

**Minutes of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Panel Meeting
Tuesday, 10 March 2015, 09.30 – 11.30
Committee Room 3, City Hall**

Attendees:

Co- CHAIR Stephen Greenhalgh (DMPC)
Co-CHAIR Joan Smith (Co-Chair of London VAWG Panel)

- Heather Harvey, Eaves
- Sarah Green, End Violence Against Women Coalition
- Lee Barnard, MPS
- Baljit Ubhey, CPS
- Sima Maqbool, London Councils
- Siwan Hayward, TfL
- Keith Niven, MPS
- Jain Lemom, MOPAC
- Sarah Tyler, MOPAC
- Gemma Woznicki, MOPAC
- Hong Tan, NHS England London
- Lib Peck, Lambeth, London Councils
- Mike Howes, London Borough of Harrow (VAWG Lead for LHoCS)
- Karen Ingla-Smith, Nia
- Paul Dawson, MOPAC
- Claire Crawley, MPS Trident
- Diana Barran, SafeLives
- Jo Silver, SafeLives
- Suzanne Jacob, SafeLives
- Kirti Sisodia, MOPAC

Apologies from:

- Alison Renouf, London Safeguarding Children's Board
- Marai Larasi, Imkaan
- Carlene Firmin, MsUnderstood
- Sam Cunningham, MOPAC
- Colin Fitzgerald, RESPECT

(1) Minutes from the last meeting – Jain Lemom

Outstanding actions and updates

Action	Owner	Progress
JL to share the Sex Worker protocol with the Panel	MOPAC	Complete (circulated and no comments received).

(2) Domestic Violence Perpetrators

DB updated the Panel about a new perpetrator programme pilot that SafeLives have been developing. The following key points were presented to the Panel.

- There is no intervention for over 65% of priority perpetrators.
- None of the existing MASH models address all the key risks (DV, Substance Use, Mental Health) and all members of the family.
- There is little linked support for parents and children
- The referral routes for non-high risk victims are fragmented and confusing

The pilot would provide a new perpetrator response which combines:

- 1:1 proactive support
- Behaviours changes programmes (substance use, CBT, DVPP etc
- Disrupt and Divert
- Pilot a 'One Front Door' which would triage 'any concern and any family member' staffed with experts from DV, substance use, mental health, safeguarding, criminal justice and health.
- At the earliest opportunity would link risk across the family
- Provide best intelligence for most effective response
- Embedded in existing local services

DB advised the Panel that SafeLives would like to identify 4 initial pilot sites and work with grant making trusts and foundations to fund costs for development and local implementation. SafeLives have already identified the following three areas for potential pilot sites: Essex, Sussex and South Wales and asked Panel members to consider if a borough in London could be identified as pilot as part of this work.

DB agreed to circulate a detailed paper about the implementation of the perpetrator programme.

SG agreed to a pilot site in London and discussions took place about potential London boroughs that could form part of the pilot. LB suggested that Croydon would be a good pilot site and that Croydon also have the family justice centre.

SG asked about the costs and what other PCCs were paying as contribution towards the costs of the pilot. DB confirmed that some PCC were paying approximately a 50:50 split in costs but some PCCs were paying a 70:30 split.

KIS asked if SafeLives had worked with colleagues in Respect as they had developed the Mirabel project and currently offer a perpetrator programme. This was to ensure there was no duplication of effort and that Respect were fully engaged with the proposals being put forward as part of this pilot.

DB agreed to liaise with CF from Respect about the pilot work to ensure that Respect were happy with the proposals.

HT suggested that the detailed paper which would be circulated to the Panel by SafeLives should highlight how the implementation of the pilot would join up with other interventions locally and how this would add value to the work already being progressed locally.

SG agreed that the focus of the pilot should be to tackle repeat victimisation (serial perpetrators).

HH and KIS asked DB to expand on how they would be working with specialist services as this would be an essential part of integration at a local level. JS updated the Panel about the ongoing work being undertaken in Southampton and how they had engaged with specialist services to ensure join up at a local level with the proposed pilot work.

MH asked DB about how they were linking in with the troubled families work as domestic abuse was a key focus of this work. JS informed the Panel that discussions were taking place with local authority representatives including MARAC leads and troubled family leads to ensure perpetrators could be identified from a range of sources for the pilot.

3) Domestic and Sexual Violence Dashboard

PD provided the panel with an overview of the recently launched MOPAC Domestic and Sexual Violence Dashboard.

In 2013 the Mayor of London pledged to provide greater Transparency over crime data as part of the Police and Crime Plan. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Dashboard is key to the continuation of this pledge by providing Londoners with key crime information in relation to both Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. This will also serve as the basis of performance monitoring against the key objectives of the Violence Against Women and Girls priority work area for MOPAC.

- The dashboard covers three areas that are core to the VAWG strategy- The reporting of offences, repeat victimisation and bringing perpetrators to justice

PD updated the panel about the contents of the dashboard as follows:

Page 1: RECORDING OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

This page provides an overview of the recorded crimes within the two categories with Thematic map to show the concentration by borough. It is also possible to select a desired borough and show the trends for that borough over time.

This page also includes comparisons of MPS reporting levels to England and Wales and the gender breakdown of victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence for the most recently available year

Page 2: TACKLING VICTIMISATION

This page provides an overview of victimisation in relation to Domestic Abuse. The rate of domestic incidence is illustrated by borough with month by month repeat victimisation information as trend lines below. This examines repeat victims, the average number of incidents victims have experienced in twelve months and the total percent of all Domestic Abuse victims that have been victimised more than once during the preceding year.

Page 3: BRINGING PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE

The final element of the dashboard is the number of People Proceeded Against for each of the categories of crime (with the volume of crime indicated for information). This can be viewed through time (on a rolling year basis) and on an MPS wide or borough level. The bar charts show the total proceeded against, how many of these received a charge, caution or other sanction.

KIS suggested that it would be helpful to include the breakdown of age of victims and offenders, sex of perpetrators. In addition, a stacked bar chart denoting split by gender was suggested.

LP suggested that it would be useful to get a fuller picture of what services are available to support survivors of domestic abuse and to get a full council response.

HT suggested that PD and his team link up with Public Health England (Paul Plant, Deputy Director) to discuss data sharing of useful data sets that could be included in future updates of the dashboard.

MH raised the point about understanding whether the data showed increased levels of reporting of historic cases of rape as a direct result of Operation Yewtree. KN reported that police data was showing that more recent rapes were being reported and that Operation Yewtree had led to an increase in the reporting of historic rapes to the police.

A general discussion took place about the media negatively portraying rape allegations. All agencies agreed that a strong joint counter narrative relating to false allegations of rape should be communicated to counter negative press and negative media coverage about rape and sexual violence. Action: SG agreed that officers from MOPAC would work with VCS and EAW Coalition and speak to Paul Rowan to progress this work.

Action: PD agreed to meet with KIS outside of the meeting to look at the development of the dashboard.

BU highlighted that the CPS had team of officers that could look at domestic abuse data and that she could utilise this team to assess the impact of the pan London Domestic Violence Service in relation to attrition rates. BU asked if PD could attend an internal CPS meeting where they would be looking at court based data. Action: PD agreed to speak to BU outside of the meeting to discuss this further.

HT suggested that the data from Havens could also be included as part of the development work on dashboard going forward.

Action: PD to present an updated version of the dashboard at the next Panel.

4) Programme Updates

Re: Pan London Domestic Violence Service.

SG provided an overview of the recently launched Pan London Domestic Violence Service. Victim Support had been awarded the grant to deliver the service and as part of the launch the Mayor and DMPOC had visited a Refuge in Havering to see the range of support being provided to survivors fleeing domestic abuse.

The £5M Pan London Domestic Violence service will be delivered by Victim Support between July 2015 and June 2017 and will provide an additional 40.5 independent domestic violence advocates

(IDVAs) supporting all high risk victims of domestic violence and 16 additional posts directly supporting victims/survivors going through the criminal justice system. The service will also ensure better strategic coordination to maximise the value of all local provision and innovation to improve the victim/survivor experience through and reduce attrition from the criminal justice process.

Concerns were raised regarding the integration of the Pan London DV service with local provision including (council and voluntary sector contacts).

JL provided an update on the mobilisation period which would be from the 1 April to the end of June. During this period officers from MOPAC will work with Victim Support and use the mobilisation period to link in with services already being provided locally to ensure full integration at a local level.

Re: Harmful Practices Pilot

GW provided an update on the Harmful Practices Pilot. In July 2014 the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) approved the release of £239,200 over two years to implement a Harmful Practices Pilot Initiative.

MOPAC went out to tender for a core element of this work (training and advocacy) in November 2014 to the amount of £200,000 with the caveat that a separate, additional £39,200 would be allocated for community engagement work at a borough level.

After an open, competitive grant award process a panel of key partners scored the bids independently and selected a preferred provider to deliver the training and advocacy element.

On 26 January 2015, a grant award of £200,000 was made to Iranian Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) to deliver the advocacy and training elements of the Harmful Practices pilot.

MOPAC has also allocated £39,200 to the Tri-borough partnership (Westminster, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Hammersmith & Fulham) and East London partnership (Tower Hamlets & Waltham Forest) for community engagement activity to be commissioned by the respective local authorities.

In addition, the Department for Education awarded MOPAC a grant for a Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Pilot to the value of £580,000 for the period ending 31/03/2016.

MOPAC will work 5 London Boroughs (the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster City Councils, Waltham Forest and Tower Hamlets) to deliver a new way of working with children at risk of FGM.

Across the 5 London Boroughs health and social care professionals will work in partnership to identify women affected by FGM and protect their daughters. This will be achieved through co-locating specialist social workers to work alongside midwives in hospital-based FGM clinics. Health and social care professionals will work together to identify potential future victims, triage risk and formulate intervention plans. This will include tracking the wellbeing of the children over time.

Panel members discussed the difficulties in getting schools to engage with work around FGM. Action: KN agreed to send MOPAC data around prevalence in areas so that this issue could be addressed.

Action: LB agreed to send KIS MPS information on domestic abuse.

5) Updates from partners

MPS

LB reported that the Live Link Pilot launch had been delayed. He provided an update on the new governance structure of the Strategic Diamond Group led by DAC Mark Simmons. The following sub working groups have been created:

- MPS/CPS to improve prosecutions
- Technology – greater use for initial evidence gathering, Hand held devices, Body Worn Video
- CIAT/DPS – to review DHR/IPCC recommendations and implement into policy
- Offenders – review methodology, identify best practice
- Training – identify and bridge gaps in training provision
- Communication – provide consistent messaging

LB informed Panel members that they could be involved in making a contribution to the work of the sub groups if they wish to do so.* Action: LB agreed to send the governance of domestic abuse via MOPAC for circulation. KIS suggested EAW coalition as a potential chair for the MPS Domestic Abuse Reference Group.

KN informed the Panel that there would be a launch of CSE work 'Operation Makesafe' on the 18 March 2015. KN mentioned that across London there were only a small number of ISVAS providing support to victims of sexual violence.

CC highlighted the link between domestic abuse and those that perpetrate gang violence. CC undertook to work with LB on this issue.

NHS

HT updated the group about a recent Paediatric SARC review that had taken place.

TfL

SH provided the following update from TfL:

- Project Guardian was coming to an end and will be mainstreamed.
- TfL would be launching a media campaign about CSE via you tube and other media subject to MOPAC approval
- This year TfL would be focusing on safeguarding as a thematic priority and would be carrying out a review of policies and procedures, understanding prevalence, the role of different agencies in reducing CSE would also be undertaken to develop this work.

- SH talked about the research they had carried out into unlicensed taxis. TfL will explore whether the media campaign they had promoted relating to the same had had un-intended consequences on women not reporting a crime if using an unregistered taxi.

JL reported that although the National Rape Action plan had been released the Dame Elish Review had not yet been published. An update on this would be provided at the next VAWG Panel meeting in June.

JL informed Panel members that they would be receiving an invite to a workshop to look at VAWG Panel governance structures.

6) AOB

It was agreed that Restorative Justice would be an agenda item at the next VAWG Panel meeting in June.

Action	Owner	Progress
Develop and circulate a detailed paper concerning perpetrator programme.	Diana Barran	Complete Jain to update on what we hope to do next re perpetrators
Liaise with CF from Respect about the pilot work to ensure that Respect were happy with the proposals.	Diana Barran	Complete
Officers from MOPAC to work with VCS and Eaves Coalition to progress work around counter narrative regarding false rape allegations	MOPAC	Not complete. Identified in narrative of Dame Elish Angiolini Review
Send KIS MPS information on domestic abuse	Lee Barnard	Chasing
Restorative Justice (RJ) to feature on next meeting's agenda.	MOPAC	Shifted to September meeting to include initial input from MOPAC RJ fun.
KN agreed to send MOPAC data around prevalence of FGM in areas	Keith Niven MPS	Complete
Send the governance of MPS Domestic Abuse to MOPAC for circulation	Lee Barnard MPS	Chasing
PD to meet with KIS to look at development of the dashboard	MOPAC	Not complete

PD to present an updated version of the dashboard at the next VAWG Panel	MOPAC	Will be included in the July meeting
PD to speak to BU outside of the meeting about CPS data	MOPAC	Initial contact made with the CPS