

Strategy Boards & Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership	16/05/2022
Subject: Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services, City of London Corporation	For Information
Author: Ayesha Fordham, Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer, City of London Corporation	
<div>Summary</div> <p>The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the current co-ordinated community response within the City of London to Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The report will provide an update on the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, work with businesses around ‘Safety in the City’ – the programme delivered by a specialist VAWG service to the Afghan guests – and access to counselling services.</p> <div>Recommendation</div> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the report.	

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation (City Corporation), City of London Police (City Police) and wider VAWG partnership continue to work to a co-ordinated community response to respond to DA and VAWG, ensuring that the City of London's whole community is protected and supported, and that perpetrators are held accountable, as indicated through the City of London's VAWG Strategy and Action Plan 2019–2023.

Current Position

2. The Community Safety Team (CST) co-ordinates the quarterly VAWG Forum, which includes representatives from statutory, voluntary and commissioned organisations. The forum discusses a variety of aspects of work within the City, such as service delivery, legislative development, awareness and

outcomes of engagement work. The forum also collates statistical information from stakeholders.

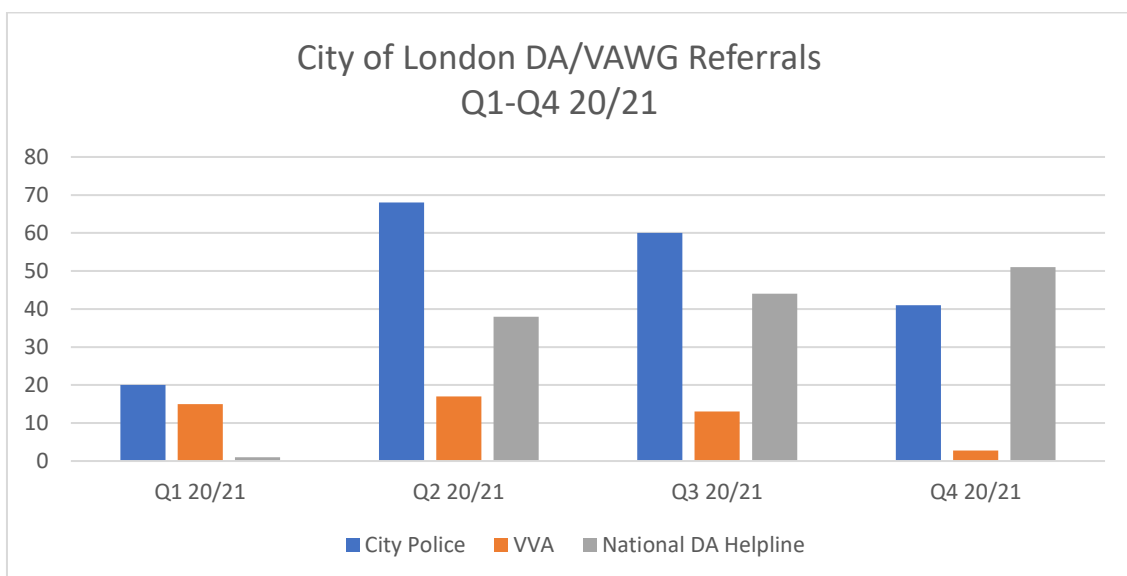
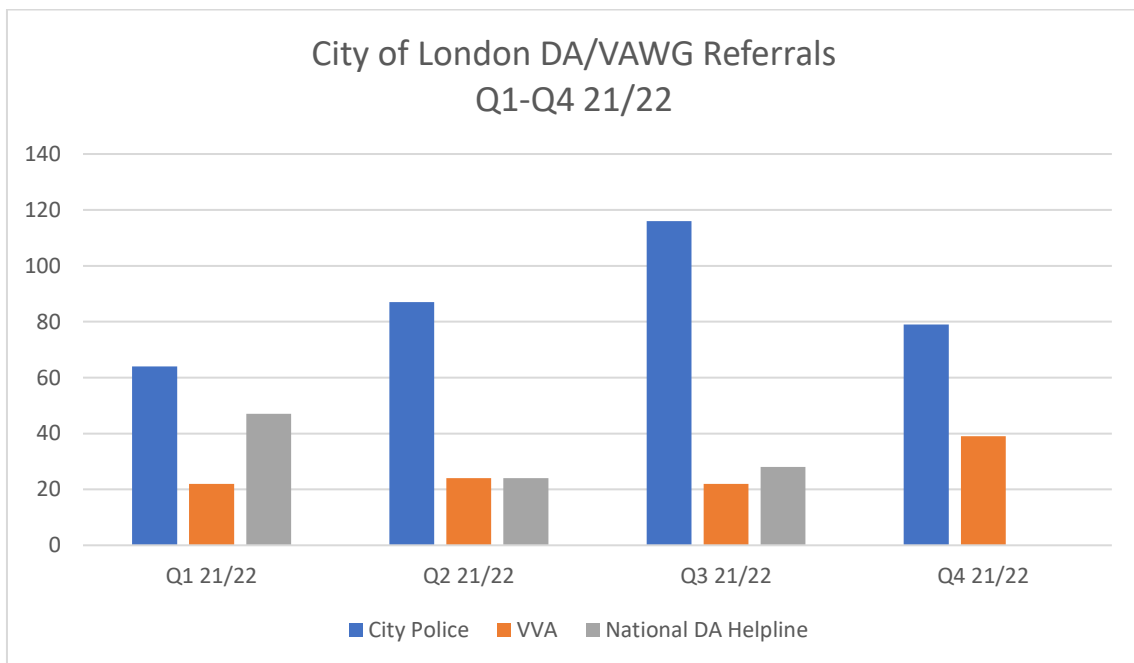
3. The City Corporation has been awarded a total of £78,812 from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, and has been working in partnership with the City Police to deliver Safer Streets projects, including Night Hubs in 2021 and three recent initiatives: Street Safe, a campaign challenging myths and misconceptions around sexual violence; the Ask for Angela campaign; and delivery of Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement training. The campaigns were launched on social media and across JCDecaux signage in City train and tube stations. Across the street signage, the campaigns combined made 9.3 million impressions and 281,665 impressions on social media. There were 31,192 engagements across both the Street Safe and Ask for Angela campaigns, through clicks, comments and shares on social media. An evaluation of all three initiatives will be completed in the coming months, to explore the impact of the projects and how it can inform the City's partnership VAWG implementation plan.
4. The City Police and Victim Support have continued to deliver Safety in the City presentations to businesses, including Lloyds of London. Further sessions are scheduled with security forums. The sessions highlighted the City of London's response to VAWG, including information on what men can do and how they can change their behaviour to help make women feel safer.
5. The Iranian Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) who specialise in VAWG support for Afghan and Middle Eastern women, were initially commissioned by the City Corporation to deliver a programme of 30 sessions around VAWG to men and women, separately, in City bridging hotels. The programme was popular among Afghan women, and IKWRO identified an interest from attendees for the sessions to be delivered more informally to create a space where attendees felt able to share and contribute. The City Corporation has commissioned a further programme of VAWG sessions to be delivered to women, alongside activities such as cooking lessons or day trips within London. Additional sessions will also be delivered to Afghan men within the hotels.
6. London Councils commission IKWRO to provide counselling for women who live or work within the City. They have funding to provide one-to-one sessions to three women per financial year and three spaces on group sessions per financial year. In November 2021, funding from the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) was given to uplift the access to counselling, for an additional six women affected by domestic/sexual abuse to receive 12 counselling sessions from IKWRO. To date, five women who live or work within the City of London have been referred into this service.

Data Analysis

7. The City Police saw a 32% decrease in recorded domestic abuse crimes and incidents in Quarter 4 (Q4) 2021/22, in comparison to Q3 2021/22; 29% of recorded crimes and incidents involved residents, which is an increase from

the previous quarter; and 77 of the crimes and incidents recorded in Q3 2021/22 took place within the City of London.

8. The number of referrals to the Vulnerable Victims Advocate has nearly doubled in Q4 2021/22 to Q3 2021/22. The service received 39 referrals for VAWG crime types, including domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, honour-based abuse, forced marriage, historic child sexual abuse, and harassment: 32 referrals were received from the City Police; five were self-referrals; and two referrals were from other agencies.
9. The National DA Helpline has not yet provided data for Q4 2021/22.



Strategic Implications

10. All of the work noted in this report contributes to the Safer City Partnership's aims:

- Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded
- People are safe from violent crime and crime against the person
- People are safe and feel safe in the night-time economy.

Conclusion

11. The VAWG partnership continues to work together to deliver and enhance the City of London's response to DA and VAWG. This report has outlined some of the initiatives that have taken place over the past quarter, through campaigns, training and education.

Appendices

- None

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