

Committee(s): Strategic Planning and Performance Committee Police Authority Board	Dated: 7 February 2022 16 February 2022
Subject: Update on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) activity	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1- People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 12-22	For Information
Report author: DCS Rebecca Riggs; Chief Inspector Carly Humphrey (Leads for CoLP VAWG)	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update for Members of the Strategic Planning and Performance Committee (SPPC) and the Police Authority Board (PAB).

Further to the last report to your Committee and PAB in November 2021, this report details the strategic progress made by the City of London Police (CoLP) in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)¹, additionally it provides some examples of work completed, and also areas for development over the coming months.

The report details current work at National, Regional and Local level and a copy of the governance structure is attached at Appendix A.

The City of London Corporation has been consulted on this report and joint working is taking place on the national objective of 'Creating Safer Spaces' as detailed in Appendix B.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report

¹ This document uses the following Home Office definition of VAWG: "The term 'violence against women and girls' refers to acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, 'honour'-based abuse (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and 'honour' killings), as well as many others, including offences committed online."

Main Report

Background

1. Members will be aware of the national and local focus on VAWG and detail of the background to this report was fully described in the previous report to your Committee and PAB in November 2021.

Current Position

National

2. A clear direction has been set by the NPCC (National Police Chiefs Council) lead for VAWG, DCC Maggie Blyth. This has been communicated to all forces through national working groups and a launch of the NPCC National Framework for Delivery (Year 1) document for VAWG which was disseminated to all forces on the 17 December 2021. This current approach set, clearly supports HM Government's direction and policy on addressing VAWG.
3. The document sets out a broad delivery plan which is organised under three overarching objectives:
 1. Improving Trust and Confidence in Policing;
 2. Relentlessly Pursuing Perpetrators;
 3. Creating Safer Spaces.
3. All forces have been given a deadline of the 30 June 2022 to demonstrate how they will deliver on the plan. This is a policing centric document with acknowledgement that it will need to be broadened to focus on partnership approaches and the wider community in the coming years. At this point the clear crossover with the City of London Corporation (CoL) is objective 3- Creating Safer Spaces and this has been discussed with partners at CoL.
4. DCS Rebecca Riggs has been included throughout and participated in the planning stages of the development of the national strategic delivery plan to ensure a close understanding of the requirements and time frames.
5. As VAWG is not a specific crime type, but rather an issue that cuts across all strands of policing both internal and external, governance structures have been mapped and agreed to avoid duplication and maximise efficiency and effectiveness. (See attached Appendix A).

Regional

6. Arrangements have already taken place with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and British Transport Police to ensure a consistency of approach across London. This will be supplemented by regular strategic

meetings and updates to share good practice and mirror responses and activities.

Local

7. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Paul Betts has been appointed the Strategic lead for VAWG within the City of London Police and the response to VAWG has been recognised and prioritised within the currently new draft Policing Plan for 2022 – 2025.
8. A Strategic Delivery plan, in line with the national framework set by DCC Blyth, but also bespoke to specific requirements for the City of London Police, has been drafted and circulated internally for comment and amendment. The plan is designed to demonstrate the outcomes we seek to achieve and connect these, via a baseline action plan to the activities that are being prioritised now and those that will be developed and implemented in the medium and long term. It has already been arranged that, once the final version is agreed, it will be Peer reviewed by a Detective Chief Superintendent from Devon and Cornwall Police. There is a requirement that this plan is published by 31st March 2022.
9. A monthly 'Renewing, Rebuilding Confidence and Trust Strategic Steering group' has been formed and is chaired by AC Betts to provide direction, co-ordination and prioritisation. The Terms of Reference for the Group have been drawn up and agreed strategic leads across all areas of the City of London Police have been identified to deliver activities aligned to the delivery Plan.
10. An Action Plan/ baseline of activities has been drawn up and appropriate Senior Leadership Team (SLT) leads have been identified to both drive progress and be accountable for performance improvement. The baseline will be updated and scrutinised monthly by the Strategic Steering Group and a RAG assessment for each pillar, principle and associated activity assessed and assigned.
11. As Independent scrutiny is also required (by the National Strategic Delivery plan) the Force is exploring IASG representation at the group on a quarterly basis, and there will be further updates to the SPPC and PAB for Member oversight and scrutiny.
12. It is the Force's intention to make all governance documents relating to VAWG available for publication on the COLP external facing website to demonstrate transparency and promote accountability for every step.
13. An overarching VAWG threat assessment and problem profile has also been commissioned looking at the data from the last three years to provide an intelligence led, evidenced based approach to inform current and future actions.

14. Additionally, whilst awaiting the delivery of the National performance framework from the NPCC lead, CoLP is identifying and baselining various data sets to ensure a quantifiable and qualitative evidence base to demonstrate the improvements made and value achieved.
15. In relation to the 3 National objectives some activity on each of these to date is described in Appendix B.

Conclusion

16. The CoLP continues to work in partnership with the City of London Corporation to enhance the City of London's response to VAWG. This report has highlighted some of the initiatives which have taken place to support this partnership and also our wider delivery of the NPCC VAWG strategy.

Appendice(s)

Appendix A- Current CoLP Governance Structure

Appendix B- Highlights of activity under the 3 NPCC National Objectives

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