

Subject: Response to *Violence Against Women and Girls*

Report to: Police and Crime Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 12 January 2017

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the response from the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to its report, *Violence Against Women and Girls*.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the response from the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to its report, *Violence Against Women and Girls*, as attached at Appendix 1 to this report.**

3. Background

- 3.1 At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 8 September 2016, the Committee held a discussion with invited guests on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The Committee explored the nature and extent of violence against women and girls in London, the ways in which partners were working together to prevent it, support for victims, and what the new Mayor, in his capacity as occupant of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), could do to help tackle and prevent it.
- 3.2 The Committee's report, *Violence Against Women and Girls* was published in November 2016. The report is available from the following area of the GLA's website: [here](http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/police_crime_committee_report_-_violence_against_women_and_girls.pdf)¹

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- 3.3 The report was sent to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime with an accompanying letter (reported to the Committee on 1 December 2016) which set out that the Police and Crime Committee wanted the Police and Crime Plan to:
- Support women and girls to have the confidence to report VAWG;
 - Ensure London's VAWG strategy is adequately resourced and able to deliver on its priorities;
 - Engage with the third sector – to understand the nature, needs and priorities of survivors in London;
 - Protect and build on London's network of specialist support services, and ensure the right services in the right places;
 - Support an increase in the number of ISVAs (Independent Sexual Violence Advisers) in London;
 - Prioritise smart commissioning, including supporting consortiums of women's organisations to come together;
 - Address the shortage of safe and secure accommodation for victims of VAWG;
 - Work with the Met to ensure adequate training for police officers on VAWG, and in particular, on harmful practices; and
 - Build on London's response to harmful practices, including a focus on increasing understanding of harmful practices and provision of dedicated specialist support services.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The response from the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is attached at **Appendix 1** for the Committee to note.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1: Response from the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to the Committee's report: *Violence Against Women and Girls*, dated 12 December 2016.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: None

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