

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Mayor's Office
Kit Malthouse AM
Deputy Mayor for Policing
London West Central Constituency

Sarah / Susannah - FYI

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Date: YO/KM
Ref: 5 March 2010

Mr. James Cleverly, AM
Chair, Health and Public Services Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

Dear James,

I am pleased to inform you that the Mayor will be publishing his final violence against women and girls strategy and action plan, "The Way Forward: taking action to end violence against women and girls" on Monday 8 March 2010.

As of that date, The Way Forward strategy and action plan will be available online at:
www.london.gov.uk/thewayforward.

As promised, I would like to take the opportunity to provide a full response to the recommendations outlined in the London Assembly response to the draft strategy and in your letter dated 18 August 2009.

Recommendation 1: *For London to be a global and UK leader in the prevention of violence against women, the Mayor must ensure that preventative and community support measures are more fully developed as part of the 'action plan' to be released in autumn 2009. They must take into account the needs of London's diverse population and include a timetable for implementation.*

We believe that violence against women and girls can, and should, be prevented. Prevention is at the core of our strategy. The action plan contains a number of detailed actions (under objective one) aimed at raising awareness, challenging the acceptability and inevitability of violence against women and transforming the societal attitudes and beliefs that underpin these forms of violence. However, prevention is not something the Mayor can achieve alone. This is a major issue for society as a whole and education has a crucial role to play in challenging young people's ideas about violence and relationships and teaching them about equality and respect. Until a national approach is implemented, the desired impact of our activity may be hampered.

Recommendation 2: *We ask the Mayor to report back to the Assembly on progress in securing match funding for Rape Crisis Centres as part of the release of the 'action plan' in autumn 2009.*

The Mayor will also be making an announcement on the latest developments with Rape Crisis Centres on Monday 8 March. The Mayor will be working closely with London boroughs to ensure long-term sustainability.

Recommendation 6: *The Committee calls on the Mayor to ensure that the autumn 2009 'action plan' complements and provides additional value to the existing work taking place within the MPS aimed at improving its response in tackling violence against women.*

The MPS fully endorses and supports the Mayor's strategy and action plan and is committed to playing its role. Of all the parts of the statutory sector, the criminal justice system (including the MPS) has made the most progress in responding to the issue of violence against women, particularly domestic violence. This does not mean that we can be complacent. Through the MPA I will ensure that the MPS continues to improve its response to violence against women and will monitor the impact and effectiveness of the new rape command structure and the forthcoming trafficking and prostitution structure that is due to come into place on 1 April 2010.

Recommendation 7: *The Committee calls on the Mayor to make public the full performance measures that the success of The Way Forward will be monitored against. These objectives and measures of success should be part of the 'action plan' due to be released in autumn 2009.*

An illustrative template for a violence against women index has been included in the action plan which sets out a number of indicators which together could provide a holistic measure of progress to tackle the issues that need to be addressed. Further work will be undertaken by the GLA and nationally to improve the data available to measure progress on preventing and reducing violence against women and girls.

I trust that this letter covers all of the main issues raised in the Health and Public Services Committee's response to The Way Forward. I would be happy to respond to any further questions or to come back to a future meeting if this would be useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kit', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kit Malthouse, AM
Deputy Mayor for Policing