

Havering Violence against Women & Girls Strategy

2025 - 2029

DRAFT

Document Control

Document details

Name	<i>Havering Violence against Women & Girls Strategy</i>
Version number	<i>V0.1</i>
Status	<i>Draft</i>
Author	<i>Kerry Wright</i>
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Approved by	<i>HCSP</i>
Review date	<i>6th November 2024</i>
Supersedes	
Target audience	<i>All staff and partner agencies</i>
Related to	<i>See Appendix 3 for full list of related documentation</i>

Version history

Version	Status	Date	Dissemination/Change
V0.1	Initial Draft	Oct- 28	Internal
		Nov- 6	HCSP

Approval history

Version	Status	Date	Approved by
			HCSP

Equality Impact Assessment record

Date	Completed by	Review date

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Foreword

Thank you for reading the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2024-2029 for the London Borough of Havering.

This strategy has been produced on behalf of the Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) and sets out the plans and actions that the partnership aspires to achieve as a result of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023, the Havering VAWG Needs Assessment 2024, and the MOPAC VAWG Strategy 2022-2025. These documents form an analysis of the risk, prevalence, and harm of violence against women and girls in Havering.

The Partnership's local intelligence shows that this is a significant issue for Havering, with growing volumes of victims coming to our attention. This strategy is the result of focused analysis, which sets out actions and recommendations for various partnership groups in respect of prevention, provision, and protection.

This strategy is aligned with our vision for Havering and supports our aim to achieve a clean, safe environment for all; to help our residents make positive lifestyle choices; and to ensure a good start for every child to reach their full potential. We will support families and communities to look after themselves and each other, with a particular emphasis on our most vulnerable residents.

The Community Safety Partnership welcomes the support from the Havering VAWG Strategic Group and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), which sees tackling violence against women and girls as a key priority within the Police and Crime Plan 2022-25. We look forward to working in conjunction with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime to ensure this strategy is achieved.

Andrew Blake Herbert
Chief Executive
London Borough of Havering
Chair of the HCSP

Stuart Bell
Borough Commander
East Area BCU
Vice Chair of the HCSP

Executive Summary

In "[Building a Safer London: Police and Crime Plan 2022-25](#)," the Mayor set out his priorities for policing and crime reduction for his term in office. The four key priorities all encompass tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG):

1. Reducing and preventing violence
2. Increasing trust and confidence
3. Better supporting victims
4. Protecting people from exploitation and harm

The Mayor subsequently published the "[Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) Strategy 2022-25](#)," setting out actions to tackle issues and improve services. The Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) serious violence needs assessment 2023 recommended that VAWG be retained as a key strategic priority locally.

VAWG accounts for the greatest socio-economic cost to community safety partnership services in Havering. Domestic violence also accounts for a third of all physical violence reported to agencies, with the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2023 finding that nationally 33% of violent offences were flagged by police as domestic abuse. Despite high levels of underreporting, the most recent estimate provided in the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2023 estimated that around four in five victims (81%) of partner abuse did not report the abuse to the police.

In 2023, the rate of calls to police regarding incidents or crimes in Havering marked as domestic-related equates to one call every 176 minutes. The Crime Survey for England and Wales 2023 estimated that 20% of people aged 16 to 59 (9.8 million victims) had experienced some form of domestic abuse since the age of 16, which means there are potentially around 40,000 survivors of domestic abuse currently residing in Havering.

Currently, Havering delivers a number of initiatives and services to address VAWG using four strands – Prevention, Provision, Protection, and Partnership. The strategic vision is to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls through the development of policies and procedures to address violence, develop programmes of preventative work, provide high-quality services which respond to local needs, and ensure that robust enforcement action is taken against perpetrators.

Havering has aligned its objectives with those set out in the Mayoral Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for London, and we have set the following aims:

- Preventing and reducing VAWG
- Supporting all victims and survivors
- Holding perpetrators to account
- Building trust and confidence

The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy is to be delivered over a three-year period. The action plan will be refreshed annually to take into account emerging trends or developments in legislation or working practices. This strategy will be implemented and monitored by the VAWG Strategic Group, which reports directly to the Havering Community Safety Partnership. The strategic group will also have oversight of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

Introduction

In his Police and Crime Plan 2012-2025, the Mayor of London set out priorities for policing and crime reduction for his term in office. Tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of three overarching priorities within that plan. This led to the development of the Met Police VAWG action plan and the ten commitments to VAWG. The Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) serious violence strategic assessment 2023 recommended that VAWG be retained as a key strategic priority locally under the protecting vulnerable individuals/victims strand of work.

VAWG can include different types of abuse, including psychological, verbal, physical, economic, sexual, and emotional; and can take a number of forms, including domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, prostitution, trafficking, and honour-based abuse (please refer to Appendix 3 – What do we mean by violence against women and girls?).

VAWG accounts for the greatest socio-economic cost to community safety partnership services in Havering. Domestic violence accounts for a third of all physical violence reported to agencies, even despite high levels of underreporting. Calls to police alone occur at a rate of one every 176 minutes in Havering. The Crime Survey for England and Wales 2023 found that 27% of all women aged 16-59 (and 14% of all men) had experienced domestic abuse since the age of sixteen. These estimates suggest that there could be around 40,000 survivors of domestic abuse currently residing in Havering, with 28,620 females and 13,440 males suffering from abuse since the age of 16.

Currently, Havering delivers a number of initiatives and services to address VAWG using four strands – Prevention, Provision, Protection, and Partnership.

Events, campaigns, and communications messages are used to prevent violence by challenging attitudes and behaviours and providing information on where to seek support sooner rather than later.

Provision of support for those experiencing violence is delivered through a number of agencies, including Victim Support London, Havering Women's Aid, East London Rape Crisis Centre, and London Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Consortium.

Actions taken to reduce the risk to women includes the provision of refuge accommodation, independent domestic violence advocacy, and the multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC).

Key stakeholders are involved in a local strategic group to monitor the work being done and identify and address problems or trends.

The Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment 2023 (see Appendix 2) identified key areas for development in Havering to continue to address VAWG, and these are reflected in a comprehensive action plan.

In 2023, Havering police recorded 2,987 offences of domestic abuse (DA), compared to 2,907 in the previous year. By comparison, the level of DA offences for the whole of London has increased by 1% between 2022 and 2023; less than the 2.8% increase locally.

Havering has also experienced an 8.6% increase in DA violence with injury (VWI) locally, from 699 to 759, when comparing 2022 and 2023; compared to a 5.6% increase in the level for the whole of London.

Through this strategy, we will work within the VAWG Strategic Group to ensure we deliver an effective coordinated multi-agency response to tackle violence against women and girls, which will be evidence-based and measurable in its success.

Vision

The strategic vision is to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls through the development of policies and procedures to address violence, develop programmes of preventative work, provide high-quality service provision which responds to local needs, and ensure that robust enforcement action is taken against perpetrators.

This strategy is aligned with our vision for Havering and supports our aim to be the Havering you want to be a part of; supporting residents to feel safe and well, be a great place to live, work, and enjoy, and enabling a resident-focused and resilient council.

Aims, Objectives and Outcome

Havering has aligned its objectives with those set out in the Mayoral Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for London and has set the following aims:

- Preventing and reducing VAWG
- Supporting all victims and survivors
- Holding perpetrators to account
- Building trust and confidence

Performance measures will be agreed annually by the Havering Community Safety Partnership.

Timescales

The Violence against Women and Girls Strategy is to be delivered over a three-year period. The action plan will be refreshed annually to take into account emerging trends, or developments in legislation or working practices.

Related Documents

Please refer to **Appendix 5** for key documents and strategies related to this document.

Consultation

Development of this strategy has involved consultation with all member agencies of the Havering Community Safety Partnership. Representatives from all these areas are present within the VAWG strategic group.

Authorisation and Communication

The strategy will be authorised by the Havering Community Safety Partnership.

The stakeholders of this strategy are as follows:

- Barking, Havering Redbridge University Trust
- Havering Council
- Havering Local Safeguarding Partnerships Board
- Havering Women's Aid
- London Fire Brigade
- East Area BCU
- North East London Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Department of Work and Pensions
- National Probation Service
- North East London Foundation Trust
- Registered Social Landlords
- Voluntary Sector
- Victim Support

Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders

- **Barking, Havering Redbridge University Trust:** Responsible for providing healthcare services and support to victims of VAWG, including medical examinations, treatment, and referrals to specialist services.
- **Havering Council:** Leads the coordination and implementation of the VAWG strategy, ensuring that all relevant departments and services are engaged and working collaboratively to address VAWG.
- **Havering Local Safeguarding Partnerships Board:** Ensures that safeguarding practices are in place to protect vulnerable individuals, including victims of VAWG, and oversees the implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures.
- **Havering Women's Aid:** Provides specialist support services to women and girls affected by VAWG, including refuge accommodation, counselling, and advocacy.
- **London Fire Brigade:** Supports the VAWG strategy by providing safety advice and interventions to victims of VAWG, particularly in cases where there is a risk of arson or other fire-related incidents.
- **East Area BCU:** The local police unit responsible for responding to incidents of VAWG, investigating crimes, and working with partners to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable.
- **NEL ICB:** integrates health services to ensure that victims of VAWG receive appropriate medical care and support and collaborates with partners to address the health impacts of VAWG. NEL ICB is engaged in local structures and partnerships, including borough-based VAWG partnership boards and safeguarding partnership boards. The ICB will continue to work with partner organisations to ensure best practice across the system
- **Department of Work and Pensions:** Provides financial support and advice to victims of VAWG, helping them to access benefits and other financial assistance to support their recovery and independence.
- **National Probation Service:** Manages offenders who have committed VAWG-related crimes, providing rehabilitation and support to reduce reoffending and protect victims.
- **North East London Foundation Trust:** Provides mental health services and support to victims of VAWG, addressing the psychological impacts of abuse and trauma.

- **Registered Social Landlords:** Ensures that victims of VAWG have access to safe and secure housing and works with partners to provide support and interventions to prevent homelessness.
- **Voluntary Sector:** Delivers a range of support services to victims of VAWG, including helplines, counselling, and advocacy, and works with partners to raise awareness and promote prevention.
- **Victim Support:** Provides emotional and practical support to victims of VAWG, helping them to navigate the criminal justice system and access the services they need to recover and rebuild their lives.

Implementation and Monitoring

This strategy will be implemented and monitored by the VAWG Strategic Group which reports directly to the Havering Community Safety Partnership. The strategic group will also have oversight of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference.

Action Plan and Performance Measures

An Action Plan and performance measures are included at the end of this strategy document. The Action Plan will be delivered through the Violence Against Women & Girls Strategic Group which meets quarterly.

Evaluation and Review

The VAWG strategic group will produce quarterly reports to the HCSP against progress and performance. The action plan will be refreshed annually. The strategy will be reviewed in January 2028.

Achievements and Successes 2022 – 2024

- **Strengthening of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service for Havering:**

The Community Safety Team has funded 1 senior IDVA and 3 full-time IDVAs in post. During 2023-24, 502 new referrals were received, and 449 cases accessed support by the IDVA service.

- **Relaunch of the Domestic Abuse Champions Scheme:**

The Domestic Abuse Champions scheme was refreshed in 2022. Delegates must attend both Domestic Abuse awareness training and RIC training within a year to be a champion for three years. There is an increased number of school champions. There are currently a total of 125 Domestic abuse champions across the Borough.

- **Provision of Domestic Abuse Awareness Training:**

Both Domestic Abuse awareness and risk assessment training are delivered by the community safety team via the Council's Safeguarding Training programme.

The table below shows how many individuals have received training in 2023 - 2024:

Topic	Attendees
Coercive & Controlling Behaviours	52
DASH RIC - Domestic Abuse, Stalking and HBV Risk Identification Checklist	78
Domestic Abuse	76
Domestic Abuse in the Deaf Community	10
Harmful Practices	18
Modern Slavery	26

- **Roll out of The DRIVE Programme in Havering:**

The Drive programme provides specialist interventions by working with those causing harm in their relationships to prevent abusive behaviour and protect victim-survivors. Service users have been assessed as posing a high-risk, high-harm level of domestic abuse to the people that they are in an intimate or family relationship with. They also often have multiple needs and are resistant to change. Drive has an intensive case management approach that challenges service users to change and works with partner agencies – like the police and social services to disrupt abuse. The referral pathway for Drive cases is via the MARAC. There are 30 spaces on DRIVE across the BCU. However, due to the Havering uptake and need, it has been agreed that Havering can have up to 13 cases presently. Total of cases to date: 20. Current open cases: 13.

- **Roll out of the IRISi Project for Havering:**

IRISi is a specialist domestic violence and abuse (DVA) training, support, and referral programme for General Practices that has been positively evaluated in a randomised controlled trial. Funding was secured from MOPAC to deliver the IRISi project in Havering. GPs are receiving training and support to better manage DA cases. Twenty-five (25) surgeries are undergoing training or have registered for training. 94 health professionals, including GPs, nurses, pharmacists, and other staff associated with these surgeries, have completed training. Furthermore, training sessions have been conducted for 32 administrative and reception team members from 5 surgeries. 38 patients have subsequently been referred to the service and are receiving support.

- **Continued roll out the Restart Programme in Havering:**

Restart is an innovative pilot project providing earlier intervention for families at risk of experiencing domestic abuse. It brings together children’s social care, housing, and domestic abuse services to identify and respond to patterns of harmful behaviour at an earlier stage. Restart is currently being delivered in five London Boroughs. 70 Havering families have been referred to Restart. 39 Perpetrators have engaged. 53 Victims/Survivors have engaged.

- **Continued Roll out of a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme for Havering:**

The Men & Masculinities programme provides a safe space for people who have engaged in abusive, harmful, and damaging behaviour within their relationships. The programme explores what it means to display appropriate behaviour within relationships and highlights how conflict, aggression, and anger can deeply impact the lives of others. The 24-week programme focuses on behaviour, how we act, how this reinforces how we think and feel, and most importantly, how to act differently and make changes to our behaviour and the environments we create. It is also designed to support any other treatment you may be involved with.

- **Perpetrators:**

- Havering April 22 - March 23: 30 starting intervention and 22 completions
- Havering April 23 - March 24: 41 starting intervention and 23 completions
- Havering 2024-2025 Q1: 10 starting intervention and 3 completed
- Currently supporting 16 Service Users
-

- **Victims/Survivors:**

- Havering April 22 - March 23: V/S engaging with intervention 28
- Havering April 23 - March 24: V/S engaging with intervention 34
- Havering 2024-2025 Q1: V/S engaging with intervention 10

- **Review of the Weekly Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (DVMARAC) to Ensure High-Risk Victims of Domestic Abuse are Identified and Supported:**

A multi-agency audit has been completed, and an improvement plan has been developed. The delivery of the plan will be overseen by the MARAC members through the newly launched MARAC steering group. Work has been completed on the production of a new risk assessment tool to ensure case referrals will be based on current risk. A revised MARAC protocol has been delivered and implemented across the partnership. A Weekly DV MARAC is held every Wednesday. 627 cases were referred to MARAC in 2023-24, an increase of 27.4% from the previous year. There was a repeat rate of 27%, which is within the Safe Lives benchmark of between 24 and 40% of MARAC cases.

Further information

Please contact Community Safety at CommunitySafety@haverling.gov.uk

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Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment

Full EQIA will be completed as part of the consultation process

Appendix 2: Violence against Women and Girls Strategic Problem Profile

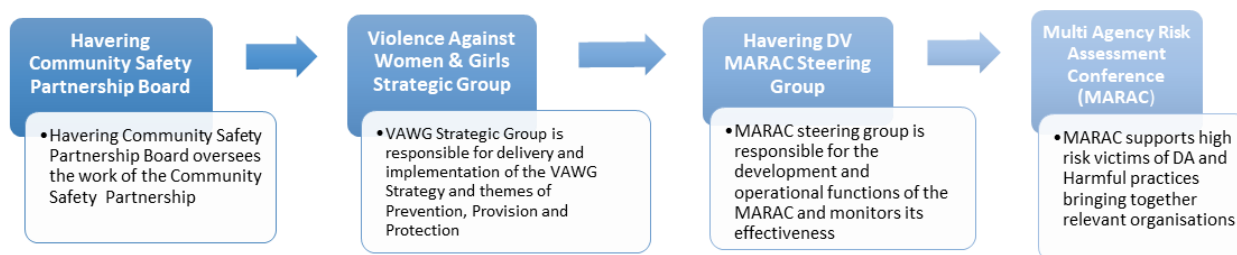
Appendix 3: What do we mean by violence against women and girls?



VAWG Definitions
and Glossary.pdf

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Appendix 4: Governance



Appendix 5: Related documents and strategies

Locally:

- Havering Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- London Borough of Havering Corporate Plan 2017-18
- London Borough of Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-20
- London Borough of Havering Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- London Borough of Havering Combating Substance Misuse Strategy 2023-28
- London Borough of Havering Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025-30
- Havering Place based Partnership Poverty Reduction Strategy 2024
- London Borough of Havering Service Plans
 - Learning & Achievement
 - Children's Services
 - Homes & Housing

Regionally:

- London Child Protection Procedures 2013
- London Crime Reduction Board Anti-Gangs Strategy
- A Safer London for Women & Girls: Mayoral VAWG Strategy 2018-21
- Metropolitan Police Policy on Domestic Violence
- Metropolitan Police Child Sexual Exploitation Policy

Nationally:

- Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009
- Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985
- Children Act 2004
- Children & Young Persons Act 2008
- Children, Schools, Families Act 2010
- Civil Partnership Act 2004
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Guidance 2016
- Domestic Abuse Bill 2018
- Education Act 2011
- Equality Act 2010

- Every Child Matters 2003
- Family Law Act 1996
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
- Forced Marriage (civil protection) Act 2007
- Health & Social Care Act 2012
- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017
- Housing Act 2004
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- National Action Plan to Tackle Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief 2012
- Policing & Crime Act 2009
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Serious Crime Act 2007
- Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005
- Sexual Offences Act 2003

Globally:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- United Nations Trafficking Protocol

Appendix 6: VAWG Action plan 2025-29

[VAWG Action Plan 2025-29](#)

