

Committee(s): Strategic Planning and Performance Committee	Dated: 5 May 2022
Police Authority Board	25 May 2022
Professional Standards and Integrity Committee	25 May 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 20-22	For Information
Report author: DCS Rebecca Riggs; Chief Inspector Carly Humphreys, Professionalism and Trust	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update for Members of the Strategic Planning and Performance Committee (SPPC), Police Authority Board (PAB) and Professional Standards and Integrity Committee (PSIC) on 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 includes work ongoing with partners including the City of London Corporation.

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 Committees in November 2021 and February 2022.

Current Position

Key Milestones since the last update (February – April 2022)

- The first VAWG [strategic-delivery-plan.pdf \(cityoflondon.police.uk\)](#) has now been published for CoLP and a copy is attached at Appendix A. A feedback email address VAWGFeedbackPublic@cityoflondon.police.uk has been set up for the public to provide their views on the plan as well as any ideas regarding what else they would like to see the CoLP doing in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls. This is a Year 1 report which will be refreshed annually. In line with the NPCC guidance, the Year 1 report will remain policing-centric, however Year 2 and Year 3 reports will focus much more on partnership work.
- Creation of an internal VAWG Action Plan which outlines tactical delivery, demonstrates what progress has been made to date, how performance will be scrutinised and provides an objective RAG grading² for the progress made in each area of activity. A baseline assessment of performance has been completed to track improvements over time, scrutiny of this will be achieved within our monthly Rebuilding Trust and Confidence meetings Chaired by Assistant Commissioner Betts.
- Establishment of a regional working group alongside the British Transport Police and the Metropolitan Police Service.
- Creation of a draft VAWG Problem Profile which provides data analysis regarding thematic areas; such as crime types, locations, offender types and temporal analysis. It provides recommendations regarding how we can improve our policing response and where resources would be most effectively utilised to tackle VAWG.

National

2. Policing progress concerning VAWG continues with pace nationally. All forces remain in close working alignment with the NPCC (National Police Chiefs Council) against the National Framework for Delivery (Year 1). Regular weekly NPCC taskforce meetings bring together strategic and tactical leads to share working practices and disseminate national headlines.

² RAG denotes a 'Red, Amber, Green' grading of progress. This grading has been awarded through an initial internal benchmarking process. For future quarterly benchmarking processes, this will be done with the IASG to ensure that there is external scrutiny.

3. Along with all forces nationally, the CoLP has submitted its VAWG Strategic Delivery Plan, written in consultation with the City of London Corporation (CoLC) and internal stakeholders, and its VAWG Action Plan to the NPCC. These will formulate national performance benchmarking for VAWG and promulgate best practice.
4. The CoLP Commissioner and Det Chief Supt Head of Professionalism and Trust have met with DCC Maggie Blyth (NPCC VAWG lead) this month and discussed a number of opportunities for CoLP to enhance national VAWG delivery, such as:
 - Opportunities for CoLP secondments to the NPCC to work on the VAWG portfolio.
 - Supporting the national online VAWG Problem Profile using National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) data sets.
 - Developing upon City business relationships, such as licensing and hospitality, which could have national influence.
 - Learning from *good industry practice* within the National Economic Crime Victim Care Unit (NECVCU) as to whether this could be replicated for enhanced victim care within VAWG offences.

Regional

5. In addition to our national work with the NPCC, the CoLP has now established itself within a regional working group alongside the Metropolitan Police Service and the British Transport Police. The aims of this group are to share best practice, combine our efforts for joint initiatives and to provide updates to the NPCC Working Group. Although chiefly aligned to VAWG, this working group will also focus on broader Trust and Confidence workstreams, thereby providing a wider benefit towards other policing related issues and organisational learning, such as race and diversity.
6. An additional relationship has been established with Avon and Somerset Police who will complete a peer review on our Internal VAWG Action Plan. This will provide greater scrutiny on our benchmarking process and provide immediate opportunities to share best practice.

Local

7. Since our most recent update to members in February 2022, the CoLP has continued to develop work to tackle VAWG by delivering sustainable change, as outlined in the key milestones. Both the Strategic and Tactical leads for the Professionalism and Trust portfolio have now met with our Independent Advisory Scrutiny Group (IASG) to explore working together opportunities.
8. The following updates build upon our commitments outlined in the February 2022 report, therefore these updates reflect additional pieces of work rather than a duplication of work mentioned in previous reports.

However, the CoLP will provide VAWG Action Plan performance updates to the Police Authority Board to ensure that they have oversight of activity underway.

9. In relation to the 3 National objectives some activity on each of these to date is described in Appendix B.

Governance

10. The City of London Police's strategic and tactical delivery on VAWG is being scrutinised at a national and local level, as follows:
 - The CoLP Renewing and Rebuilding Trust and Confidence Board, chaired by Assistant Commissioner Paul Betts, is driving progress against the delivery framework objectives which we have set out in our Strategic Delivery Plan under each of the three pillar objectives. To achieve this, the CoLP has a Tactical Action Plan that sets out the activities which will take place to deliver against these objectives, this Action Plan will also be sent to the HMICFRS³ for independent review.
 - Achievement will be scrutinised through independent review of our performance metrics to ensure that there is objectivity and transparency. This will take the form of regular consultation with our Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group (IASG) and more formally, through the Police Authority Board (PAB) and Professional Standards and Integrity Committee (PSIC). Key milestones and significant activity will also be highlighted to PAB/ PSIC and also shared with partners.
 - The CoLP will also regularly feed into a number of NPCC National Working Groups to share learning and best practice amongst all other Police Forces in England and Wales and the aforementioned regional Trust and Confidence Strategic Working Group with the Metropolitan Police Service and the British Transport Police.
 - We will regularly review our Strategic Delivery Plan to ensure that it includes new recommendations from the NPCC as they are announced.

Conclusion

11. 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.

³ Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) independently assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of police forces and fire & rescue services – in the public interest. [HMICFRS - Home \(justiceinspectors.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk)

12. All the work noted in this report contributes to our new Policing Plan, in particular our Operational Priorities to 'Keep those who live, work, and visit the City safe and feeling safe' and to 'Put the victim at the heart of everything we do'.

Appendice(s)

Appendix A- Copy of the Strategic Delivery Plan

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

Appendix C – Reframe the Night poster campaign

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