

Committee(s)	Dated:
Safer City Partnership Committee	14 November 2016
Subject: Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Forum Quarterly Report	Public
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Summary

This report details the quarterly update of the activities of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Forum in delivering the two-year Strategic Action Plan.

Main Report

Children and domestic abuse

1. The Children and Domestic Abuse Policy, detailing how the services will respond effectively to safeguard and care for children experiencing domestic abuse is being produced to compliment the City of London Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.
2. The policy will detail the importance of understanding the impacts on children, awareness of prevention and how to provide the most appropriate therapeutic care. The policy is due to be finalised in the New Year.
3. Children's Social Care staff will be involved in 16 Days of Action by talking to every client they see during the 16 days about the campaign, domestic abuse and coercion, and explaining what that means and how it can present itself in relationships.

Vulnerable Victim Advocate

4. The Vulnerable Victim Advocate has provided the six month report to funders for the first two quarters of her work.
5. The VVA provides advocacy for people who have experienced or witnessed:
 - domestic abuse
 - sexual violence or child sexual exploitation
 - hate crime
 - Female Genital Mutilation
 - Forced Marriage

6. In addition to these crimes, the VVA also supports victims of other crimes where the person is vulnerable. Setting up a referral pathway with the Economic Crime Unit in City of London Police and other community and voluntary sector services has allowed her to make sure vulnerable people are provided with information and support when they experience crime.

7. The following table demonstrates the breakdown of support provided by the VVA in the first two quarters of this financial year:

Type of support	Total number
Victim Referrals	58
Face to face appointment (This is both emotional and practical support. Support in court and pre-trial visits. Police station drop ins)	207
Emotional support (This is both phone support and face to face support)	192
Practical support (This support includes giving personal alarms, food vouchers, support in court, support letters)	27
Advocacy (Advocacy includes work with social services, housing, solicitors, other agencies, supporting letters, immigration)	18
Referral or signposting (This would include providing the client with information about external services, or making a referral for the client- such as counselling, a local service, housing, solicitors, social services, CityAdvice)	41

8. The **58** referrals means there has been an increase of 8 clients engaging with the service from the last two quarters of 2015/16. From the 58 referrals the VVA has received, 50 cases have identified as female service users and 8, as male.

9. The age ranges, ethnicity and area the victim resides are noted in the tables below.

Age Range	(1 YR) 2015/16	Q1 & Q2 2016/17	Q1&Q2 2016/17 Total as percentage	2015/16 + Q1&Q2 2016/17 Total as percentage
18 and under	5	2	3.4	4.3
19 to 24	17	8	13.8	15.5
25 to 30	23	7	12.0	18.6
31 to 40	16	18	31.0	21.1
41 to 50	19	5	8.6	14.9
51 plus	13	10	17.2	14.3
Not identified	10	8	13.8	11
TOTAL	103	58	100	100

10. Comparing Q1 and Q2 from 2015/16 and 2016/17, there has been an increase in victims from the ages 31-40 and 51 and over.

Self Identified Ethnicity or Nationality	(1 YR) 2015/16	Q1 and Q2 2016/17	Q1&Q2 2016/17 Total as percentage	2015/16 + Q1&Q2 2016/17 Total as percentage
Arabic	2	1	1.7	1.9
Asian	4	6	10.3	6.2
Asian Other	10	1	1.7	6.8
Bangladeshi	1	6	10.3	4.3
White British	11	17	29.3	17.3
White Irish	1	0	0.0	0.6
White Other	33	1	1.7	21.0
Black African	1	0	0.0	0.6
Black Other	4	2	3.4	3.7
Black Caribbean	0	1	1.7	0.6
French	1	0	0.0	0.6
Italian	3	1	1.7	2.5

Mauritian	1	0	0.0	0.6
Other mixed	2	0	0.0	1.2
Romanian	1	0	0.0	0.6
Albanian	1	1	1.7	1.2
Spanish	0	3	5.2	1.9
American	0	1	1.7	0.6
Portuguese	0	2	3.4	1.2
Polish	0	1	1.7	0.6
Unknown	27	14	24.1	25.3
Total	103	58	100	100

11. Comparing Q1 and Q2 from 2015/16 and 2016/17, there has been a significant increase in victims who identify as Asian, Bangladeshi, White British, Spanish and Portuguese.
12. Changes in ethnicity and age are likely to be the result of the extensive engagement work the VVA has carried out with local community groups to raise awareness of the service offered in the City.
13. Of the 58 cases the VVA has supported, 19 were City residents, 27 were from other London Boroughs, 7 were from counties outside of Greater London and 5 did not disclose.
14. The VVA has supported 100% of clients who have attended court in addition to supporting clients at civil proceedings such as family courts, where victims of domestic abuse must sit alongside their abusive partner where court interventions, such as special measures, are not applicable.
15. The VVA has been proactive in engaging with communities, setting up surgery sites around the City to offer alternative meeting spaces to a police station or the Victim Support offices. Pathways are being established with Open Doors and the National Ugly Mugs. Ugly Mugs provides access to justice and protection for sex workers who are targeted by perpetrators but are reluctant to report incidents to the police. With these pathways embedded, the VVA will be able to offer support for sex workers in the City.
16. Training has been delivered by the VVA, alongside the Corporation's Tenancy Support and Wellbeing Coordinator to City of London Housing staff on risk

assessments and domestic abuse awareness. The VVA will also be involved in the training pilot with manager from Lloyds Bank during 16 Days of Action.

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

17. The consultation on the City of London Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy ended in September.
18. More detail has been added notably detailing how we currently respond to VAWG in the City and what we will be doing in 2017. This includes addressing harmful attitudes and behaviour at an early age, addressing the health impacts of VAWG, improving safety in the night time economy and on public transport and how we respond to trafficking and exploitation.
19. The areas of focus for the City VAWG Strategy will help shape the next two year action plan to be delivered by the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Forum from 2017 to 2019.
20. The VAWG Strategy will be signed off by members of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Forum at the end of November.

MARAC update

21. There have been no MARAC cases since the last Safer City Partnership Committee.

Strategic Action Plan update

22. At the last Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Forum, members reviewed the outstanding actions for the strategic plan.
23. Actions not complete by March 2017, will be taken forward into the new two year plan in addition to priorities that have been identified from the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.
24. A consultation workshop was conducted in the last Forum, with services stating they would like a focus on the following areas:
 - a. Robust mechanisms in place to share data collected from statutory and community and voluntary sector services
 - b. Greater focus on linking in with grassroots service providers
 - c. Engagement in education and schools
 - d. Confidential reporting systems
 - e. Robust awareness of communities and using this to deliver targeted campaigns
25. Work has started on developing the strategic action plan which will be developed further at the December Forum before going out to consultation between December and March, with sign off due in March 2017.

Engagement activities

26. From 25 November to 10 December, the Community Safety Team and its partners in the Police, the Department for Community and Children's Services, Housing, Health and the Community and Voluntary Sector will be engaging with residents, workers and visitors for 16 Days of Action.
27. Resources are being developed to compliment e-media engagement aimed at helping people to understand coercion and control and how this manifests itself in a relationship. The campaign will help people to be able to recognise what domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour based violence is and where in the City they can get help.
28. Internally in the Corporation, Human Resources will have a stall in the Guild on 29 November with City of London Police, the Domestic Abuse Coordinator and the Vulnerable Victim Advocate to promote the Corporation HR Domestic Abuse Policy.
29. Local domestic abuse victim services and the Domestic Abuse Coordinator will be joined by the charity Tender to deliver an interactive training session with managers from Lloyds Bank on Wednesday 30 November. This training will be an evaluated pilot which will give managers the tools to talk with staff about domestic abuse and how to respond to keep people safe both within, and outside, of work.
30. The Vulnerable Victim Advocate and the Domestic Abuse Coordinator gave a presentation at the Behind Closed Doors event at Homerton Hospital on 3 November to raise awareness to health visitors, nurses and hospital staff about domestic abuse services in the City.
31. The presentation focused on services for City residents, how they work together and referral process for helping their patients to access them. The presentation also talked through the City's Thresholds of Need document noting the process for safeguarding children who are witnessing domestic abuse.

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