

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	12/10/2020
<b>Subject:</b> Violence Against Women and Girl's (VAWG) Strategy 2019–2023 and Action Plan 2019–2021	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
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### Summary

This report updates Members on the publication of the City of London Corporation's (City Corporation) VAWG Strategy 2019–2023 and progress of the VAWG Action Plan 2019–2021.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

### Main Report

1. The VAWG Strategy 2019–2023 and Action Plan 2019–2021 have been designed to ensure that the City Corporation is delivering and providing a co-ordinated, effective and efficient level of response and support to people affected by VAWG. This work is being delivered and monitored through the multi-agency VAWG Forum. Furthermore, the strategy has been written in line with the Mayor of London's VAWG Strategy and the draft Domestic Abuse Bill.
2. The aim of the strategy is to make the City of London free from VAWG and a safe place for people to live, work, learn and visit.
3. The title VAWG was chosen to ensure that the strategy includes all areas of VAWG. A strapline stating that it is a 'strategy for our whole community' has been used to make it clear that the strategy has been developed for any person affected by the issues under the heading VAWG, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, race, ability or disability.
4. During the development of the strategy, a consultation process was undertaken to ensure that the strategy and action plan are reflective of the community members it aims to support. The strategy was also developed in collaboration with voluntary sector services, statutory services and frontline professionals to ensure that it is reflective of the wide community it is aimed at

supporting and targeting. The published version of the VAWG Strategy 2019–2023 (Appendix 1) has been circulated to internal and external partners, including the City of London Police and the Safer City Partnership.

5. The strategy and action plan are accountable to the City of London VAWG Forum, chaired by the City Corporation Community and Children's Service and serviced by the Community Safety team. This work is being delivered by the statutory and non-statutory partners who form the VAWG Forum, to ensure a multi-agency response to VAWG. The work is being driven by the Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Coordinator.

## **Our Priorities**

6. The VAWG Strategy 2019–2023 includes three priorities:
  - i. People are prevented from becoming victims of VAWG
  - ii. People affected by VAWG have access to support services
  - iii. Perpetrators are held to account and rehabilitated.
7. The three priorities were chosen to ensure that the strategy encompasses targeted, measurable and specific actions for each of these areas, ensuring that the City Corporation provides the most effective and efficient support to all those affected by VAWG. Each of the priorities have specific actions within the VAWG Action Plan.

## **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

8. The VAWG Strategy is supporting the achievement of the following outcomes in the Corporate Plan 2018–2023:
  - **Outcome 1:** People are safe and feel safe
  - **Outcome 2:** People enjoy good health and wellbeing
  - **Outcome 3:** People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential
  - **Outcome 4:** Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
9. The VAWG Strategy is aligned with the following current strategies:
  - City of London Corporate Plan
  - City and Hackney Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Strategy
  - City of London Police Vulnerability Strategy
  - Safer City Partnership Strategy
  - City of London Health and Wellbeing Strategy
  - Hackney VAWG Strategy.

## **VAWG Strategic Action Plan 2019–2021**

10. The VAWG Action Plan (Appendix 2) has been developed alongside the strategy to ensure that the City of London is working to tackle the

identified need and risk areas. The action plan has been set out over two years and will be delivered by the members of the VAWG Forum to ensure that partners take equal responsibility to complete the actions. The Forum will manage the action plan through its quarterly meetings, keeping the plan on track and moving forward.

11. The progress of the VAWG Action Plan has been delayed due to COVID-19, and this has been reflected within the RAG rating and the action deadlines. The City of London Corporation and partners have adapted during the pandemic to ensure that people affected by VAWG have still been able to access support. The VAWG Action Plan has been updated to align with these changes and reflect learning and good practice from the pandemic.

## **Conclusion**

12. The progress of the VAWG Action Plan will be monitored within the VAWG Forum, and a monitoring report will be provided at the end of the two-year period October 2019 to October 2021. The action plan will then be reviewed and updated for a further two-year period to reflect the local need and risk areas within the City of London.
13. The VAWG Strategy 2019–2023 was published on the City of London Corporation’s website, and has been circulated to partners.
14. The development and publication of the VAWG Strategy and VAWG Action Plan aims to ensure that the City of London is providing a co-ordinated response to VAWG through the three priorities. It is crucial that the City of London is a safe place for the whole community to live, work, learn and visit.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: VAWG Strategy 2019–2023
- Appendix 2: VAWG Strategic Action Plan 2019–2021

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