officers. The APCC commented on the current recruitment targets based on the budget plans for 2016-20. The APCC added that Government had recently announced the West Midlands Police will have fund pension contributions, estimated at £8.8 million, which will have major implications for service. The APCC added that there was no advance warning given of this plan and difficult decisions will have to be made about the future recruitment of police officers if the decision is not changed.

The APCC commented on the changes in the way serious crimes involving violence which mean the police work is done behind the scenes to reflect the resources available and the demand on the service. The public understand that the police service is working in challenging times but there is commitment from the PCC not to abandon neighbourhood policing.

The APCC agreed to attend a future meeting of the panel to give an update on the future of Wednesfield police station.

The panel queried the share of the Community Safety Funding detailed in Police and Crime Plan, that is used to support local initiatives that had allocated to Wolverhampton, when compared to Birmingham.

The panel commented on the lack of visible police presence in the community and the negative impact on public confidence in dealing concerns about gang violence and public safety. The panel discussed concern that the approach to policing has been more proactive rather than reactive as a result of budget cuts. The APCC advised the panel about the work of the violence prevention alliance which links to work on gang prevention. The PCC has pledged £2 million to support the work and is working with partner organisations to roll out the programme. The APCC commented the progress of the early intervention fund which is not just for Birmingham and it is intended to be used to scale up existing work. The APCC advised the panel of other funding opportunities, for example, The Ministry of Justice, to divert young people from crime and gang related violence.

The APCC commented that there is a national debate on removing the requirement to show reasonable grounds when using 'stop and search'. The PCC has stated that he does not support this change because of concerns about the negative impact on community relations.

The panel discussed how the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan had changed in response to new issues arising since it was first published. The APCC advised the panel that the PCC produces an annual report to give an update on progress against the priorities detailed in the police and crime plan. The report is shared with local councillors and discussed at a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel. The panel queried if there was a different version of the annual report could be drafted that was for the public. The issue of reducing the level of violent crime remains a priority for the PCC but there is an acceptance that it will take time and there is a focus on finding lasting solutions.

The APCC commented on the consultation about a proposal for the transfer of the Police and Crime Commissioner Functions to the West Midlands Mayor in 2020. The APCC outlined the grave concerns of the PCC about the proposal and was disappointed that the public document did not include the changes that were suggested at the time and other options for consideration. The panel were encouraged to complete the online consultation form.

Mary Jacobs, Public Engagement Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioner, commented on work done with youth council to encourage their involvement. The panel were advised that a Youth Summit had been arranged in December 2018 which will provide an opportunity to discuss issues of concern to young people.

The Chair thanked APCC for attending the meeting. The APCC confirmed that he would be willing to attend a future meeting. The APCC agreed to provide the information requested by the panel.

Resolved:

The APCC agreed to provide the information requested by the panel.

- 6 **Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020**
Alison Shannon, Chief Accountant, introduced the draft budget and medium-term financial strategy report and then explained that panel comments on the proposals would be included in the report to Scrutiny Board and Cabinet as part of the consultation process. The Chief Accountant also invited the panel to comment on the budget consultation process itself and changes they would like to see in how the information was presented in the future.

The Chief Accountant explained that an update on the previously reported projected budget challenge of £19.5 million was published in October 2018 which led to a revised budget deficit of £6 million for 2019-2020. The panel were advised that the reduction was achieved because of work done to identify budget efficiencies, budget reduction and income generation opportunities.

The Chief Accountant reported that the report does not provide specific detail on budget efficiency proposals as they do not impact on the provision of services to the

public. There were no budget reduction and income generation proposals relating directly to the remit of the panel.

The panel queried the number of people who attended the public consultation events arranged to get views on the budget proposals. The Chief Accountant noted that there was a good response to the online consultation but figures relating to public meetings were low, the consultation was still ongoing and final figures could be provided at a later date.

The panel were advised that the budget consultation events were promoted using social media, leaflets, the Express and Star and posters near the venues. The event was also promoted on the Council website where the public are also invited to complete an online response form to share their views on the consultation process. This consultation is still ongoing and receives a greater response. The information will be used when reviewing the consultation process.

The panel discussed the effectiveness of the methods used to promote public budget consultation events and suggested further consideration is given to the needs of specific groups and how best to engage them and support their participation. The Chief Accountant accepted that the numbers of people attending budget consultation has traditionally been low. However, the response from the public to the online consultation has been much greater compared to public events.

The panel questioned the use on online consultation methods and emails to engage with members of the public and considered that it was not suitable for some residents.

The panel queried the lack of detail in the report about the budget efficiency proposals where no formal public consultation is required on the basis that they have no impact on service provision. The Chief Accountant advised the panel that some of the savings relate to the release of vacant posts which are no longer considered necessary due to changes in how services are delivered, draw down of one-off grants and efficiencies across non-salary budgets. The Director of Adult Services gave an example of a change in working arrangements at Duke Street which had no effect on service provision.

The panel requested a briefing paper on the implications of budget efficiency proposals relevant to this panel and that this information is shared with the panel to better understand their impact on future service provision. The Chief Accountant agreed to provide the information to the panel. These proposals can be implemented without awaiting the outcome of formal budget consultation process.

Resolved:

1. The panel comments on the draft budget and medium-term financial strategy 2019-20 to be included in the feedback for Scrutiny Board meeting on 11 December 2018.
2. The panel comments on scrutiny process of the budget to be considered and presented to Scrutiny Board meeting on 11 December 2018.

Earl Piggott- Smith, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report. Panel members were encouraged to submit topics for inclusion on the draft work programme.

Resolved:

The panel agreed to note the report.

The meeting closed at 20:00

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Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

5 February 2019

Report title	City of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Statement	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor: Sandra Samuels Adults	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	David Watts, Director of Adult Services	
Originating service	Safeguarding	
Accountable employee(s)	Dawn Williams	Head of Safeguarding
	Tel	01902 550655
	Email	Dawn.williams@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children, Young People & Families Scrutiny Panel - 16 January 2019	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The scrutiny panel is recommended to comment on the draft document in order to enable revisions to be made prior to being presented to Cabinet.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To ensure Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel have early sight of the proposed Safeguarding Statement to promote effective ownership and the opportunity to challenge and scrutinise the draft.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In Autumn 2018 discussions took place between the Director of Children's Services and the Head of Safeguarding in relation to how the organisations commitments to safeguarding across the Council was evidenced, together with demonstrating the positive contribution of Councillors, employees and volunteers to the safeguarding agenda.
- 2.2 This was discussed further at the quarterly Leader's Safeguarding Briefing and it was agreed that a suite of safeguarding standards, which could be owned and embraced by the whole organisation, irrespective of different roles and responsibilities, would be developed.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The Head of Safeguarding has progressed the development of a draft Safeguarding Statement including potential standards. Two potential versions are available, one with photographs and one shorter version without visuals.

4.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider – In Statements 2a and 3a

- 4.1 Which of the formats is best?
- 4.2 Are pictures required? – see 2a
- 4.3 Should the standards be at the start? – see 3a
- 4.4 Should there be links rather than explanations? – 2a
- 4.5 Are the standards appropriate?

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
[NM/22012019/Y]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The 'Safeguarding Statement' supports the Councils safeguarding responsibilities. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
[TC/21012019/X]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 The 'Safeguarding Statement' is reflective of the Councils responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 None identified.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 None identified

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 None identified

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 None identified

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CWC Safeguarding Statement

1. Introduction



This statement confirms the City of Wolverhampton Council's commitment to safeguarding and demonstrates the range of initiatives which reflect our safeguarding intent.

Our Corporate Plan (2015–2019) places safeguarding at the heart of Wolverhampton's Stronger Communities focus. To 'support adults and children at times of need' we must:

- Safeguard people in vulnerable situations
- Strengthen families where children are at risk.

The City of Wolverhampton Council believes that, irrespective of individual difference, the residents of Wolverhampton have the right to participate in society and live in an environment which is safe and free from violence, fear, abuse and discrimination, and that they have the right to be protected from harm, exploitation and abuse.

To embed and deliver effective safeguarding the council works in partnership with residents and other agencies in Wolverhampton.

In undertaking its safeguarding responsibilities, the council ensures the needs and interests of children, young people and adults requiring support are considered by all elected members, employees, volunteers and contracted services, when taking decisions in relation to service provision.

This statement reaffirms the City of Wolverhampton Council's legislative responsibilities under the Children Act 2004, the Care Act 2014, the Counter Terrorism Act 2015, the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and supported guidance. Furthermore, it is aligned to the 'Safeguarding Adults, Children and Young People – Guidance notes for Councillors, 2017' and the individual directorate safeguarding policies and procedures which are currently in force.

Specific detail on the safeguarding procedures that staff must follow can be found on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board website:

www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to reinforce the safeguarding message to City of Wolverhampton Council employees, elected members and volunteers and to provide understanding of current and proposed safeguarding activity across the council.

In so doing, this statement supports in protecting and promoting the welfare of the children, young people and adults using or receiving services provided or commissioned by the council and supports it to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

This safeguarding statement affirms for council employees, elected members and volunteers:

- What is expected from them to protect and safeguard children, young people and adults requiring support
- That they are able to safely voice any concerns through an established procedure
- That all reports of abuse or potential abuse are dealt with in a serious and effective manner
- That appropriate training is available
- That robust 'safer' recruitment procedures are in place.

3. Legal Duties



The **Children Act 1989** states that the child's welfare is paramount and that every child has a right to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Section 10, 11 and 13 of the Children Act 2004 specifies what is required of the City of Wolverhampton Council to fulfil its safeguarding duties. This includes:

- Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare
- A clear statement of the council's responsibilities to children, available to staff
- Clear lines of accountability for work on safeguarding and promoting well being
- Using the views of children and young people to help shape services
- Safer recruitment procedures for those coming into contact with children and young people
- Appropriate training for staff
- A duty to promote inter-agency cooperation between named agencies
- Representation on, and participation in, local safeguarding partnerships
- Effective working relations within the council and with other agencies to safeguard and promote well-being and to share information effectively.

Under the **Care Act 2014** councils must make sure that people who live in their areas:

- receive services that prevent their care needs from becoming more serious, or delay the impact of their needs

- can get the information and advice they need to make good decisions about care and support.

To do this, councils need:

- to work with their communities and provide or arrange services that help to keep people well and independent; including services which are aimed at reducing needs and helping people regain skills, for instance after a spell in hospital
- Promote how people can raise concerns about the safety or wellbeing of someone who has care and support needs
- Provide information and advice in formats that help people to understand, regardless of their needs
- Have a multi-agency Safeguarding Adults Board which oversees the effectiveness of adult safeguarding across the partnership
- Develop a market that delivers a wide range of sustainable high-quality care and support services
- Ensure commissioning processes promote the wellbeing of people receiving those services
- Ensure local providers understand what services are likely to be needed in the future, authorities should engage with local people about their needs and aspirations.

The **Counter-Terrorism Act 2015** states that councils are vital to the Prevent work which exists to reduce the risk of people being drawn into terrorism. Councils must:

- use the existing counter-terrorism local profiles to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism
- incorporate the Prevent duty into existing policies and procedures to fulfil safeguarding responsibilities ensuring there are clear and robust policies to identify and safeguard children at risk
- Develop a Prevent action plan should there be a risk to identify interventions to be actioned
- Ensure that appropriate frontline staff, including those of it's contractors, have a good understanding of Prevent and are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with the issue.

Under the **Modern Slavery Act 2015** the City of Wolverhampton Council has a statutory duty to:

- report and provide notification to the National Crime Agency about any potential victims of modern slavery or trafficking that we encounter
- To co-operate with the National Referral Mechanism

Safeguarding Statement



The City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to:

- Safeguarding children, young people and adults requiring support from abuse
- Providing services which are respectful and inclusive
- Enabling children, young people and adults requiring support to contribute to, and inform, the safeguarding interventions they receive
- Responding promptly, sensitively and appropriately when there are suspicions of abuse
- Acting in the best interests of the child, young person or adults requiring support
- Preventing unsuitable people from working with children, young people and adults requiring support through robust 'safer recruitment' procedures
- Working closely with and sharing information with partner agencies to deliver services which will keep children and adults requiring support safe
- Embedding best practice to prevent abuse and create safe and healthy environments to reduce situations where abuse or allegations of abuse could occur
- Establishing appropriate governance structures, made up with delegates from appropriate departments across the council to monitor safeguarding activity and make necessary improvements
- Ensuring all staff and Members aware of the potential indicators of abuse and neglect and be clear about what to do if they have concerns
- Providing a range of safeguarding training in order to meet individual needs
- Ensuring contracts reflect safeguarding expectations.

City of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Activity



The City of Wolverhampton Council has a statutory responsibility to safeguard children and adults requiring support and achieves much of this via the operational activity of Adult and Children's Social Care and the Safeguarding Service. Whilst these services provide, and promote safeguarding, the council has sought to extend its safeguarding remit and demonstrate its commitment across the departments.

Private Hire: Wolverhampton recognise the role taxi drivers have as 'the eyes and ears of the community'. This has led to proactive input with this group in raising their awareness of safeguarding. Mandatory Child Sexual Exploitation training is provided to all licenced private hire drivers within Wolverhampton and safeguarding questions are part of the final licensing test. Wolverhampton licencing representatives attend the regional licencing forum and the work they have undertaken regarding safeguarding has been adopted as best practice.

Licensed Premises: A series of joint initiatives have been progressed with Licensing and Safeguarding services wherein licensed premises checks have included the identification of potential safeguarding abuses including the employment of underage children, and the use of premises to groom potential victims. The safeguarding service is an active member of Responsible Authorities Forum to ensure consideration is given to potential safeguarding matters which may impact on the decision making of the group.

People/Place Safeguarding Forum: This forum was established to ensure departments within the Place Directorate have an understanding of safeguarding developments and the potential impact on the delivery of their services. This has resulted in the creation of discreet safeguarding tools, a review of training needs for staff with limited computer access, and exploration of safeguarding thresholds and identification of risk.

Restorative Practice: Originally introduced within Children Services, Restorative Practice aims to improve safeguarding service delivery and provide input which is inclusive, transparent supportive and challenging. This approach has been promoted across the safeguarding partnership and is recognised as a positive model by which all council activity can be delivered.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: The council has significantly contributed to the creation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which covers both children and adults requiring support. The MASH is housed in the Civic Centre and provides a secure environment for all partners and the information they hold. The MASH is the 'front door' for referrals where there are concerns about children or adults requiring support and it is here that decisions are made regarding the level of support that is required for those for whom there are concerns.

Planning: Changes in legislation have resulted in the introduction of new planning regulations and the determination of the granting of planning permissions. The council has noted the impact on the creation of new care homes and supported accommodation provision in the city and the need to support new providers in understanding their safeguarding responsibilities. This has resulted in closer working with the planning department, safeguarding and planning applicants.

Children's Accommodation Provider Forum: To promote best practice, share Wolverhampton's safeguarding expectations and encourage consistent practice the council has worked closely with West Midlands Police to create a Children's Care home Providers Forum.



Mandatory Training: Safeguarding training is provided in a number of guises; via advice notes, face to face training and online activity; and may be basic or specialist. The City of Wolverhampton has determined that safeguarding training is mandatory for all officers and members and is reflective of differing roles and responsibilities.

Community Engagement: The council has promoted the creation of a series of Champions across the city who support in a variety of aspects of safeguarding by raising awareness, delivering training, offering advice and contributing to wider partnership activity. These champions come from a different departments and job roles.

Future Initiatives

Use of visual technology to embed safeguarding messages

Work has begun to develop a suite of videos ranging from 30 seconds to three minutes, which use a storyline to promote the safeguarding message.

It is expected that the use of short, sharp visual messages will have greater impact than is currently achieved via online training packages which target cerebral ability. Evidence shows that visual images help generate an emotional response; and emotional responses help individuals to change perceptions.

The aim is to ensure that all employees are aware of potential risks, understand possible safeguarding scenarios and to confidently discuss and refer concerns.

Training for staff who work in Public Areas

There are key employees who work across the city during early mornings and late evenings – key times when risky behaviours and criminality against others could go unnoticed. To address this, a bespoke safeguarding training package is to be created and delivered to refuse collectors and maintenance crews which will encourage to ask questions when scenarios arise.

Leisure Watch

Leisurewatch is a registered charity which offers training and advice to public spaces such as leisure centres and shopping malls regarding the identification of and referral of sex offenders in a bid to protect children and adults. The council is rolling out Leisurewatch within the three WV Active sites by January 2019. Learning from this will inform safeguarding awareness raising across all of Wolverhampton's community centres.

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CWC Safeguarding Statement

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In so doing, this statement supports in protecting and promoting the welfare of the children, young people and adults using or receiving services provided or commissioned by the council and supports it to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

This safeguarding statement affirms for council employees, elected members and volunteers:

- What is expected from them to protect and safeguard children, young people and adults at risk
- That they are able to safely voice any concerns through an established procedure
- That all reports of abuse or potential abuse are dealt with in a serious and effective manner
- That appropriate training is available
- That robust 'safer' recruitment procedures are in place.

Safeguarding Statement

The City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to:

- Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk from abuse
- Providing services which are respectful and inclusive
- Enabling children, young people and adults at risk to contribute to, and inform, the safeguarding interventions they receive
- Responding promptly, sensitively and appropriately when there are suspicions of abuse
- Acting in the best interests of the child, young person or adults at risk
- Preventing unsuitable people from working with children, young people and adults at risk through robust 'safer recruitment' procedures
- Working closely with and sharing information with partner agencies to deliver services which will keep children and adults at risk safe
- Embedding best practice to prevent abuse and create safe and healthy environments to reduce situations where abuse or allegations of abuse could occur
- Establishing appropriate governance structures, made up with delegates from appropriate departments across the council to monitor safeguarding activity and make necessary improvements
- Ensuring all staff and Members aware of the potential indicators of abuse and neglect and be clear about what to do if they have concerns
- Providing a range of safeguarding training in order to meet individual needs
- Ensuring contracts reflect safeguarding expectations.

City of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Activity

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Licensed Premises: A series of joint initiatives have been progressed with Licensing and Safeguarding services wherein licensed premises checks have included the identification of potential safeguarding abuses including the employment of underage children, and the use of premises to groom potential victims. The safeguarding service is an active member of Responsible Authorities Forum to ensure consideration is given to potential safeguarding matters which may impact on the decision making of the group.

People/Place Safeguarding Forum: This forum was established to ensure departments within the Place Directorate have an understanding of safeguarding developments and the potential impact on the delivery of their services. This has resulted in the creation of discreet safeguarding tools, a review of training needs for staff with limited computer access, and exploration of safeguarding thresholds and identification of risk.

Restorative Practice: Originally introduced within Children Services, Restorative Practice aims to improve safeguarding service delivery and provide input which is inclusive, transparent supportive and challenging. This approach has been promoted across the safeguarding partnership and is recognised as a positive model by which all council activity can be delivered.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: The council has significantly contributed to the creation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which covers both children and Adults at risk. The MASH is housed in the Civic Centre and provides a secure environment for all partners and the information they hold. The MASH is the 'front door' for referrals where there are concerns about children or adults at risk and it is here that decisions are made regarding the level of support that is required for those for whom there are concerns.

Planning: Changes in legislation have resulted in the introduction of new planning regulations and the determination of the granting of planning permissions. The council has noted the impact on the creation of new care homes and supported accommodation provision in the city and the need to support new providers in

understanding their safeguarding responsibilities. This has resulted in closer working with the planning department, safeguarding and planning applicants.

Children's Accommodation Provider Forum: To promote best practice, share Wolverhampton's safeguarding expectations and encourage consistent practice the council has worked closely with West Midlands Police to create a Children's Care home Providers Forum.

Mandatory Training: Safeguarding training is provided in a number of guises; via advice notes, face to face training and online activity; and may be basic or specialist. The City of Wolverhampton has determined that safeguarding training is mandatory for all officers and members and is reflective of differing roles and responsibilities.

Community Engagement: The council has promoted the creation of a series of Champions across the city who support in a variety of aspects of safeguarding by raising awareness, delivering training, offering advice and contributing to wider partnership activity. These champions come from a different departments and job roles.

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Briefing Note

Title: Healthy Ageing Portfolio, Public Health

Internal

Partner organisation

Public

Confidential

Date: 8.10.18

Prepared by: Dr. Ankush Mittal

Job Title: Consultant in Public Health

Intended Audience:

Purpose or recommendation

To brief Councillor Samuels on the Healthy Ageing Portfolio within the Public Health team.

Overview

The Healthy Ageing team consists of 1 FTE Consultant in Public Health Medicine (Dr. Ankush Mittal), 1 FTE Principal in Public Health (Mr. Steve Barlow), 1 FTE Senior Public Health Officer (Mr. Parmdip Dhillon), and 0.5 FTE Health Improvement Officer (Mrs. Anita Patel)

The workstreams and associated performance targets of the portfolio are summarised in the table on the next page.

We hold a contract of circa £200,000 for a joint TB and Infection Control service for the City (in partnership with Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group)

Background and context

Local context:

Public Health at CWC have had a recent restructure, moving from a team of >100 to ~30 staff working across 4 service areas. The new model for the directorate follows a 'Life Course' approach, appreciating the shifting challenges related to health and wellbeing with age.

The Healthy Ageing portfolio (ages 65+) is 1 of the 4 service areas within the public health directorate, the others being Healthy Start (0-18 years), Healthy Life expectancy (18-65 years) and System Leadership (links to Royal Wolverhampton Trust and the Black Country STP)

Wider Context

Currently, public health consultants work across a range of organisations, many with a specific remit - e.g. control of communicable diseases (Public Health England), screening and immunisations (NHS England). Local Authority public health consultants have a more generalist function, overseeing and supporting prevention in its widest sense at a local level.

We aim broadly to organise the efforts of society to meet essential public health needs, be they social, economic, physical, mental or environmental, based on local needs assessment.

Healthy Ageing

Commissioning Responsibility: TB Support Services, Infection Prevention and Control Service for Care Homes
Strategic Leadership: Optimising the physical, mental, social and economic wellbeing of over 65s; Health Protection and Emergency Preparedness; Screening and Immunisations; Community Offer; Wolverhampton CCG and Public Health Partnership
Business Partnering: Adult Social Care, Wolverhampton CCG, Public Health England (PHE), Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, Housing and Welfare, Transport, 3rd Sector

Workstream

Keeping people well in their community: Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Lead on population approaches to maximise the coverage of NHS Health Checks and Cancer Screening
- Support local arrangements to optimise pathways for chronic disease diagnosis and management
- Support key partners with population approaches to falls prevention
- Lead on population approaches to healthy diets and active lifestyles in older age
- Support local systems to identify and meet mental health needs in older age, and promote a dementia friendly city

Key aims and indicators 2018-2020

- Screening: NHS Health Checks, Cancer
- QOF indicators for chronic disease
- Falls related admissions/fractures
- Dementia related admissions
- Early diagnosis of dementia

Keeping people well in their community: Socio-Economic Health and Wellbeing

- Support population approaches to address social isolation
- Support safeguarding and community safety teams to keep older adults safe in their homes and communities
- Support key partners with population approaches to improved housing and home economies for older adults
- Support safeguarding teams protecting older adults from financial exploitation

- % of adult social care users reporting as much social contact as they would like

Keeping people well in their community: Carer Health and Wellbeing

- Lead on community engagement as part of the Council's Community Offer development

- % of older adults receiving winter fuel payments

Keeping people well in their community: Carer Health and Wellbeing

- Work with carer support services and wider partners to meet the health and wellbeing needs of carers

- Develop Community Engagement Strategy

Mandated Function: Health Protection

- Lead on population approaches to maximise the coverage of key immunisations, especially flu vaccine
- Support and assure local emergency preparedness, resilience and response systems with DPH
- Lead on community arrangements for reducing the transmission of infectious disease, especially influenza, TB and HIV
- Support local air quality planning, protecting the population from the ill health effects of pollutants

- % of carers reporting as much social contact as they would like
- Immunisations: Influenza vaccine in over 65s
- Hospital admissions from care homes for influenza like illnesses
- Early diagnosis of TB and HV

Mandated Function: Healthcare Public Health Support for Wolverhampton CCG

- Support Wolverhampton CCG with Healthcare Public Health advice as part of our mandated public health function
- Support Black Country STP and Wolverhampton CCG to embed regional and local approaches to frailty across populations
- Support Health and Care partners with a system wide strategic review of mortality in Wolverhampton
- Support Health and Care partners to optimise End of Life pathways in Wolverhampton



Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

5 February 2019

Report title	Draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022 Consultation	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Hazel Malcolm Public Health and Wellbeing	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Community Safety	
Accountable employee(s)	Karen Samuels	Head of Community Safety
	Tel	01902 551341
	Email	Karen.samuels@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

1. Scrutiny Panel is recommended to comment on the draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022 as part of the consultation process.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022.
- 1.2 To outline the development process for the strategy, including consultation timescales.
- 1.3 To request input from Scrutiny on the draft document and input into the consultation.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The nature of offending behaviour is changing; there is more evident exploitation of adults/young people with county lines, some of which is linked to drugs, but not all linked to gangs. Whilst youth violence overall has fallen, there has been an increase in youth violence involving weapons; this is in line with the regional and national picture.
- 2.2 The launch of the government's Serious Violence Strategy in April 2018 provides a helpful context for Wolverhampton's approach. Striking a balance between enforcement action, early intervention to tackle root causes of violence and a strengthened partnership response, the key themes of the strategy are:
 - Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs
 - Early intervention and prevention
 - Supporting communities and partnerships
 - Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response.
- 2.3 Regionally, the evident growth in awareness around issues such as county lines, modern slavery and the associated grooming and exploitation by organised crime groups, whose operations span geographic boundaries has raised the profile of these issues. There is a need for a better coordinated response, so there is a clear willingness of key partners to work collaboratively both locally and regionally to tackle these issues and to share learning and best practice.

3.0 Overview of Draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022

- 3.1 Wolverhampton's draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022 (Appendix A) reflects the national shift towards a public health approach to violence and tackling all forms of serious violence and exploitation in a holistic manner. Where previously the city had developed individual strategies for each strand of exploitation; this strategy robustly addresses all related issues together rather than individually.
- 3.2 The strategy focuses on four key areas; child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, modern slavery and gangs and youth violence. These areas all have common themes, including prevalence of grooming and exploitation of vulnerable people. By analysing data trends, the strategy gives an overview of each issue, provides data

about rates of reporting, outlines victim and perpetrator profiles and identifies areas of early focus for the city.

3.3 Strategy Outcomes

3.3.1 The strategy document outlines the following strategic outcomes:

- Reduction in young people becoming involved in violence, with a new emphasis on early intervention and prevention
- Integrated support pathways out of violence and exploitation
- Strengthened partnership working to reduce harm to families and communities
- Improved information flow and use between agencies and communities to target interventions and raise awareness
- Robust enforcement to tackle Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)
- Strengthened and supportive offender management
- Strengthened knowledge and understanding of professionals to better identify those at risk of serious violence and exploitation.

3.4 Building on the work of the city's joint working protocol, which sets out arrangements for coordinated planning and delivery across the city's strategic boards, (in place since 2014), joint governance of this strategy will be between Safer Wolverhampton Partnership and Wolverhampton Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards. This will strengthen the city's overall approach to preventing, identifying, and responding to issues of serious violence and exploitation.

3.5 The Strategy has been developed through multi-agency involvement in an initial stakeholder scoping session, where the overarching priority areas were agreed, Partners included;

<p>Voluntary Sector;</p> <p>Catch 22 Believe to Achieve NPV Football Development Community Reference Group Victim Support</p>	<p>City of Wolverhampton Council;</p> <p>Children's Social Care Commissioning Public Health Community Safety Vulnerable Young People Safeguarding Youth Offending Team</p>
<p>Other Partners;</p> <p>Talent Match Recovery Near You HeadStart Wolverhampton Homes Midland Heart Nacro</p>	<p>Statutory Partners;</p> <p>West Midlands Police Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner</p>

A steering group was then arranged to develop detail of the strategy document. This group includes representation from West Midlands Police, Youth Offending Team, Safeguarding, Adult and Children's Services and Community Safety., third sector partner organisations.

4.0 Consultation and Timescales

4.1 Consultation for the draft strategy will run for a twelve-week period to comply with Wolverhampton's compact agreement. You can see the full draft strategy in Appendix A. The full consultation can be found on Survey Monkey using this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TSWGSDC>

The consultation period is 17 December 2018 – 12 March 2019.

4.2 Following this consultation period, all feedback will be reviewed, and necessary revisions made before final approval by SWP Board. Endorsement of the strategy will be sought from Cabinet on 10 April 2019.

4.3 The following partners and agencies have been asked to comment on the strategy:

- Councillors: the strategy and consultation has been placed in Members area.
- Facilitated sessions with young people
- Youth Offending Team Management Board
- Circulated amongst voluntary sector and Communities of Interest via Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council
- Safer Wolverhampton Partnership partners
- Emailed directly to interested parties
- CWC intranet articles scheduled for w/c 7 January 2019
- Press release scheduled for w/c 7 January
- SWP & CWC social media followers
- SWP, CWC and Safeguarding Board websites

4.4 We are committed to engage as many people as possible during the development of the strategy and therefore continue to seek the suggestions of partners for further engagement methods.

5.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider

5.1 Scrutiny members are asked to consider the following questions:

1. Do you feel that the draft strategy is easy to understand and has clear aims and objectives?
2. Do you agree that taking a more encompassing approach will aid the identification and prevention of young people who may become exploited and /or involved in violence?
3. Will the proposed early areas of focus address the outcomes?

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 Interventions and preventative measures will be funded from money received from the successful Police and Crime Commissioner bid to the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund and the Community Safety annual grant allocation.
- 6.2 In addition to specialist commissioning, the mainstream resource commitments from partners will be used to support delivery of this strategy. [MI/17012018/K]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 require the Council and other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area; Section 17 places a duty on the Council to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the area. Implementation of the strategy contributes towards the Council's duties in this regard. [Legal Code: TS/16012019/R]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 A full equalities analysis is being completed as part of the strategy development; it is anticipated that the strategy will highlight and work to address any identified areas of disproportionality within these crime types.

9.0 Environmental implications

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications within this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no human resource implications within this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications for the Council's property portfolio.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

- 12.1 There are no background papers.

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Wolverhampton

Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy



2019 – 2022

Safer Wolverhampton Partnership

Foreword

To be added on strategy completion

Executive Summary

To be added on strategy completion

Introduction

To be added on strategy completion

Partnership Vision

Working together to strengthen the visibility, early identification and partnership response to prevent serious violence, exploitation and its associated harms.

National Picture

The nature of offending behaviour is changing; there is more evident exploitation of adults/young people with county lines, some of which is linked to drugs, but not all linked to gangs. Whilst youth violence overall has fallen, there has been an increase in youth violence involving weapons; this is in line with the regional and national picture.

The launch of the government's Serious Violence Strategy in April 2018 provides a helpful context for Wolverhampton's approach. Striking a balance between enforcement action, early intervention to tackle root causes of violence and a strengthened partnership response, the key themes of the strategy are;

- Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs
- Early intervention and prevention
- Supporting communities and partnerships
- Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response

To inform a local approach, guidance from the Modern Slavery Act 2015 has also been considered. The current National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which supports victims of trafficking and modern slavery is under review by the Home Office and as

such our approach to dealing with this particular strand of exploitation will adapt to mirror any changes to the process.

The government provide a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) definition guide for practitioners which helps to inform practice and provide best practice examples for all professionals to work against.

Regional Picture

Whilst regionally there are a number of various strategic boards with an interest in tackling violence and exploitation, a joined-up commitment to how this will look for West Midlands has not yet been agreed. The evident growth in awareness around issues such as county lines, modern slavery and the associated grooming and exploitation by organised crime groups whose operations span geographic boundaries has raised the profile of these issues and highlighted the need for a coordinated response, so there is a clear willingness of key partners to work collaboratively and share learning.

Regionally various boards including the West Midlands Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Board and the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) drive work and awareness around violence and exploitation. Wolverhampton are represented on these boards and take an active part in raising awareness and increasing resilience across the workforce.

Local Picture

Wolverhampton's commitment for a more encompassing approach to addressing serious violence and exploitation in the city builds on positive work already taken to embed our response to CSE and gangs/youth violence through our statutory services; the role of our third sector partners in providing specialist interventions is acknowledged and valued in the city. Recognising the evident exploitation of adults/young people with county lines, cutting across other service areas (such as children and young people in care, Missing, CSE), some of which are linked to drugs, but not all which are linked to gangs, the city recognised the need for a more flexible, joined up strategic model which moves away from the traditional 'themed' approach to these issues. Our partnership response is therefore centred around tackling violence and exploitation in whatever guise, with revised operational governance for tackling these more complex vulnerabilities.

The city is open to learning from other parts of the UK, such as Scotland, which adopted a public health approach to knife crime using a multi-agency violence reduction unit to assist the delivery of long-term interventions at a population level. Hackney Council have also taken a public health approach to knife crime, having developed a contextual safeguarding approach; here risk is addressed outside of the

family context, and involves partners from across the geographic boundary, including schools, transport providers and take away proprietors for example. Wolverhampton is considering this approach to inform future practice.

Building on the work of the city's joint working protocol, which sets out arrangements for coordinated planning and delivery across the city's strategic boards, (in place since 2014), joint governance of this strategy lies between Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Boards. This will strengthen the city's overall approach to preventing, identifying, and responding to issues of serious violence and exploitation.

What do we know about serious violence and exploitation in Wolverhampton?

Exploitation

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

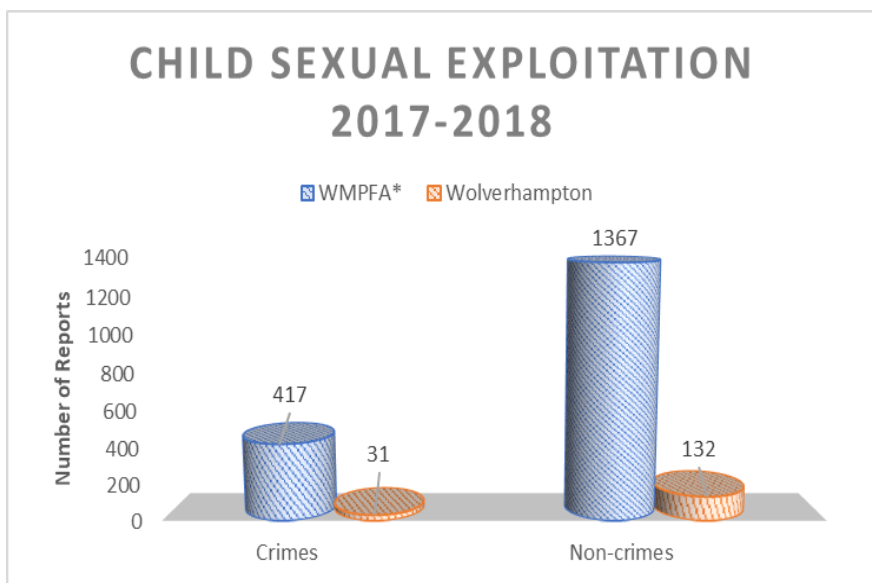
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

DfE (2017) 'Child Sexual Exploitation' Department of Education Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf

Often a victim is groomed into believing that the abuser cares for them. Children are just as likely to be coerced, forced or intimidated using emotional or physical abuse to participate in sexual acts. Often victims are not aware that they are being abused. Children who become a victim of CSE are frequently characterised by having limited choices as a result of their social, economic and /or emotional vulnerability. They are likely to have experienced several Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

The number of young people reported as being at risk of or involved in CSE has increased. The increase in reporting can in part, be attributed to improvements in training and professional development of practitioners to better identify risk and intervene at an earlier point.

Data



In comparison to CSE crimes and non-crimes reported in the West Midlands; Wolverhampton reports 7.43% of Crimes and 9.66% of non-crime¹.

*West Midlands Police Force Area

CSE Victim Profile	CSE Perpetrator Profile
Predominantly white UK females between 15-17 years old	Majority of offenders in Wolverhampton in 2017 were white British
Often multiple victims and perpetrators are known to each other	The most common age of a perpetrator is 16-20. In 2017 the most common age was 18 years old
Drugs, alcohol and travel expenses are often cited as gifted to victims	The most common offence reported to the police is rape
Most young people at risk of CSE have been missing previously or go missing often and may also have low attendance at school	It can be difficult to progress action against perpetrators if there is a lack of evidence or an unwillingness of victims to give evidence

Early areas of focus

Broaden cross sector training for professionals, targeting key service areas	Extend CSE Champions across all sectors	Strengthen cross-boundary coordination and consistency of practice
Understand and identify young men who are vulnerable to or already victim to CSE	Identify suitable placements for young people and strengthen cross boarder information sharing and communication	Engage with faith sector and minority communities to build knowledge and understanding around the risks of young people being exploited
Increase the number of successful prosecutions and to support / empower victims to peruse prosecution	Broaden support for exploited young people as they transition from child (under 18) to adult	

Definition of Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or a young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be consensual.

Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact it can also occur through the use of technology.

Home Office (2018) Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults; Countylines Guidance available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741194/HOCountyLinesGuidanceSept2018.pdf

Criminal exploitation of children is broader than just county lines and includes for instance children forced to work on cannabis farms or commit theft, for example.

Children who are victim to both CCE and CSE may display behaviours such as;

- ✚ Withdrawn from family and friends
- ✚ Secretive and/or aggressive and difficult behaviours
- ✚ Associating with new friends who have not previously been known to parents
- ✚ Missing from home for periods and truanting from school
- ✚ Expensive new clothes/items or large sums of money
- ✚ Lack of respect to family, peers and teachers

Many children will not recognise that they are being exploited or coerced and that they are at risk. They will believe that they are in control of the situation and can leave at any time, when in fact the opposite is true. Many children who have been exploited by criminals may become involved in county lines.

County lines are telephone lines which Organised Crime Groups (OCG) use to sell and arrange delivery of drugs up and down the country. Typical county lines activity involves OSG and/or criminal networks exploiting younger individuals from large urban areas to travel to smaller locations such as a county or coastal town – to either deliver or sell drugs and/or money.

The young people involved are often vulnerable and are coerced into delivering the drugs via; grooming, threats/violence, debt bondage or gifts. In all cases, anyone who is under 18 is being exploited and is a victim of a crime.

It is recognised that the issue of county lines threads through all the key themes included in this strategy and young people may also be involved in a gangs, youth violence, CSE and/or be a victim of modern slavery.

Definition of Modern Slavery

"Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;"

United Nation Human Rights (2018) Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>

Modern Slavery is an umbrella term which encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking.

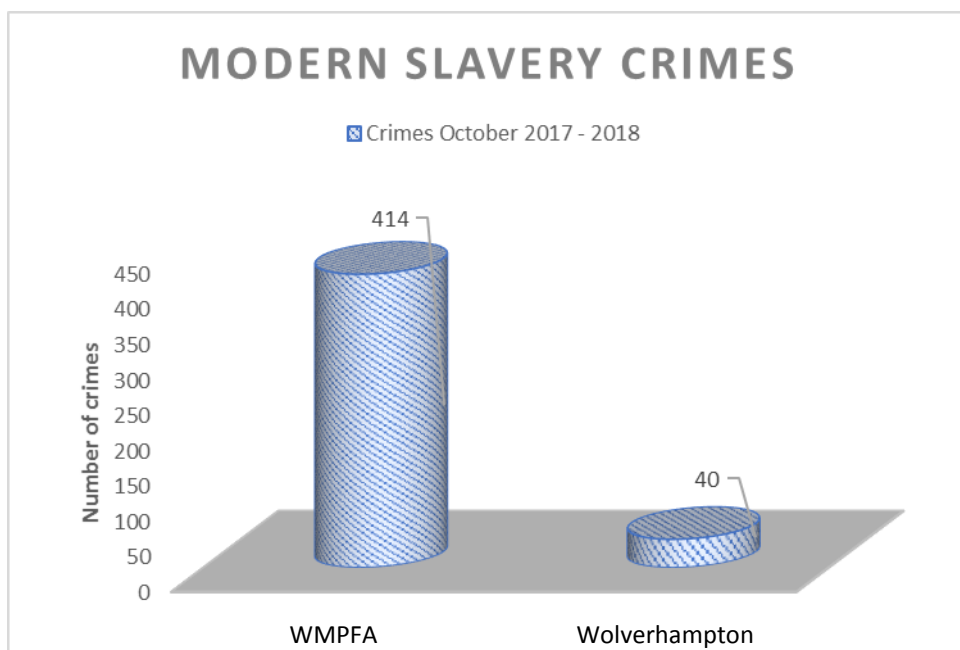
They may be male, female or children, usually vulnerable and easy to coerce with promises of a better life. Vulnerabilities may display as; lack of stable employment, opportunity, individual or family debt to repay, poverty including homelessness, mental health issues and substance dependency. Modern Slavery has no boundaries and trafficked victims are both British and Foreign nationals.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 has consolidated previous offences relating to trafficking and slavery and introduced civil powers to restrict convicted or suspected offender's movements. The Act has also increased prison sentencing and strengthened law enforcement powers.

Wolverhampton and Walsall Anti-Slavery Partnership (WASP) provides specialist provision and coordination for tackling modern slavery which includes city roll out of the modern slavery training packages, targeted communication and intelligence gathering. A train the trainer programme has seen over thirty people trained to deliver multi agency Modern Slavery training.

A Modern Slavery Pathway has been developed within Wolverhampton, which will allow practitioners to make timely referrals and signpost victims ensuring that they receive the individual support required.

Data

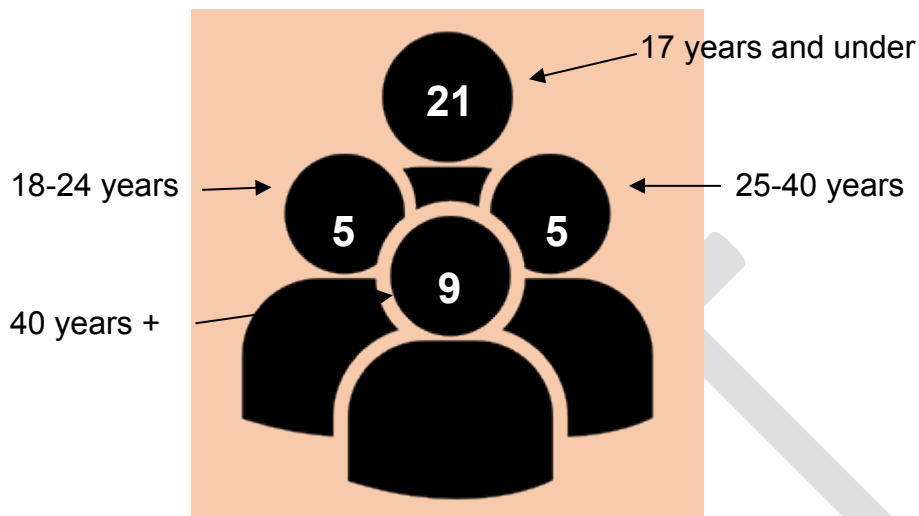


There were 40 crimes recorded in Wolverhampton which accounts for 9.67% of all modern slavery crimes across the West Midlands police force area in 2017-2018.

Early areas of focus

Roll out multi agency training across Wolverhampton	Better identification of those at risk of becoming entrapped in modern slavery	Strengthened data capture
Develop arrangements to identify, disrupt and dismantle OCGs linked to modern slavery	Strengthened links to the business sector to address labour exploitation	Improve frontline safeguarding response
Whole City commitment to eliminating slavery	Compliance with the modern slavery charter	

Victims Age Profile



Definition of Gangs

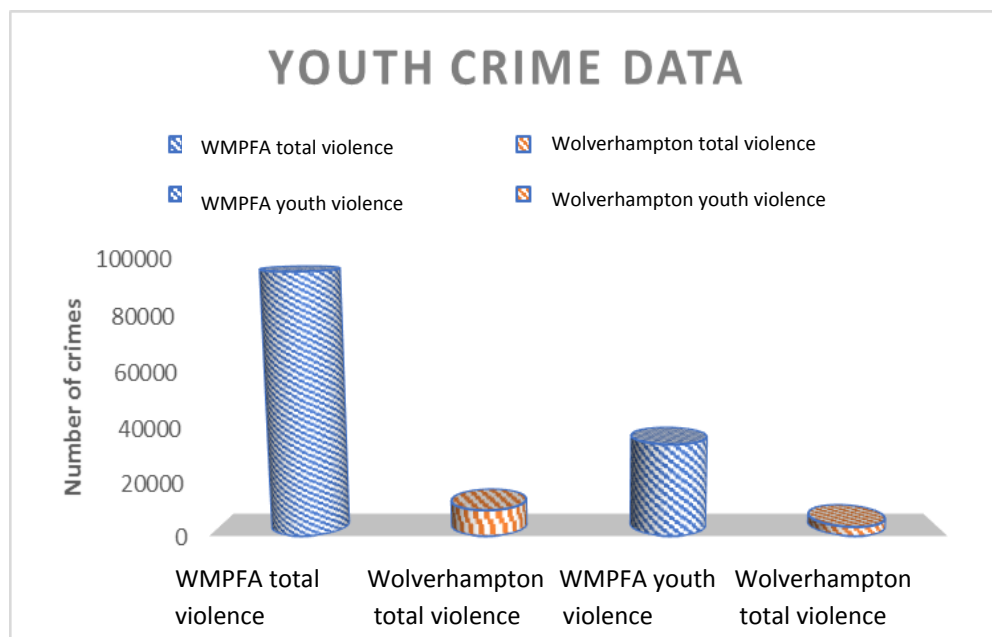
A relatively durable, predominantly street based group of young people who:

- See themselves (and are often seen by others) as a discernible group
- Engage in criminal activity and violence
- Lay claim over territory (this is not geographical territory but can include an illegal economy territory)
- Have some form of identifying structural feature
- Are in conflict with other similar gangs

The Centre for Social Justice (2009) 'Breakthrough Britain: Dying to belong' Available at; <https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/library/dying-belong-depth-review-street-gangs-britain>

Youth Violence Data

“Youth” is defined as a person between the ages of 0-24 years. In the Preventing Gang Involvement and Youth Violence strategy 2016-2019 there are three age groups defined; under 10 years are considered children, below the age of criminality, 10-17 years are children and young people above the age of criminality and 18-24 years are young adults. This profile shall consider the same defined age groups.



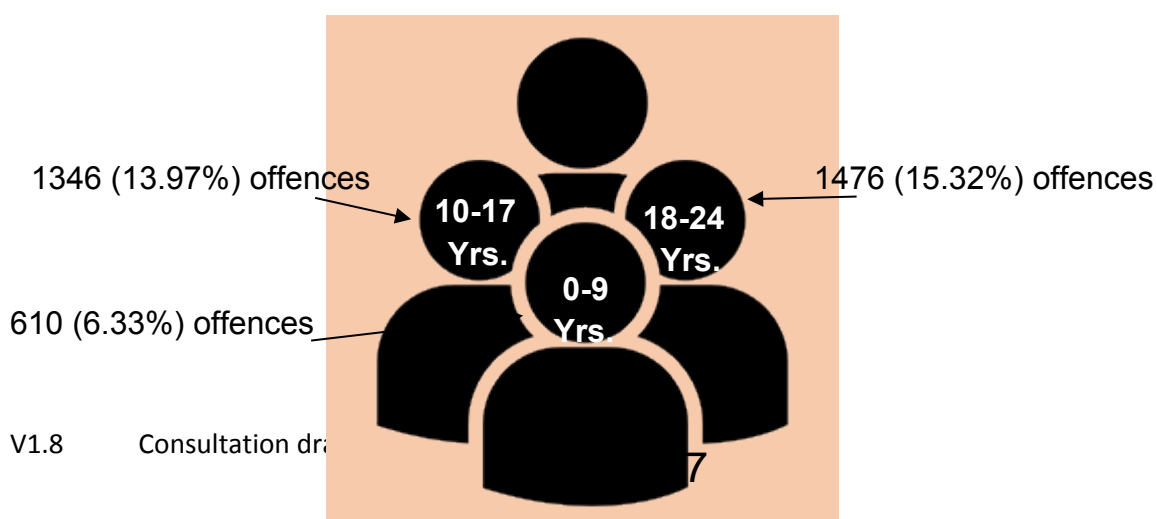
Wolverhampton’s youth violence accounts for 35.61% of the City’s total violence, this is in line with the wider West Midlands area, which stands at 35.60%.

Wolverhampton saw a 4% increase in youth violence during 2017-2018 when compared with the previous year. Knives in particular have been the most frequently used and carried weapon. Whilst this increase is lower than that experienced across the wider West Midlands, which saw an increase of 14.2% during the same period, the majority of knife offences were committed by young people areas between 10-17 years old which is of concern.

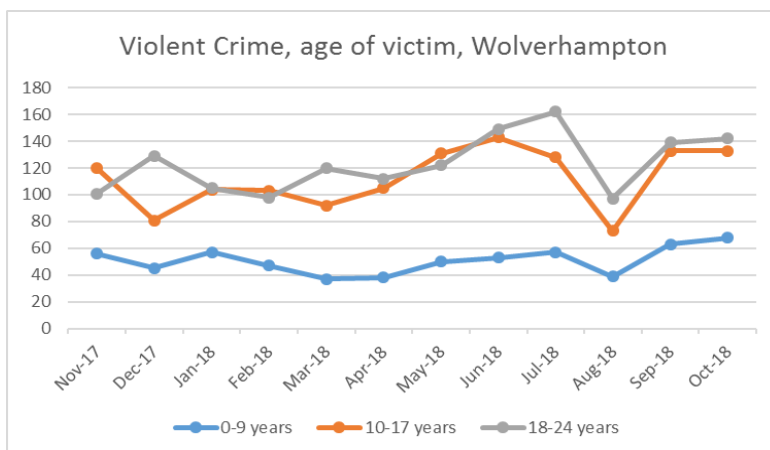
It is recognised that those young people involved in gangs and/or youth violence can be vulnerable to exploitation, many of these young people will be vulnerable and may be coerced into county lines. Young victims and perpetrators of youth violence are often interchangeable.

To address the issues professionals work in partnership to deliver a range of preventative measures supported by police activity.

Perpetrator Age



Victim Age



Early Areas of Focus

Identify those at risk of becoming victims and offenders	Embed a consistent referral mechanism with clear pathways	Understand the continually changing landscape
Building resilience in school settings	Provide targeted outreach support	Offer intensive family support to those identified as involved in gangs/youth violence
Provide long term sustainable activities to deter young people from youth violence and gang affiliation	Develop a structured training programme and resources for professionals	

Recognising increased risk

There are several factors which increased risk of exploitation.

Evidence clearly highlights that ACEs significantly increase the likelihood of young people becoming involved in violence or vulnerable to exploitation.

Criminals and gangs often target vulnerable people as they are easier to coerce and groom. Young people who frequently go missing may have a higher propensity to become involved in county lines for example, and it is recognised that frequently missing people require the correct support to protect them and reduce their vulnerability.

Children who are living in care and those excluded from school or on modified timetables are at increased risk of both victimisation and perpetration of violence and exploitation. Chaotic lifestyles, low self-esteem and the need for acceptance are contributing factors for young people to be drawn into exploitive relationships. These feelings and needs are used by exploiters to prey on vulnerable individuals.

Identified Risk Factors

It is recognised that there are many factors which can make young people more vulnerable to being involved in violence and/or exploitation.

Identified Risk Factors	Identified Pull Factors
Having prior experience of neglect, physical or sexual abuse	Peer acceptance / belonging
Lack of stable home environment/ insecure accommodation status	Financial rewards, gifts and /or alcohol
Domestic violence, substance misuse, mental health issues	Glamorisation
Social isolation	Love / relationships
Economic vulnerability	Security / Protection
Having physical or learning disability	Popularity
Persistently going missing from home/ care	Accommodation (without rules)
Disengaged or excluded from education, training and employment	
Being in public care (particularly those in residential)	



Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategic Outcomes



The Four P Model

The strategy outcomes will be delivered using the 4 P model. The model allows for a holistic approach to tackle the causes and consequences of both serious violence and exploitation by proactively preventing and protecting those who may have a propensity to or be vulnerable to violent crime and exploitation to pursuing those who are causing the most harm.

Prevent	Protect
<p>The prevention strand will identify individuals at risk of being exploited and/or involved in violence and those who are vulnerable as a result of their lifestyle or experiences.</p> <p>This approach will ensure that with these individuals and their families receive the help and support required to prevent further harm by identifying appropriate short medium and long-term solutions to reduce the risk to the individual.</p> <p>Success can be gained by partners working together to tackle some of the underlying causes. Individuals are often known to a range of services, therefore there are significant opportunities for intervention and prevention.</p>	<p>The aim of this theme is to protect the community against criminality, reduce the fear of crime and protect those who are most vulnerable. Communities working together to address concerns, issues and providing support will have a significant role in tackling exploitation and violence.</p> <p>Local residents need to believe that concerns can be raised confidentially and that issues will be addressed appropriately.</p>
Prepare	Pursue
<p>The prepare strand will strengthen resilience of victims and communities to mitigate the harm caused serious violence and exploitation.</p>	<p>Pursue will work to identify risk and progress enforcement action against those involved in the most serious violence and exploitation; it will manage those that are involved in medium-high risk offending and deter those involved in lower level criminality or anti-social behaviour (ASB) with use of civil powers to aid desistance.</p>

Monitoring – How we will drive the strategy forward and embed into business as usual

A performance framework and an annually refreshed delivery plan will underpin the strategy and ensure that implementation against the strategic outcomes.

Equalities

The equalities analysis will be informed by data insight and consultation responses.

Appendix A

How do we work together?

Operational Governance to be reviewed and diagrammatic outline to be inserted.

Appendix B

Screening tools weblinks to be inserted

ⁱ A crime is where an incident has been reported and there is enough evidence to prove that a crime has been committed. A non-crime is where an incident has been reported and recorded by the Police but there is insufficient evidence to suggest a crime has been committed.



Adult and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

5 February 2019

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022 - Consultation

Report title

Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Hazel Malcolm Public Health and Wellbeing	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Community Safety	
Accountable employee(s)	Karen Samuels Tel Email	Head of Community Safety 01902 551341 Karen.samuels@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Public Health Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board Cabinet	12 March 2019 26 March 2019 10 April 2019

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Comment on the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership draft Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022 as part of the consultation process.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the draft Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2019-2022.
- 1.2 To outline the development process for the strategy, including consultation timescales.
- 1.3 To request input from Scrutiny on the draft document as part of the twelve-week consultation process.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The current VAWG strategy will end in March 2019; as such the strategy has been refreshed and updated.
- 2.2 In line with the national strategy of the same name, Wolverhampton's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022 (Appendix A) encompasses domestic violence, honour-based violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual violence, however, includes the recently added issue of stalking and harassment.
- 2.3 The strategy acknowledges that the majority of victims are female but recognises that there are both male and female victims and perpetrators in heterosexual and same sex relationships. It also aims to address additional barriers which deter particular groups and communities from seeking help and support.
- 2.4 The draft 2019-2022 VAWG Strategy outlines significant progress made during the period of the last strategy across the strands of prevention, service provision, protection and justice, and performance and governance. These strands remain the cornerstones of the new strategy, as does the importance of effective partnership working and engagement with our communities.

3.0 Overview of Draft Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022

- 3.1 The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) is the strategic lead for addressing VAWG in Wolverhampton. The Partnership is committed to:
 - Addressing the root cause of VAWG
 - Challenging perpetrators and holding them to account
 - Alleviating the wide-ranging effects of all forms of VAWG on victims, survivors, their children and our communities.
- 3.2 The VAWG strategy name acknowledges the gendered nature of interpersonal violence; in that the majority of victims are female. However, it cannot be over-emphasised that the national and local strategies recognise that there are both female and male victims and perpetrators and therefore encompass work around women and girls, and also men and boys; this is reflected in the title of the refreshed strategy.

3.3 The VAWG strategy covers six key themes: Domestic Violence (DV), Sexual Violence (SV), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriage (FM) and Stalking and Harassment.

3.4 These crimes are cross-cutting issues and there is a requirement to tackle them in partnership. Building on the significant progress made against previous strategies, partners continue to review their core operations, managing budgetary constraints against a backdrop of increasing demand. A greater collaborative effort is therefore needed in the commissioning and delivery of services to realise efficiencies, mitigate risk, address potential gaps in service, and shape new approaches. Data will also be reviewed regularly to identify any new forms of VAWG which require focus.

3.5 The analysis of current data has allowed the draft strategy document to outline each area of VAWG, provide data about the prevalence of reporting of the crime and summarise areas of early focus.

4.0 Early Areas of Focus

Domestic Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effective management of low-medium risk cases through safety planning to avoid escalation of risk. • Greater emphasis needed on reducing repeat victimisation. • Improved provision for the management of complex cases. • Embedding the stepped risk-model for managing offenders and perpetrators to shift the focus of responsibility and accountability from the victim to the offender. • Direct preventative work in schools and other settings around positive relationships and protective behaviours • Embedding learning from DHRs • Joined up criminal and civil justice protection processes
FGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to raise awareness within targeted communities to emphasise the full legal, health and safeguarding implications of FGM. • Seek feedback from survivors to shape future services to meet the needs of our diverse communities. • Continue to raise awareness of FGM amongst frontline practitioners and increase understanding of mandatory reporting requirements. • Strengthen engagement with schools, especially leading up to the summer holiday ‘cutting season’ • Work with community and faith organisations to raise awareness and challenge acceptance • Improve systematic recording of FGM across partners • Update the profile of communities where FGM is prevalent within their countries of origin
Forced Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop profile to better identify prevalence • Raise awareness of FM amongst frontline practitioners. • Raise awareness across communities of the illegality of FM.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support schools to deliver key messages regards FM within the curriculum.
HBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh of the Wolverhampton FM and HBV protocol for frontline practitioners • Raise awareness of HBV amongst frontline practitioners • Raise awareness across communities of the illegality of HBV-related crimes and engage communities to challenge cultural norms • Support schools to deliver key messages regards HBV within the curriculum.
Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of reporting and care pathways including to/from the SARC. • Promoting with frontline staff, the links to CSE. • Strengthen care pathways for specialist adult and child provision
Stalking and Harassment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the law and legal implications relating to stalking and harassment. • Raise awareness of stalking and harassment amongst frontline practitioners. • Promotion of reporting and available care pathways.

5.0 Strategy Outcomes

5.1 The strategy outlines the following key outcomes:

- Build cross-agency skills and capability to provide effective VAWG advice and support services
- Reduce serious harm resulting from VAWG, including homicide prevention
- Increase the number and rate of reported offences brought to justice
- Reduce the prevalence of VAWG
- Improve the criminal justice response to supporting victims of VAWG
- Increase early identification and intervention with victims of VAWG
- Increase the number of perpetrators and offenders managed to reduce risk
- Reduce the rate of repeat incidents for domestic violence.

6.0 Consultation and Timescales

6.1 SWP holds the governance arrangements for the VAWG Strategy in Wolverhampton. The partnership has tasked Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum and its multi-agency Executive Board to coordinate a refresh of the current VAWG strategy and action plan, which ends March 2019, in conjunction with wider partnerships.

6.2 The strategy has been drafted following analysis of current data trends, intelligence, and gathering views from organisations and sectors through ongoing consultation. SWP is now seeking the wider views of stakeholders and residents.

- 6.3 Consultation for the draft strategy will run for a 12-week period to comply with Wolverhampton's Compact agreement. You can see the full draft strategy in Appendix A. The full consultation can be found on Survey Monkey using this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TWMBM5Q>

The consultation period is 17 December 2018 – 12 March 2019.

7.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider

- 7.1 Scrutiny members are asked to consider the following questions:

- a. Do you feel that the draft strategy is easy to understand and provides clear aims and objectives?
- b. Do you think that the areas of focus will address the priorities? Is there anything else you feel that the partnership should incorporate?
- c. To ensure services are as accessible as possible, we will engage with and seek feedback from a range of communities; undertake research and surveys with existing and previous service users; provide help seeking information in a range of languages, formats, and media. Is there anything else you feel the partnership should incorporate to ensure universal access to services?
- d. Are there any other comments that you would like to include in the consultation?

8.0 Next Steps

- 8.1 Following this consultation period all feedback will be reviewed and necessary revisions will be made to the draft strategy prior to seeking its endorsement at Cabinet on 10 April 2019. A timeline outlining the approval process is detailed in section 5.

- 8.2 The following engagement around the strategy has already taken place:

- Circulated amongst voluntary sector via Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council
- Safer Wolverhampton Partnership partners
- Emailed directly to interested parties
- CWC intranet articles encouraging colleagues to have their say
- Press release
- SWP & CWC Social Media
- VAWG Communications group
- Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum Executive Board
- Circulated to key partners including Wolverhampton CCG, The Haven Wolverhampton, Women of Wolverhampton, X2Y, Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust, Wolverhampton Homes, Strategic Housing, Adult Social Care (CWC), Safeguarding (CWC), Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum, Refugee and Migrant Centre and West Midlands Police
- Schools, through the Headteachers bulletin

- Voluntary Sector Council including communities of interest and Faith Sector
- Safeguarding, CWC and SWP Websites

8.3 We are committed to engage as many people as possible during the development of the strategy and continue to seek the suggestions of partners for further engagement methods.

9.0 Timeline

Consultation Begins (12 Weeks)	17 December 2018
Public Health Leadership Team	8 January 2019
Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board	18 January 2019
Adult and Safer City Scrutiny Panel	29 January 2019
Children and Young People Leadership Team	22 February 2019
Consultation Ends	12 March 2019
Design Team	4 – 8 March
Public Health Leadership Team	12 March 2019
Joint Safeguarding Board	13 March 2019
WDVF Executive Board (virtually)	Mid-March 2019
Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (virtually)	Mid-March 2019
SEB	26 March 2019
Cabinet	10 April 2019

10.0 Financial implications

10.1 Implementing the VAWG Strategy will require a multi-agency approach with a required change in mainstream practice across the contributing partners. Where specialist commissioned services are needed, these will be delivered through a variety of funding streams including the annual allocation of grants, issued to SWP and its partners by the Police & Crime Commissioner. [MI/17012018/Q]

11.0 Legal implications

11.1 Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 require the Council and other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area; Section 17 places a duty on the Council to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the area. Implementation of the strategy contributes towards the Council's duties in this regard.

11.2 A mandatory reporting duty for FGM came into force on 31 October 2015 under Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (amended under Section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015). The duty requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report known and apparent cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds to the police and to comply with statutory reporting guidance.

11.3 There is a statutory requirement for SWP to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) for every domestic violence-related death occurring within its locality, under

section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victim Act (2004). This provision came into force on 13th April 2011. [TS/15012019/G]

12.0 Equalities implications

12.1 The strategy acknowledges that whilst the majority of victims are female, there are both male and female victims and perpetrators, in heterosexual and same sex relationships. It also aims to address additional barriers to seeking help for particular groups and communities which may be disproportionately impacted by VAWG. A full equality analysis is being completed as part of the strategy development.

13.0 Environmental implications

13.1 There are no environmental implications within this report.

14.0 Human resources implications

14.1 There are no human resource implications within this report.

15.0 Corporate landlord implications

15.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications for the Council's property portfolio.

16.0 Schedule of background papers

16.1 There are no background papers.

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Violence Against Women and Girls
Tackling relationship-based abuse
across all genders

Wolverhampton's Multi-Agency
Strategy 2019 -2022



Foreword

To be completed



Cllr Hazel Malcolm
City of
Wolverhampton
Council



Mark Taylor,
Chair, Safer
Wolverhampton
Partnership



Penny Darlington
Chair,
Wolverhampton
Domestic Violence
Forum

CONTENTS

To be inserted

Introduction

The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) is the strategic lead for addressing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Wolverhampton. The Partnership is committed to:

- Addressing the root cause of VAWG
- Challenging the perpetrators and holding them to account
- Alleviating the wide-ranging effects of all forms of VAWG on victims, survivors, their children and our communities.

Whilst the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy name acknowledges the gendered nature of domestic and sexual violence, in that the majority of victims are female, it cannot be over-emphasised that the national and local strategies recognise that there are both female and male victims and perpetrators and therefore encompass work around women and girls, and also men and boys.

The Violence Against Women and Girls strategy covers six key themes: Domestic Violence (DV), Sexual Violence (SV), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriage (FM) and Stalking and Harassment.

These crimes are cross-cutting issues and there is a requirement to tackle them in partnership. Building on the significant progress made against previous strategies, partners continue to review their core operations, managing budgetary constraints against a backdrop of increasing demand. A greater collaborative effort is therefore needed in the commissioning and delivery of services to realise efficiencies, mitigate risk, address potential gaps in service, and shape new approaches. Data will also be reviewed regularly to identify any new forms of VAWG which require focus.

Establishment of the first joint adult and children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in the West Midlands in 2016, strengthened the response to assessing and responding to the city's safeguarding needs and integrating the domestic violence care pathway across universal services. Effective partnership working in many areas is improving the City's response to VAWG:

- Implementation of the VAWG Service Transformation Fund to address gaps in service and ensure sustainable improvements
- Development of an integrated response with partner boards through well informed policies, systems, and frontline practice.
- Safeguarding of survivors and children as paramount with risk-based responses.
- Behaviours challenged through effective perpetrator and offender management and a risk-based stepped model response to holding perpetrators and offenders to account
- Reduce repeat victimisation by delivering an effective criminal justice system holding offenders to account.
- Developing the communities' role in addressing VAWG in all its forms.
- Maximising joint working opportunities by ensuring our local approach is aligned to regional and national efforts to address VAWG
- Strengthened by national, regional, sub-regional, and local policies and protocols, supporting delivery and aiding development of new approaches

National Context

Since the first VAWG Strategy in 2010, the Government has driven collaborative working towards its objectives for addressing VAWG through its Inter-Ministerial Group. The Government's latest ending VAWG Strategy 2016-2020 retains the original framework of prevention, provision of services, partnership working and pursuing perpetrators.

V3.3

With a focus on a preventative model, service delivery transformation and a step change in social action to achieve a sustainable long- term reduction in the inter-generational prevalence of these terrible crimes, and help women and girls rebuild their lives.

The national Strategy continues to ratify women's rights to live without the fear of violence and abuse outlined in the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. Wolverhampton's VAWG Strategy also upholds this declaration, and encompasses domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and abuse, so-called, honour- based violence, forced marriage, stalking and harassment and female genital mutilation.

In recent years there has been a significant shift in government policy to aid local delivery against VAWG. This has been supported by the introduction of significant new legislation requiring domestic homicide reviews to be undertaken with a view to learning lessons where a domestic violence death has occurred, the introduction of specific offences of stalking, forced marriage, failure to protect from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and revenge pornography, as well as the new domestic abuse offence to capture coercive or controlling behaviour in an intimate or family relationship. In addition, the Modern Slavery Act was introduced, and a range of new tools and powers including DV, FM and FGM protection orders, a national DV disclosure scheme, and mandatory reporting of FGM by registered teaching, social care and health practitioners, as well as strengthened measures to manage sex offenders and those who pose a risk of sexual harm.

Regional Context







Across the West Midlands a multi-agency response to tackling VAWG has also gained momentum in recent years as efficiencies of cross-border working are realised. The seven Local Authority areas spanning the West Midlands Metropolitan area have a strong established history of collaborative working, covering not just the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), but also encompassing Local Authority leads, Safeguarding Boards and the work of the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). The establishment of a West Midlands CSP provides further opportunity to prioritise these crimes and join up our regional approach.

The PCC has committed to improving services for victims of crime, including provision of a regional victims' service and establishment of an independent Victims' Commission to inform a wide range of provision across the West Midlands. The PCC's Strategic Police & Crime Plan also highlights the commitment to protect people from harm, tackling hidden crimes including FGM, HBV and FM.

There are already positive examples of joint working that can be cited across the West Midlands. West Midlands DV minimum standards were approved by all 7 areas in 2014, setting out eleven key principles of working. Wolverhampton is developing plans to meet these standards. In 2014, research funded by the PCC to identify strategic learning from DHRs was disseminated to West Midlands' strategic partners and forums. Opportunities for future cross-border working will continue to be identified during the life of our refreshed VAWG strategy.

In 2016 the NHS and local councils came together in 44 areas covering all of England to develop proposals to improve health and care. New council and NHS partnerships - known as Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STP's) – run services in a more coordinated way, to agree system wide priorities, and to plan collectively how to improve residents' day to day health and wellbeing.

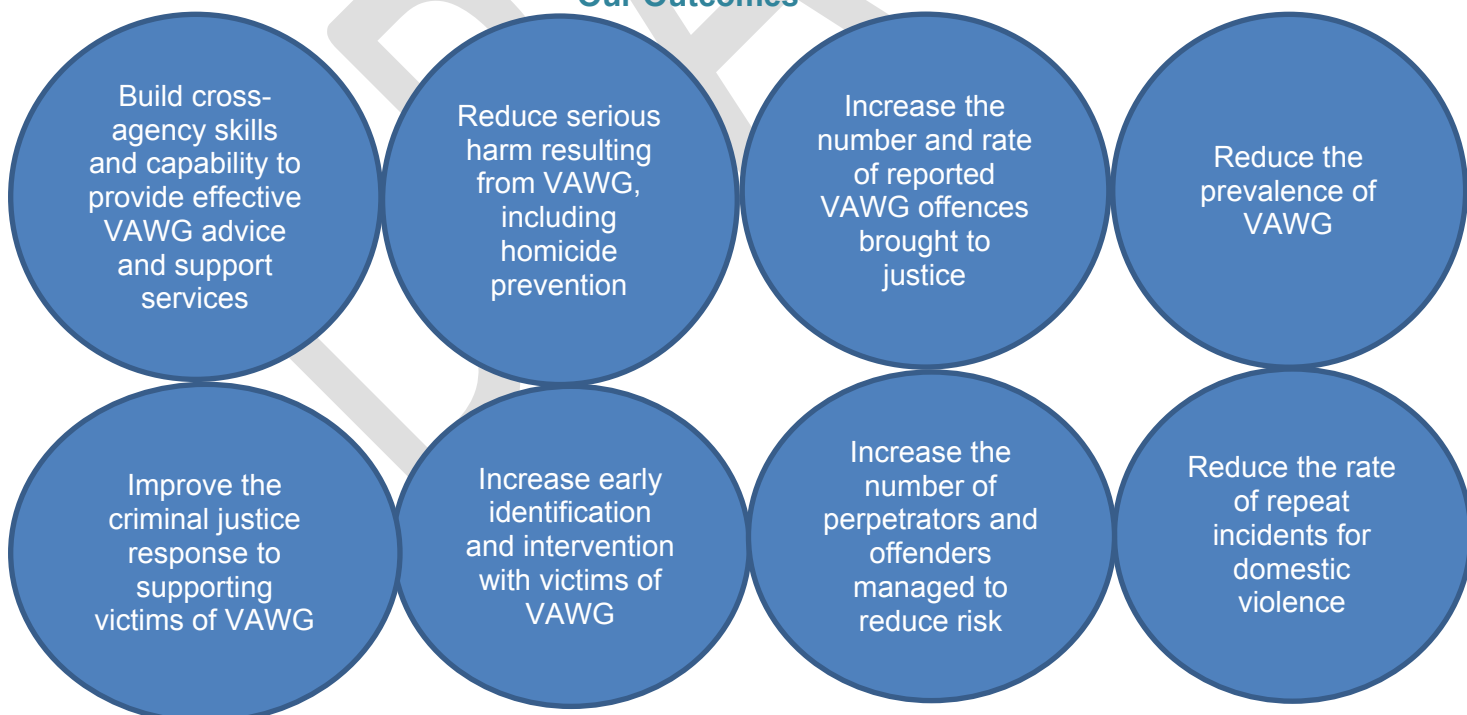
VAWG Strategy 2016-2019 Successes

Consistent reduction in repeat cases at MARAC 	Provision for behaviour change programmes 	Annual 'Orange' Campaign to raise awareness of VAWG
Training plan refresh and roll out 	Non-police MARAC referrals up from 25% (2015-16) to 37% (2017-18) 	Mainstreamed Independent Violence Adviser at Wolverhampton Homes 
Piloting of Independent DV Adviser at Recovery Near You 	Criminal Justice Independent Domestic Violence Adviser 	Integrated system 
Joint Domestic Homicide Review/ Safeguarding Adults Review/ Serious Case Review conference 	Engagement, training, and IT system improvements for Wolverhampton GPs 	Coordinated response via West Midlands Reducing Reoffending Strategy

VAWG Strategy 2019-2022 Outcomes

The VAWG Strategy outcomes, objectives, principles, and definitions outlined in the 2012-15 Strategy document remain valid and in line with the national context. Our current situation and our performance over the last three years have informed us of areas of risk that will need to be considered as part of the new strategy.

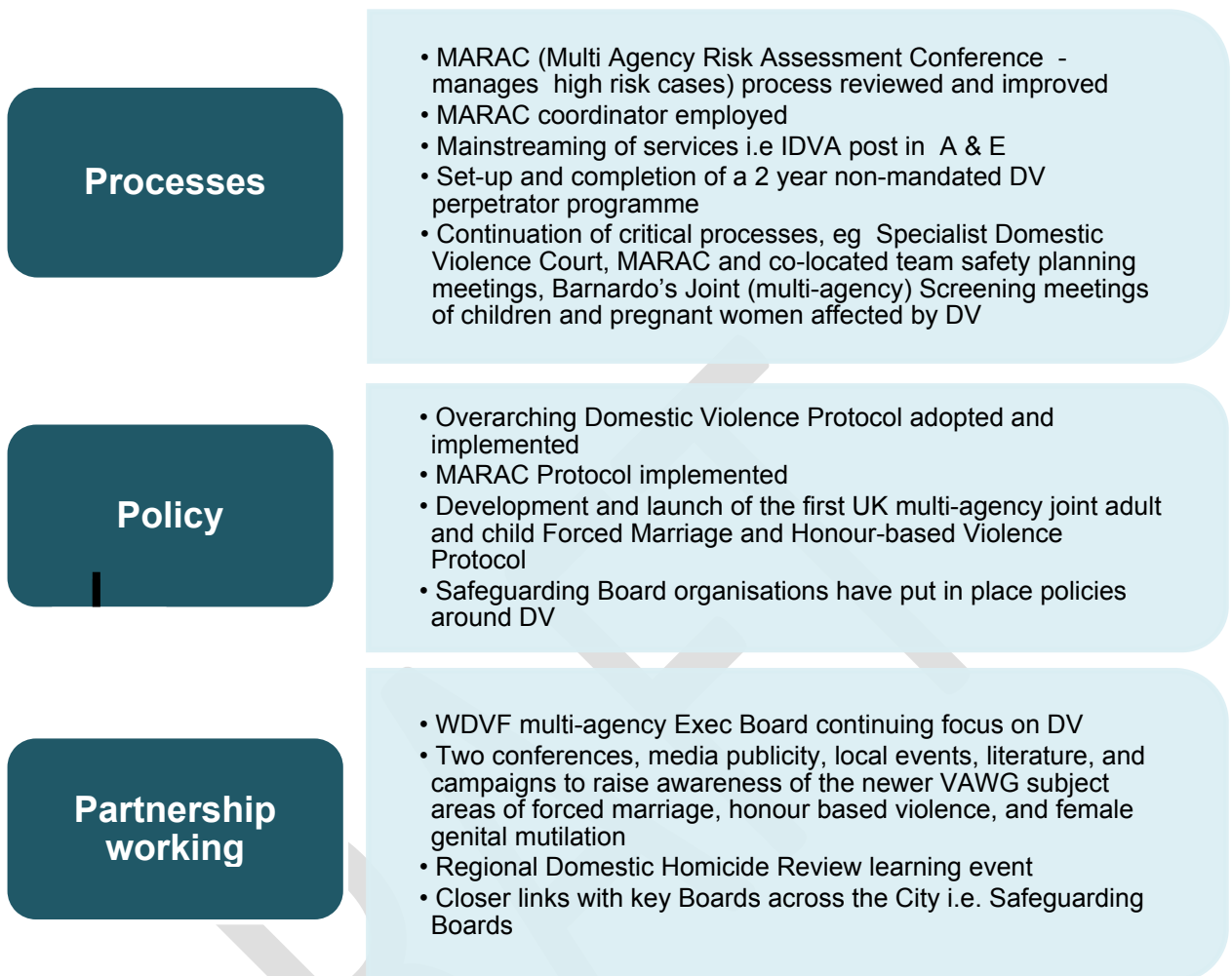
Our Outcomes



These outcomes will be achieved whilst maintaining the following principles:

- Survivors/victims and perpetrators have access to services without discrimination due to disability, sexual orientation, race, religion/faith, culture, age or income group. Women-only services will be supported as will ensuring men's access to other services.
- Services to survivors/victims and perpetrators will be designed and proportionate to the level of risk they face or pose.

- We are committed to providing quality services and will draw on national and international best practice and standards.



Facing our Challenges in Partnership

Both the national and local strategy recognises the over-riding challenge is the need to move to a more preventative model of addressing VAWG, and because of the cross-cutting nature of these issues, it is essential that this is done in partnership.

VAWG presents a number of challenges which require a partnership response:

- Gaps in provision of a recovery model approach to DV
- Impact on children - DV is a key predictor for Children and Young People in Care, Children in Need and Child Protection
- Management of increasingly complex cases
- Increasing demand and numbers of repeat cases
- Enhancing specialist knowledge into non-specialist front line services, and responding to new legislation
- Engagement of schools and education establishments
- Integration of behaviour change programmes
- Addressing housing needs and challenges
- Monitoring, auditing, and ensuring accountability
- Partners play an increased role in identifying and responding to VAWG - need to raise awareness and develop capacity and confidence of staff to respond
- Organisational restructures are taking account of the growing need to target vulnerability.
- Integration of VAWG response within core business of partners - informing commissioning & developing new approaches to growing demand

Whilst the crime types span all age groups, there are a number, where cultural practice within certain communities places children and young people at a significantly higher risk of harm.

- Young girls within recognised communities are particularly vulnerable to FGM
- The Forced Marriage Unit suggests young people aged 16-25 are most at risk of being forced into marriage
- Reported cases of HBV involved victims aged 16-17
- Local levels of risk within the city are currently being assessed.

The 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' updated guidance 2018 issued to schools, sets out clear expectations of schools and individual staff in identifying risks associated with FGM, alongside other safeguarding responsibilities. Practical support is still needed, however, to ensure schools are appropriately equipped with age-appropriate resources with staff up-skilled to fulfil these new requirements. The strategy will continue to work closely with schools on their responsibilities for promoting safe relationships amongst young people.

With an escalation in the numbers of victims seeking support, any expectation that partners can purely respond by allocating increased resources need to be managed. Despite improvements made in the partnership approach to respond to VAWG, an effective city-wide response must be developed with a shift in focus from crisis management to prevention, to stem the growing demand for high risk VAWG support services; maintaining the status quo is not an option. As a partnership, we need to move towards a position where we are preventing the cycle of abuse, identifying and supporting victims at a much earlier point to stem the escalation towards crisis and addressing abusive behaviours with perpetrators.

Domestic Violence

“any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or 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. This can encompass but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, & emotional abuse”

In the city in 2017-2018 there were **6251** domestic abuse incidents reported to the police (220 more incidents than the previous year)
47.3% of which were recordable offences

This increase in reporting is in part attributable to more accurate recording on Police systems, an increase in incidents reported in public places that have been witnessed and reported by third parties, and public confidence in reporting. DV is known to have the highest repeat rate of any crime and to escalate in frequency and severity over time, so it is important to monitor repeated reports of DV as an indicator of increasing risk, and the need to focus on managing that risk.

Despite this increase, the British Crime Survey recognises that:

“the under-reporting of crime to the Police is known to be particularly acute for intimate violence offences”.

The increasing volume of domestic violence incident reports is impacting on existing services, as is the number of high-risk of serious harm cases referred to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which has continued to increase year on year until 2017/18. At present, Wolverhampton has insufficient specialist capacity to manage all domestic violence cases within the city.

The learning from statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) has aided the move towards integrated partnership working.

Areas of Early Focus

- More effective management of low-medium risk cases through safety planning to avoid escalation of risk.
- Greater emphasis needed on reducing repeat victimisation.
- Improved provision for the management of complex cases.
- Embedding the stepped risk-model for managing offenders and perpetrators to shift the focus of responsibility and accountability from the victim to the offender.
- Direct preventative work in schools and other settings around positive relationships and protective behaviours
- Embedding learning from DHRs
- Joined up criminal and civil justice protection processes

	2016/17	2017/18
Reported Domestic Violence Incidents	6031	6251
% Recordable offences	42.4	47.3
MARAC cases	652	651
% Repeat cases	36	36
% Non-police referrals	31	37

Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003) makes it illegal to practice FGM in the UK, to take abroad British nationals or permanent UK residents for FGM, and to aid FGM being conducted abroad.

Wolverhampton is a proud well-integrated multi-cultural city. Alongside the advantages of our diversity, the City is home to residents who are from communities where forced marriage, so-called, honour- based violence, and female genital mutilation are prevalent.

Of significant concern is the fact that we have received few or no such reports of these crimes over the period of the previous strategy. As these crimes are often perpetrated by family members, there is an understandable reluctance for victims to report to police or seek support.

There is a need to address significant knowledge gaps and challenge accepted practice within our communities and amongst young people to dispel myths, and present the legal and medical facts, and consequences of these crimes to make it easier for victims to report with confidence. We also need to train our front-line staff in identifying risk of FGM how to respond appropriately using the full range of powers available to the partnership.

In 2016 Wolverhampton developed a problem profile outlining where FGM practicing communities were settled in our city and suggesting where targeted work could be undertaken to raise awareness of the illegalities and long-term harms associated with FGM.

Unicef data estimates the majority of FGM practice is carried out on girls under 14, with the majority cut before the age of 5, closely followed by those aged 5-9.

Areas of Early Focus

- Continue to raise awareness within targeted communities to emphasise the full legal, health and safeguarding implications of FGM.
- Seek feedback from survivors to shape future services to meet the needs of our diverse communities.
- Continue to raise awareness of FGM amongst frontline practitioners and increase understanding of mandatory reporting requirements.
- Strengthen engagement with schools, especially leading up to the summer holiday ‘cutting season’
- Work with community and faith organisations to raise awareness and challenge acceptance

	2016/17	2017/18
Number of FGM incidents reported to the police	17	27
% which are recordable offences	1	0

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. Coercion is likely to have been used with one or both spouses; by family members, friends and the wider community.

The practice of forced marriage is not confined to one culture or religious group and can happen regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion, disability, age, gender and sexuality. It is significantly different from an arranged marriage which is a respected tradition in many cultures where both parties give their consent.

FM is now a specific offence under s121 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 inserted provisions for the courts to make Forced Marriage Protection Orders to prevent forced marriages from occurring and to protect those who have already been forced into marriage.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 states that all adults, (unless proved otherwise), have the capacity to make decisions. There is no legal basis on which someone can agree to marriage, civil partnerships or sexual relations on behalf of someone who lacks the capacity to make these decisions independently.

During 2017-2018 there were four Forced Marriage incidents recorded by the police

Areas of Early Focus

- Develop profile to better identify prevalence
- Raise awareness of FM amongst frontline practitioners.
- Raise awareness across communities of the illegality of FM.
- Support schools to deliver key messages regards FM within the curriculum.

	2016/17	2017/18
Forced marriage incidents reported to the police	5	4
% of recordable offences	80	25

Honour Based Violence

So-called Honour based violence is defined as ‘a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community’.

There is no specific offence of so-called, "honour based crime". It is an umbrella term to encompass various offences covered by existing legislation. HBV can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour.

Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. Punishment can be imposed because of a belief, actual or perceived, that a person has not been properly ‘controlled’ and is failing to conform to family or community expectations. Linked offences can include threats, theft (e.g. passport), assault – physical or sexual, kidnap, abduction or imprisonment or rape.

During 2017-2018 there were 24 Honour-based Abuse incidents recorded by the police

Areas of Early Focus

- Refresh of the Wolverhampton FM and HBV protocol for frontline practitioners
- Raise awareness of HBV amongst frontline practitioners
- Raise awareness across communities of the illegality of HBV-related crimes and engage communities to challenge cultural norms
- Support schools to deliver key messages regards HBV within the curriculum.

	2016/17	2017/18
Honour based violence incidents recorded by the police	24	24
% that are recordable offences	62.5	67

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is defined as ‘any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature, which is unwanted and takes place without consent or understanding’.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 protects individuals from abuse and exploitation, and is designed to be fair and non-discriminatory.

The quality of services for victims of sexual assaults has been improved through provision of a West Midlands Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), with a local Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) services providing specialist advice and support.

Areas of Early Focus

- Promotion of reporting and care pathways including to/from the SARC.
- Promoting with frontline staff, the links to CSE.
- Strengthen care pathways for specialist adult and child provision

	2016/17	2017/18
Serious sexual offences reported to the police	535	615
The number of victims aged 18 years and under of Serious Sexual Offences reported to the police	281	336

Stalking and Harassment

Stalking is 'a pattern of fixated and obsessive behaviour which is repeated, persistent, intrusive and causes fear of violence or engenders alarm or distress in the victim.'

The Protection of Freedoms Act identifies stalking as a criminal offence, allowing prosecution of perpetrators indulging in behaviour that causes the victim harassment, alarm or distress. This can include behaviour which consists of stalking or harassing victims online, by post, by direct personal contact or a combination of these channels. Stalking and harassment is thought to affect 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men and victims tend not to report it until around the 100th incident.

Areas of Early Focus

- Raise awareness of the law and legal implications relating to stalking and harassment.
- Raise awareness of stalking and harassment amongst frontline practitioners.
- Promotion of reporting and available care pathways.

System Improvements

In addition to bespoke delivery around each of the VAWG strands, there will be more generic activity spanning all strands:

- Deploy all powers available through the partnership to protect victims and manage offenders/perpetrators.
- Embed risk based decisions and responses across frontline practice.
- Improve criminal and civil justice responses.
- Strengthen systematic data monitoring and analysis.
- Embed learning from domestic homicide reviews & serious case reviews, and evidence changed practice.
- Strengthen governance and reporting arrangements.
- Embed clear referral pathways which are understood by communities and organisations, including to the SARC.
- Continue a sustainable programme of staff training.
- Embed robust, cross-agency policies and procedures.
- Support schools to cascade key messaging to pupils.

There is a range of criminal justice and civil remedies that protect victims and children witnessing VAWG, a detailed list can be found in the appendices.

Delivery

Underpinning the strategy is an action plan which will be developed and monitored by WDVF multi-agency Executive Board; the plan will set out the main actions that will move us closer to achieving our strategy objectives and outcomes.

The strategy and action plan require a commitment from partners to review their delivery contributions against objectives. Alongside this will be active approaches to seek funding from external sources available through voluntary sector bids to foundation trusts and other grant providing sources.

The key themes of the action plan are **Prevention, Provision, Protection & Justice, and Performance.**



The action plan will be monitored through WDVF’s Executive Board, with governance provided by SWP Board. The action plan will be reviewed annually and aligned to a risk register, highlighting areas of underperformance with mitigating actions agreed.

The VAWG strategy and action plan do not sit in isolation; VAWG cuts across a number of other national, regional, and local strategies (see appendix for list of related strategies (not exhaustive)). There are well established relationships with other key Boards in relation to some of the shared areas of responsibility for these cross-cutting issues. There are also clear links and overlaps between VAWG and other high-profile issues including child sexual exploitation (CSE), gang and youth violence, and modern slavery, and reoffending generally. This strategy will ensure that work is cross-referenced across these subject areas.

Model of Delivery

The UK national model of best practice in dealing effectively with violence against women and girls is that of a coordinated community response model. This model requires a broad community ownership, so it becomes everybody’s business and there is a collective response advocating that VAWG is not acceptable, will not be tolerated, and that it will be dealt with appropriately by holding perpetrators to account and safeguarding victims/survivors and their children.

In order to achieve a coordinated community response to VAWG in Wolverhampton underpinning our strategy outcomes, the action plan focuses on achieving the following fundamental building blocks:



The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership is actively seeking and capturing the views of our communities and our service users in developing the VAWG action plan to ensure that we take into account their needs and experiences.

Wolverhampton's Over-Archiving DV Protocol was refreshed in 2018 and endorsed by The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board, and the Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards. Member organisations are working towards complying with the 16 organisational requirements included in the protocol (Appendix 2). This protocol has been incorporated into a West Midlands Domestic Violence Standards document, the principles of which are being integrated into partners' core business.

Equality & Diversity

It is fundamentally important to emphasise that the national strategy name is an acknowledgement of the gendered nature of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, in that the majority of victims are female. However, the national and local strategies recognise that there are both female and male victims and perpetrators and therefore encompass work around women and girls, and also men and boys.

The strategy also acknowledges and aims to address the additional barriers to seeking help for particular groups. One of the eleven West Midlands Domestic Violence standards specifically covers issues of equality and diversity. There are specific cultural aspects of DV, some of which have arisen in DHRs, and recommendations in respect of these are being progressed within the VAWG strategy implementation. A full equalities analysis has been completed to inform our approach.

Those who may have barriers to seeking support include:

- Male victims
- Our Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic, and Refugee communities
- Survivors with disabilities
- Older victims
- Victims under 18 years
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, and Transgender communities
- Those with no recourse to public funding
- Those with complex needs including mental ill-health and substance misuse issues.

Acknowledgements

This draft strategy has been put together by member organisations of the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards.

Appendix 1

Over-Arching Domestic Violence Protocol 2018 - organisational requirements:

- Have in place a domestic violence policy for service users
- Have in place a workplace domestic violence policy
- Include a routine question about domestic violence on referral forms/assessments
- Provide spaces for individuals to make safe disclosures
- Hold organisational knowledge about how to avoid unsafe responses
- Ensure that responses are culture and diversity aware
- Train staff in domestic violence to an appropriate level depending on their role, including having a nominated VAWG Champion(s)
- Undertake a DASH risk assessment, or have in place an agreed referral pathway for a DASH risk assessment to be undertaken when domestic violence is disclosed
- Ensure the case is referred to MARAC where the risk assessment identifies the individual as high risk of serious harm or homicide
- Maintain up to date contact details of appropriate local help and information and leaflets to signpost victims to specialist support agencies
- Ensure learning from domestic homicide reviews is embedded
- Where appropriate, ensure that perpetrator programmes incorporate RESPECT standards
- Share domestic violence datasets through partnership arrangements (when requested)
- Ensure these requirements and The West Midlands DV Standards are incorporated into designing, commissioning, and contracting services
- Seek assurance that these requirements and The West Midlands DV Standards are embedded via internal audits
- Provide an annual statement of compliance with these requirements to WDVF Exec Board on request.

Appendix 2

Glossary of terms – to be inserted



Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022

KAREN SAMUELS – HEAD OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

KATHY COLE-EVANS – WOLVERHAMPTON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORUM



Previous Strategy

The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (2016-2019) saw successes including:

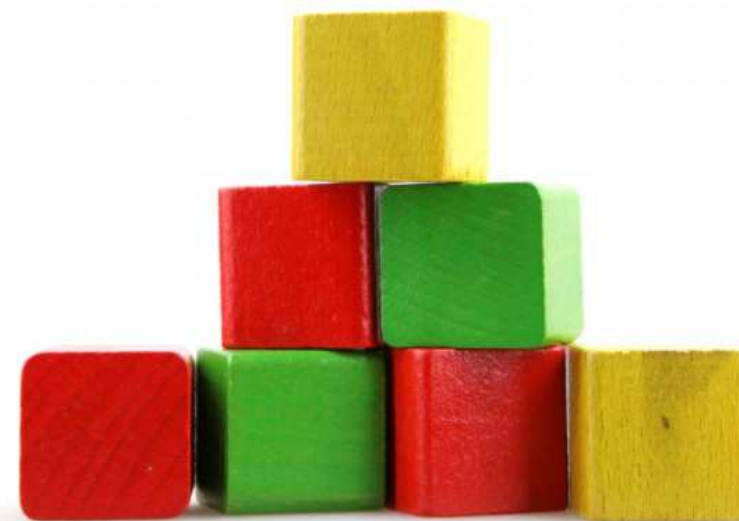
- ▶ A consistent increase in the reports of domestic violence to the police – this suggests that victims' confidence in reporting abuse is increasing
- ▶ The % of successful outcomes for VAWG offences from court has increased year on year
- ▶ The non-police referrals to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) has increased to 37% (from 25% in 2015-2016)
- ▶ The work of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) has seen a reduction in repeat cases at MARAC

Performance Summary

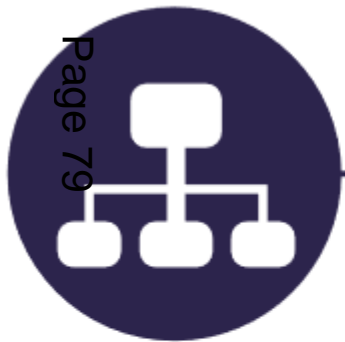
	2016-17	2017-18	Preferred direction	RAG rating
Domestic abuse	6031	6251	To increase	Green
Domestic abuse (victims aged 18yrs and under)	381	282	To increase	Red
Domestic serious sexual offences*	535	615	To increase	Green
Domestic serious sexual offences (victim aged 18yrs and under)*	281	336	To increase	Green
Domestic Homicides	1	1	To reduce	Yellow
MARAC and % of non-Police referrals (target 40%)	652	651 37%	To increase	Yellow
Repeat MARAC cases	225	221	To reduce	Green
Successful outcomes at court (VAWG offences)	663	574	To increase	Yellow
Number of WV referrals to SARC	42	47	To increase	Green
Forced marriage incidents*	5	4	To increase	Yellow
Hour-based abuse incidents*	24	24	To increase	Yellow
Domestic violence incidents*	17	27	To increase	Green

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022

- ▶ Continue to focus on **Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage**
- ▶ Addition of **stalking and harassment** as an area of focus
- ▶ Emphasis on the recognition that there are both female and male victims, as well as the fact that some groups have additional barriers to reporting, for example LGBT, BME and disabled victims
- ▶ Continuing to build a partnership response to VAWG.



Governance Arrangements



SWP hold strategic governance



Refreshed action plan and performance framework to drive Strategy



Monitored through WDVF Executive Board



Continue to strengthen links with other key boards in the City

Strategy Outcomes

- ▶ Build cross-agency skills and capability to provide effective VAWG advice and support
- ▶ Reduce serious harm resulting from VAWG, including homicide prevention
- ▶ Increase the number and rate of reported VAWG offences brought to justice
- ▶ Reduce the prevalence of VAWG
- ▶ Improve the criminal justice response to supporting victims of VAWG
- ▶ Increase early identification and intervention with victims of VAWG
- ▶ Increase the number of perpetrators and offenders managed to reduce risk
- ▶ Reduce the rate of repeat incidents for domestic violence
- ▶ The current performance framework will be reviewed to ensure that it fully aligns with the refreshed strategy.

Areas of Early Focus



Improving the provision for the management of complex cases

Develop FGM and FM profiles to better understand prevalence in the City



Strengthen engagement with schools and students

Strengthen systematic data monitoring and analysis



Continue to raise awareness of VAWG amongst practitioners

Embed robust cross-agency policies and procedures



Work with community & faith organisations to challenge acceptance of VAWG

Consultation

Who we are consulting:

- ▶ Voluntary sector (via Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council)
- ▶ Safer Wolverhampton Partnership partners
- ▶ Emailed directly to interested parties
- ▶ Colleagues (CWC intranet articles)
- ▶ Press release
- ▶ SWP & CWC Social Media
- ▶ VAWG Communications group
- ▶ Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum Executive Board
- ▶ Schools, through the Headteachers bulletin
- ▶ Websites – CWC & SWP
- ▶ Communities of Interest
- ▶ LGBT Community (via LGBT Alliance and x2y)

Early responses:

- ▶ Appreciate the acknowledgement of men and boys and their inclusion and the focus on barriers faced by specific groups
- ▶ Action plan needs to be clear about who has responsibility for workstreams and actions
- ▶ Welcome a commitment to community engagement
- ▶ Welcome a focus on engaging with children about healthy relationships from a young age
- ▶ Need to ensure that it is clear about the ethical issues of certain types of VAWG, rather than simply the illegality of it

Questions

We would particularly welcome feedback from Scrutiny Panel on the following Questions:

- . Do you feel that the draft strategy is easy to understand?
- . Do you feel that the draft strategy provides clear aims and objectives?
- . Do you think that the areas of focus contribute to addressing the outcomes listed? Is there anything else you feel that the partnership should incorporate?
- . To ensure services are as accessible as possible, we will:
 - ▶ engage with and seek feedback from a range of communities;
 - ▶ undertake research and surveys with existing and previous service users;
 - ▶ Provide help seeking information in a range of languages, formats, and media.
- . Is there anything else you feel the partnership should incorporate to ensure universal access to services?
- . Are there any other comments that you would like to include in the consultation?