

Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):

Partnership Strategy and Service Commissioning Programme.

The following paper sets out the partnership and stakeholder engagement programme that will be used to inform the partnership strategy and future partnership service development and service commissioning.

Work will progress in line with best practice guidance provided in the Government's VAWG Commissioning Toolkit, focusing on effective stakeholder engagement, full needs assessment, co-production of the strategy, and appropriate modes of funding and commissioning that strengthen collaborative service delivery. This could include pooled budgets, grant funding, and within the realms of procurement, innovation partnerships and there is a need to understand the opportunities for creative procurement that exist in the area.

There are three strands of engagement/collaboration work that have emerged as a consequence of needs assessment and previous stakeholder engagement:

1. Evidence Base for Strategy Development and Service Redesign: Understanding Community Needs
2. Strategic Planning and Review Strand
3. Service Improvement Strand

The work will be coordinated by the Joint Unit for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and VAWG, and supported by **Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) Business Improvement Team, and the Safer East Sussex Team.**

1. Evidence Base for Strategy Development and Service Redesign: Understanding Community Needs

Within the context of strategic focus on Violence Against Women and Girls, initial victim and survivor engagement and engagement with service providers has confirmed themes for further investigation. These often relate to communities of type and their ability to access services. It is important that representatives from these groups/communities, and professionals with insight/involvement are given the opportunity to shape recommendations that can influence specifications for services going forward.

- i. **Understanding the needs of the LGBTQ community:** how well services are currently responding, and how partnership working can enhance the service offer to them leading to a set of partnership recommendations for best practice.
- ii. **Understanding the needs of men and boys:** whilst recognising the gendered/sex specific nature of Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse, there is a need to explore the needs of men and boys, how well services are currently responding, and how partnership working can enhance the service offer to them leading to a set of partnership recommendations for best practice.
- iii. **Understanding the needs of older people:** how well services are currently responding and how partnership working can enhance the service offer to them leading to a set of partnership recommendations for best practice.

- iv. **Understanding the needs of people with disabilities including mental health:** how well services are currently responding and how partnership working can enhance the service offer to them leading to a set of partnership recommendations for best practice.
- v. **Understanding the needs of people from ethnic minorities:** how well services are currently responding and how partnership working can enhance the service offer to them leading to a set of partnership recommendations for best practice.
- vi. **Understanding the impact of the rural geography of East Sussex:** how well services are currently addressing this impact for service access, and how partnership working can enhance the current service offer leading to a set of partnership recommendations for best practice.
- vii. **Understanding the needs of children and young people who have experienced family violence and abuse:** how well services are currently responding and how partnership working can enhance the service offer to them leading to a set of partnership recommendations for best practice.
- viii. **Understanding the needs of people with Multiple Complex Needs in the context of Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse, and their ability to access services:** how well services are currently responding and how partnership working can enhance the service offer to them leading to a set of partnership recommendations for best practice.
- ix. **Understanding the needs of those involved in sex work who require support:** how well services are currently responding and how partnership working can enhance the service offer to them leading to a set of partnership recommendations for best practice.
- x. Understanding the needs of women and girls.
- xi. Understanding patterns and responses to perpetration of abuse and violence.

2. Strategic Planning and Review Strand

There is a need to underpin all of the work we will do together in partnership with clear, shared objectives, and plans to improve sustainability of services.

- xii. **Strategy Development;** small working group led by the Joint Strategic Commissioner to produce a draft strategy for comment; to link in to Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Operational Groups, Stalking and Harassment Working Group, Rape and Sexual Violence Operational Group; Harmful Practices Subgroup, and reflecting national guidance and best practice in working to address violence against women and girls.
- xiii. **Cross Sector Partnership Resource Assessment:** Understanding partnership and funding opportunities to inform service commissioning approach - what has changed in the funding landscape since the last commission? What are the risks? What are the opportunities? How might we work better together to use resources efficiently?
- xiv. **Models of Commissioning- Best Fit:** consideration of best practice commissioning approaches in line with Home Office guidance in relation to the VAWG strategy- identifying realistic options for the area

3. Service Improvement Strand

Central to the work will be consideration of existing data, service user and wider stakeholder insight, and active service pathways mapping and gap analysis:

- xv. **Redesign of the MARAC Process and victim service pathways:** to accommodate increased demand and service improvements by partners (supported by Brighton and Hove City Council's Business Improvement Team) to improve response for victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse and Stalking and Harassment.
- xvi. **Prevention Focus -Training, Awareness Raising and Extending Support in to the Community:** Developing sustainable responsive training and awareness-raising to support delivery of the strategy, including the growth and development of champions/ambassadors in services and communities that support victims of all forms of violence, particularly in relation to violence against women and girls.
- xvii. **Developing Services for Perpetrators:** With a focus on Violence Against Women and Girls, and including consideration of male victims of violence and abuse. Mapping and assessing the current service offer to perpetrators and its impact on outcomes for victims; understanding opportunities for joint working and resulting in recommendations for service development. This work also requires coordination of existing data and research/insight about perpetrators, and additional engagement with perpetrators to help shape strategic approach.
- xviii. **Housing Needs:** Identify opportunities for partnership working for sustainable refuge provision that meets need, negotiate and develop commissioning programme with realistic timescales. In addition, bring relevant partners together to understand how best to meet housing needs where domestic and sexual violence and abuse are a factor.
- xix. **Domestic Violence and Abuse, Sexual Violence and Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Harmful Practices Service Requirements:** Using the findings from the 'understanding community needs' work, and other service improvement strands, develop service requirements for recommissioning, maintaining focus on the specific requirements for each aspect of the work. It is important to ensure that any grouping of services for commissioning purposes is evidence based for service user benefit/service improvement. Service requirements will inform commissioning/funding models adopted.

A conference will be organised in Autumn 2019 where the draft strategy and emerging findings will be presented to the wider stakeholder group for verification. We hope many of you will have had the opportunity to participate in the investigations over the coming months and feel that you have influenced the plans being presented.