

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Safer City Partnership	18 September 2020
Subject: Domestic Abuse Vulnerability and Risk Policy Update	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Discussion
Report author: Domestic Abuse Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer	
<p>This report updates Members on the City of London Corporation's domestic abuse post Covid-19 recovery plan and actions already taken.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>The Community Safety Team has been working with partners across the City of London throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to promote domestic abuse/Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services. A post Covid-19 recovery plan has been developed to ensure victims and survivors are able to access support post lockdown.</p>	

Key Points:

- **Post Covid-19 Recovery Plan**
- **Conclusion**

Post Covid-19 Recovery Plan

1. Throughout the pandemic, articles, adverts and support services have been published within the City of London estates and Barbican estate resident newsletters. These have been targeted at victim/survivors to access support, and neighbours to report any concerns for neighbours. Subsequently this has led to a resident contacting their estate manager reporting concerns for their neighbour. The neighbour was experiencing serious physical violence from their partner and was moved to a refuge as a result. Domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour will be a standing item within every newsletter moving forward.
2. The City of London Covid-19 webpage has been updated throughout the pandemic to include up to date advice and information around domestic abuse and VAWG for residents.
3. Business Healthy have published articles encouraging businesses to support employees who may be affected by domestic abuse, linking to

the Spotting the Signs toolkit which has been updated to include information for employers on working from home.

4. The City of London hosted a virtual domestic abuse insight lunch. The session included training from the National Centre for Domestic Violence, the Vulnerable Victims Advocate and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Coordinator and City Community MARAC Coordinator, all providing information about their role.
5. Refresher domestic abuse training is being delivered virtually to partners working across the City of London in anticipation for a surge in reports. These sessions have been delivered to colleagues across DCCS and external agencies such as CityAdvice, Age UK and PohWER.
6. An article regarding domestic abuse/VAWG has been posted on both the City of London Corporation and City of London Police's intranet, to ensure employees within both organisations are aware of the support available to them.
7. The City of London VAWG Forum is continuing to be held virtually, giving members an opportunity to provide service updates and keep informed on the City of London's response to VAWG.
8. The domestic abuse training being delivered to the City of London housing estate staff and managers has been postponed. This will be reviewed over the coming months with potential virtual training being offered to staff. This training will also be updated to include learnings from the pandemic.
9. After an increase in reports of domestic abuse from hotels within the City of London, information and advice has been sent to hotels that attended the hotel vulnerability event in February 2020.
10. The City of London Corporation is currently reviewing the internal Domestic Abuse and Stalking Policy to bring the document up to date and include protocols for working from home.
11. The VAWG Action Plan has been updated to highlight delays and changes within the action plan due to Covid-19.

Conclusion

1. The Community Safety Team and partners have adapted to continue to protect people from domestic abuse/VAWG whilst working remotely. The post Covid-19 recovery plan is constantly being updated and reviewed to ensure it is meeting the needs of the City of London's community.

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