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OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

# **Justice Matters: Tackling sexual violence & supporting young vulnerable people**

**28 Nov 2016**



# Agenda

*Welcome, aim and introductions*

## **Part One : Supporting survivors of sexual violence**

- The survivor experience
- MOPAC response – the needs assessment and next steps
- Public questions
- Open discussion

## **Part Two : Targeted prevention – Keeping children safe**

# **Part One :- Supporting survivors of sexual violence**

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# The survivor experience

*Sexual violence is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts directed against a person's sexuality without their consent and/or using coercion*

Victims and survivors of sexual violence often live in silence and take many months or years to share information about their assault

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# Background

- This year, MOPAC and NHS England jointly commissioned MBARC to undertake two needs assessments into sexual violence and child sexual exploitation in London.
- The needs assessments were designed to better understand the scale of these issues, the service response, and the extent to which this response provided the range of support needed by victims and survivors to cope and recover.

# Background

- In April 2015, Dame Elish Angiolini published the “Report of the Independent Review into the investigation and prosecution of rape in London” - her review into the needs of adult victims and survivors of sexual violence.
- One month previously, Kings’ College Hospital and NHS England published their “Review of pathway following sexual assault for children and young people in London”
- Both reports led to significant changes and the recommendations from both reports provide the foundation for the next steps.

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# The London sexual violence needs assessment 2016

The sexual violence needs assessment includes detailed assessments of :

- data on prevalence, reporting and service activity
- More than 150 reports provided by 50 stakeholder organisations in response to a call for evidence
- Interviews and engagement events with more than 100 stakeholder and service provider organisations
- and, most, importantly the testimony of more than 100 survivors of sexual violence

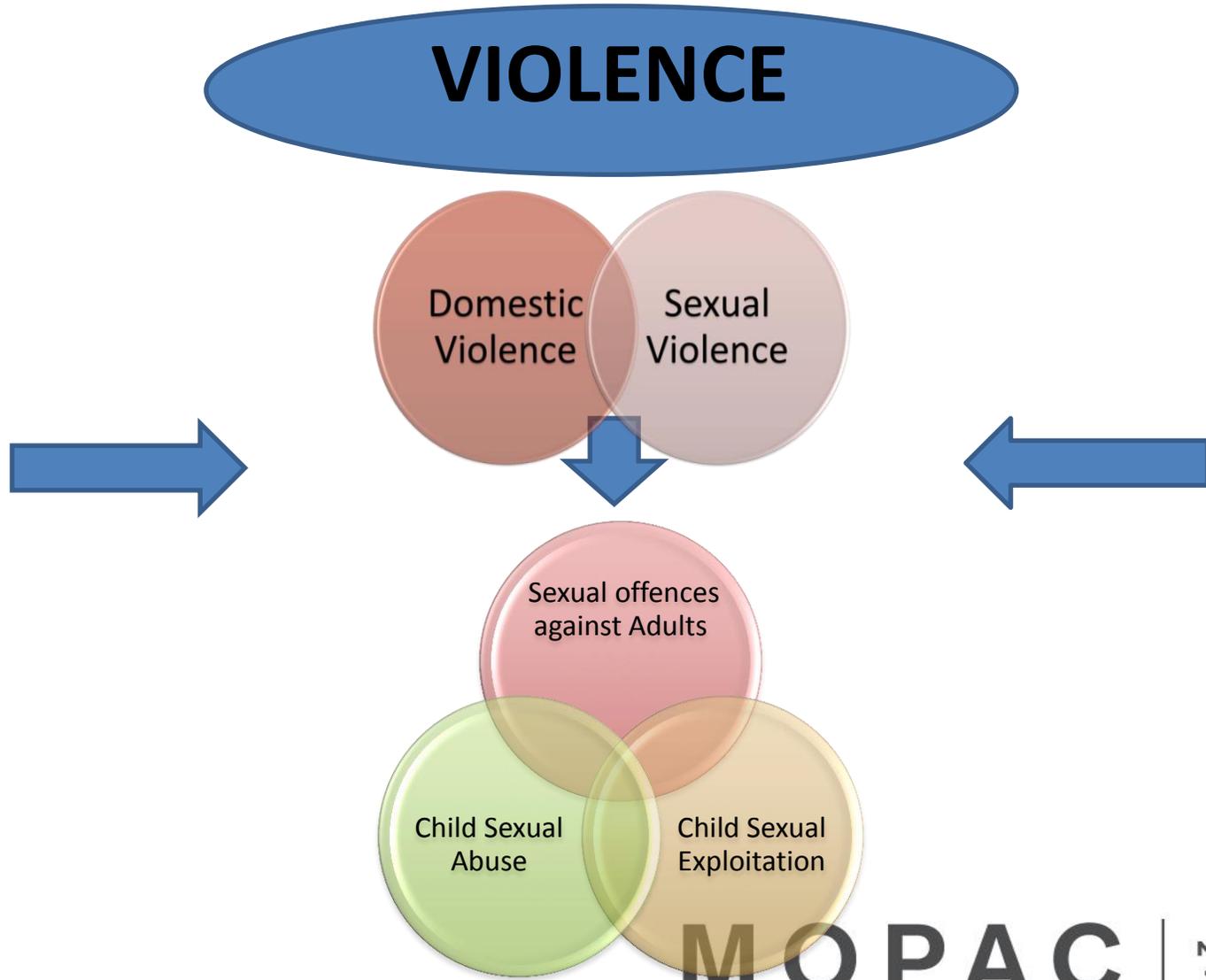
***Based on the findings from the needs assessment MOPAC & NHSE believe that the needs of survivors of sexual violence can best be met if services are victim centric and trauma-informed.***

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# Needs assessment conceptual framework

**Environmental Factors**



**Individual Vulnerabilities**

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# Key findings – prevalence and scale

- The Crime Survey for England and Wales indicates that each year around 24,000 adults in London experience serious sexual assaults and/or rape;
- The vast majority of victims are women (85%);
- This is equivalent to an average of 10 women in each London borough being subject to serious assault or rape each week
- For men the risks are lower (~100 men will be subject to serious assaults and rape per year)
- One in five women (20%) have experienced sexual assault or rape at some time in their lives since the age of 16
- 3.6% of men have experienced sexual assault or rape at some time in their lives since the age of 16

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# Key findings – vulnerability and support

- There are a range of other vulnerabilities increasing risk of assault, including ethnicity, learning disabilities, poor mental health, homelessness, immigration status and history of offending
- There has been a substantial increase in cases reported to the police (including historic cases) but this is still low in comparison to other serious offences.
- Support for survivors through the CJS process remains patchy across London due to limited resources.
- Attrition rates at each stage of the CJS are high

# Key findings – vulnerability and support

- Availability of appropriate well-being services such as mental health services to assist recovery and prevent re-victimisation are limited
- There are a wide range of specialist services delivered by the VCS which are well regarded by survivors but these are being overwhelmed by rising demand
- There is little co-ordination of services across London, limited information to support other professionals to make appropriate referrals and limited information available to the public
- There is no London-wide strategy to tackle the causes of sexual violence or to prevent sexual violence

# Identified gaps

- There is no evidence of a strategic approach at a London level to reduce the overall prevalence of sexual violence
- Prevention interventions do not focus on building resilience in most at risk communities or addressing the causes of increased vulnerability to sexual violence.
- There is uneven access to Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA) provision across the capital.
- There is limited public awareness of potential sources of support for those who have experienced sexual violence.
- Access to statutory services particularly health services was universally poor
- There are a wide range of well regarded specialist services delivered by the Voluntary and Community Sector but they are overwhelmed with demand.

# Public questions

## Question one

*“Where a woman has experienced sexual or domestic violence from an ex-partner, what can be done to support them better when they are faced with court hearings about Contact Orders for the ex-partner’s access to the children? Any contact granted is often manipulated by the perpetrator to pursue harassment and further traumatising of the victim, and the process itself is legally and practically challenging for women to engage with effectively.”*

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# Public questions

## Question two

*“What is MOPAC’s and the London Criminal Justice system strategy for addressing the needs of London’s 750,000 disabled women, for ensuring that the Criminal Justice System offers disabled women equal access to justice and to appropriate support.”*

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# Open discussion

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# **Part Two : Targeted prevention – Keeping children safe**

# Keeping children safe

- Alongside the Sexual Violence Needs Assessment, MOPAC, in partnership with NHSE, also commissioned a Child Sexual Exploitation Needs Assessment.
- The Child Sexual Exploitation needs assessment highlighted key vulnerabilities which can increase the risk of CSE.
- It highlighted that there are sharp differences to CSE approaches between boroughs with examples of innovative practice in some places but substantial gaps in service too.
- This point was also picked up in the recent HMIC Inspection into Child Protection which highlighted the need for more effective and consistent partnership working and information sharing to support vulnerable at risk young people.

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# HMIC Inspection into Child Protection

The inspection highlighted the following:

- The MPS response to children who go missing regularly needs to be improved. This includes an increased understanding of the links between CSE and missing;
- There is a need for a single chief officer who has overall responsibility and accountability for all Child Protection issues;
- Training and awareness of child protection issues needs improvement;
- There is an inconsistency around the scope of MASH and attendance by partners can be variable; and finally,
- MPS systems need to be fully integrated in order to allow for better data collection and identification of vulnerable young people.

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# MOPAC response

MOPAC have developed an action plan to work with the MPS in order to deliver on the key recommendations arising from this inspection.

These include:

- Scrapping the previous Mayor's crude crime reduction targets
- Ensuring that protection of vulnerable people, including children, is a critical element of the Police and Crime Plan, which will be out for consultation 1<sup>st</sup> December
- Establishing a new independent group of experts to support the oversight of the MPS response to the inspection;
- The publication of the two needs assessments and working with partners and Local Authority colleagues to ensure that the key findings from the two needs assessments are addressed and implemented; and finally,
- Ensuring ongoing oversight of this inspection via formal meeting with senior leaders in the MPS.

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# Open discussion

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# Summary

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