



Haverling
LONDON BOROUGH

Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2025-2029

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Definition of VAWG

VAWG stands for Violence Against Women and Girls. It refers to any harmful act directed at women and girls simply because of their gender. This includes physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as threats, coercion, and deprivation of liberty. The goal is to ensure safety, equality, and respect for all women and girls. These forms of violence are deeply rooted in gender inequality and aim to control, harm, or exploit women and girls.

- Domestic Abuse
- Harmful Practises and 'so called' Honour Based Abuse
- Stalking and Harassment
- Sexual violence
- Exploitation and abuse in Online Spaces
- VAWG in the public space

VAWG Crime Summary

Overview

- Havering ranked 24th for the volume of VAWG offences among the 32 London boroughs.
- 6,517 offences used in VAWG counting were reported in Havering, with 58% of victims identifying as female.

Violence Against the Person

- Havering saw a 13% increase in Violence Against the Person offences from 2022 to 2023.
 - 56% of victims identified as female, of which 61% of suspects identified as male.
 - 35% of Violence Against the Person victims were aged 40+, 28% were under 25.

Sexual Offences

- 87% of Sexual Offence victims identified as female.
 - 53% of Sexual Offence victims were under 25.

Stalking and Harassment

- 74% of victims identified as female, with a 32% increase in offences from 2022 to 2023.

HCSP Strategic Priorities	Key Findings in 2023	Recommendations
<p>Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Offences made up 3% of all reported crime in Havering in 2023. • Havering saw an 10% reduction in Sexual Offences reported compared to 2022. • St Edward’s ward was 4th highest, compared to all other 679 London wards for reports of Sexual Offences. • St Edward’s ward reported 21% of all Sexual offences recorded in Havering. • Domestic Abuse (DA) offences made up 14% of reported crime in Havering in 2023. • Havering saw a 2% increase in DA offences reported compared to 2022. • Heaton was the highest compared to all other 679 London wards for reports of DA offences recorded in 2023. • Heaton reported 12% and Gooshays 8% of all DA offences recorded in Havering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh of the Havering VAWG strategy and implementation of 3 year VAWG action plan. • Strengthening of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service for Havering and the Domestic Abuse Champions Scheme. • Provision of Domestic Abuse Awareness training. • Roll out of the DRIVE and IRISi projects in Havering • Continued provision the Restart and DA Perpetrator Men and Masculinities programmes. • Continued delivery of the Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (DV MARAC) to ensure high risk victims of domestic abuse are identified and supported. • Introduce a ward based service in Heaton ward, with drop-in sessions attended by Havering IDVA Service and Havering WA.

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Aims and Objectives

In line with MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025, our objectives include:

- **Preventing and reducing VAWG:** Through policies, procedures, preventative work, education and public health.
- **Supporting all victims and survivors:** Providing high-quality services that respond to local needs and improving the criminal justice response.
- **Holding perpetrators to account:** Ensuring effective policing/enforcement actions and providing behaviour change programmes.
- **Building trust and confidence:** Among the community, stakeholders and culture change in the MPS.

Our Vision and Strategic Approach

“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.” Pg.7

Prevention: Challenging attitudes and behaviours, providing information.

Provision: Support through agencies like Victim Support London, Havering Women’s Aid.

Protection: Refuge accommodation, independent domestic violence advocacy.

Partnership: Collaboration with key stakeholders

VAWG Consultation

- The survey ran from 25 November 2024 to 17 January 2025 and received a total of 157 responses.
- The primary aim of this consultation was to understand the community's experiences, perceptions, and suggestions regarding VAWG.
- The survey highlighted key findings, such as the effectiveness of current VAWG services, critical issues that the VAWG strategy should address, and the most needed services and support to tackle VAWG in Havering.
- Recommended actions based on the survey results to enhance community outreach, improve access to services, and address the critical issues identified.

Key Themes:

- **Awareness and Education:** Many respondents emphasised the need for increased awareness and education
- **Support for Victims:** There is a strong call for better support for victims of VAWG.
- **Cultural and Societal Change:** Several responses pointed out the need for cultural and societal changes to address VAWG.
- **Training for Professionals:** Respondents mentioned the need for better training for professionals to handle VAWG cases
- **Prevention and Early Intervention:** There is a focus on the importance of prevention and early intervention to stop VAWG before it occurs.

Recommendation for Survey:

Enhance Community Outreach and Awareness: Increase efforts to educate the community about VAWG and available support services.

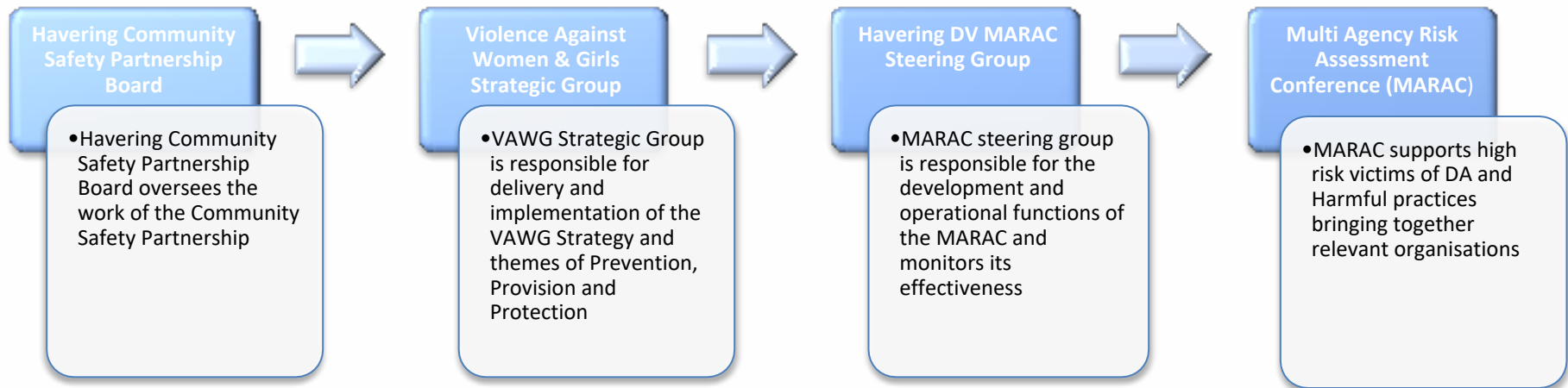
Improve Access to Counselling: Expand the availability of counselling and mental health services for victims and survivors of VAWG.

Strengthen Emergency Shelters / Refuges: Increase the number of emergency shelters and refuges available for victims of VAWG.

Implement Education and Prevention Programs: Develop and deliver education programs in schools and community spaces to prevent VAWG.

Enhance Legal Assistance and Understanding of Rights: Educate the community about their legal rights and the laws related to VAWG.

Implementation and Monitoring



The VAWG Strategic Group will oversee the implementation of work and report to the Havering Community Safety Partnership with quarterly reports.

The VAWG strategy will be delivered over a four-year period. The action plan will be refreshed annually to adapt to emerging trends and legislative changes

Next Steps

✓ VAWG Strategy & Action Plan to be presented to HCSP –
November 2024

✓ Consultation – December / January 2025

✓ O and S – April 2025

Cabinet sign off – April 2025

Publish – May 2025

Questions?