

## REQUEST FOR DMPC DECISION – PCD 345

**Title: Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2018-21**

### Executive Summary:

The Mayor made a commitment in his manifesto to tackle violence against women and girls and in the Police and Crime Plan (published March 2017) committed to refresh the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy.

The Mayor wants to make London the safest city in the world for women and girls, and that means every Londoner and every organisation playing their part to promote equality and to challenge sexist and misogynistic attitudes wherever they are encountered.

London is already one of the safest cities in the world for women, yet on average 11 women and girls are raped or sexually assaulted in each of the capital's 32 boroughs every single week, while domestic abuse accounts for a tenth of all crimes reported to the Metropolitan police.

The Mayor's new wide-ranging strategy follows the biggest in-depth consultation with survivors as well as Londoners, police and partners. It includes measures to tackle rape, sexual assault, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), trafficking, controlling behaviour, forced marriages, stalking, harassment, and misogyny - building on the recent international #MeToo and #TimesUp campaigns.

The new plan for a safer city for women and girls includes:

#### On prevention:

- o A wide-ranging programme to improve safety in public spaces at all times of day and night including a new Women's Night Safety Charter, partnership to tackle unwanted sexual behaviour on the transport network and a new campaign to tackle attitudes of everyday sexism and misogyny
- o Working with partners across London to gain accreditation to the UN Women's Safer Cities and Safe Public Spaces initiative
- o Work to encourage positive attitudes, behaviours and healthy relationships amongst children and young people with specialist advocates in schools and pupil referral units, Safer Schools Officers and a whole school prevention pilot in Croydon
- o Supporting a Good Work Standard to address the #MeToo phenomenon and ensure abuse is not tolerated in the workplace

#### Tackling perpetrators:

- o £4m for programmes to tackle stalking
  - o Working with police and criminal justice partners to ensure the most effective handling of dangerous individuals including over £3m to expand the rehabilitative Drive project which provides additional support to help reform the behaviour of perpetrators
  - o Calling on the Government to create a register for perpetrators of domestic abuse and violence, and for tougher sentences for image-based offenses such as 'upskirting' and 'revenge porn'
- Protection and support for victims

- o £200,000 to support London Councils Harmful Practices programme – training nurses, midwives and social workers to recognise abuses such as FGM and intervene
- o A complete review of adherence to the Victims' Code of Practice, a new online portal for victims of crime, and a study into rape cases from a victim's perspective
  - Significant investment in general and specialist services for victims including £13m for sexual violence services, £5m for Domestic Violence services, and over £9m for services in London's boroughs.

The Deputy Mayor is asked to approve the launch and publication of the VAWG strategy.

**Recommendation:**

The DMPC is requested:

- i. To have regard to and take into account the results from the pre-consultation survey
- iii. To have due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment and its evaluation
- v. To approve and issue the VAWG Strategy 2017-2021. (Appendix 5)

**Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime**

I confirm that I do not have any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in the proposed decision, and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Greater London Authority. Having considered the evidence in the document the above request has my approval.

**Signature**

*Sybil Linden*

**Date**

*08/03/18*

## **PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC**

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1 To tackle the extent and severity of harm caused to women and girls in London the Mayor committed to refreshing the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for London that will bring together police, partners, stakeholders and VCS organisation to preventing VAWG, tackle perpetrators and protect and support victims. This was a key commitment within the Police and Crime Plan (2017-21).
- 1.2 The Police and Crime Plan included 43 commitments on tackling VAWG and MOPAC has been consulting with partners, stakeholders and the public since the Mayor was elected.
- 1.3 Over the last 6 months MOPAC have been talking and consulting with partners, stakeholders and survivors – ahead of drafting this strategy to ensure it addresses the major concerns across the capital. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has led the consultation via individual meetings with key individuals, stakeholders and partners and the Victims Commissioner led the survivor consultation.

#### **1.4 The scale of Violence Against Women and Girls in London**

- ✓ Over 249,000 people were victims of domestic abuse in London in 2016. Of these, approximately 74,500 were classified as notifiable offences (offences against an identified victim, the circumstances of which meet the classification of a crime, and of which the Home Office should be notified to include in their crime statistics) – this means that approximately one in every ten crimes recorded by the Met is domestic abuse related.
- ✓ In the year to March 2017 there were over 17,700 sexual offences recorded across London (an increase of 9% on the preceding year), with over 6,000 of these being classified as rapes. However, it is widely recognised that these deeply personal, invasive offences are under-reported. Part of the challenge we face is supporting more victims of sexual offences to gain the confidence to come forward and report, so that the perpetrator can be brought to justice and so the victim can receive the specialist help they need to cope with and recover from their experiences.
- ✓ In the year to March 2017, London accounted for more than 10% of the 5,200 cases of stalking recorded in England and Wales. Nationally, recorded stalking offences have increased by over 27% compared to the preceding year. However, this is another area of VAWG that is considered largely hidden; with underreporting and low levels of charging believed to affect our understanding of the prevalence of this form of harassment and also how this intersects with other VAWG offences, such as domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- ✓ In the year to March 2017, there were over 360 victims of so called ‘revenge porn’ in London. These primarily were young women – with almost a third specifically between the ages of 19 and 24.
- ✓ The first annual report of the FGM Enhanced Dataset, April 2015 to March 2016, was published in July 2016 and showed that 52 per cent of the 5,702 nationally recorded instances of FGM were recorded in London.
- ✓ Our survivor consultation has told us that while 69% of victims reported to the police, 59% also reported their experience to a third-party agency such as a VAWG charity.

- 1.5 Having already had feedback from the wider public via Talk London and through the PCP Consultation, the VAWG engagement concentrated on convening delivery partners, stakeholders and also survivors. Our aim was to firstly convene partners and stakeholders to ensure that we are clear how the commitments within the PCP are delivered, and secondly to consult a wider group of people about specific areas of focus that needed more thought and consultation, and to ensure that delivery partners agreed their part in tackling VAWG. Consultation mechanisms included:
- ✓ Workshops – We held twelve workshops on the following areas Evidence and data sharing; Female Offenders; BAME; Perpetrators; Prevention; Enforcement; Support to Victims; Prostitution; Harmful Practices; Priority Boroughs; Survivors roundtable and a partner roundtable with stakeholders.
  - ✓ Survivor Consultation – We worked with the MOPAC Voluntary and Community Sector reference group and IMKAAN (a second tier VCS agency supporting BME women who have experienced VAWG) specifically to lead on survivor consultation. This was led by the Victims Commissioner for London; the work involved 15 focus groups and 19 one-to-one interviews held with 133 survivors of VAWG providing detailed feedback from survivors regarding their experience of services in relation to violence and abuse. In addition, we undertook an online survey giving views of survivors of the services they encountered throughout their journey. Results and themes from the consultation have been incorporated into the final strategy document and the full consultation report will be included as an appendix to the strategy. Survivors made recommendations around the following areas: SERVICES; INFORMATION; CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CIVIL COURT AND STATUTORY PARTNERS PROCESSES; PERPETRATORS; CULTURAL CHANGE
  - ✓ Interviews with the public – Face to face interviews with 400 individuals have taken place: 300 interviews with females and 100 interviews with males from the following boroughs: Brent, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark.
  - ✓ Participants in the consultation included: Advance Charity, Afruca Ashiana Network, Beyond the Streets, Clean Break, Commonweal Housing, Crown Prosecution Service, Domestic Violence Intervention Project, Drink Aware, End Violence Against Women Coalition, Forward UK, Galop, Haven Network, Hibiscus Initiatives, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, Home Office, Housing for Women, Imkaan, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation, Jewish Women's Aid, LB Barking & Dagenham, LB Bexley, LB Brent, LB Croydon, LB Hackney, LB Harrow, LB Havering, LB Islington, LB Kensington & Chelsea, LB Lambeth, LB Lewisham, LB Newham, LB Redbridge, LB Southwark, LB Waltham Forest, LB Westminster, London Community Rehabilitation Company, London Councils, London Probation, Metropolitan Police Service, Migdal Emunah, Ministry of Justice, National Health Service, Nia, Paladin Service, Pecan, Prison Reform Trust, Respect, Respond, Safe Lives, Safer London, Solace Womens Aid, Southall Black Sisters, St George's University of London, Standing Together, Stay Safe East, Suzy Lampugh Trust, The Survivor Trust, Transport for London, Victim Support, White Ribbon Campaign, Women and Girls Network, Women at the Well, Women in Prison, Working Chance
- 1.6 The strategy covers all forms of VAWG (Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE); Coercive control; Domestic abuse; Harmful Practices; Image-based sexual offending; Misogyny; Prostitution; Sexual harassment; Sexual violence and rape; Stalking; and Trafficking).
- 1.7 Success will be measured by the below performance framework.

## Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

### Active monitoring & reporting – looking for improvements within:

- More domestic abuse victims to come forward / reduction in repeat victimisation
- More victims of sexual violence to report / reduction in repeat victimisation
- Work with the CJS to reduce the rates of attrition in cases of violence against women and girls as they progress through the criminal justice process
- Encourage more victims of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), 'honour'- based violence and forced marriage to come forward and report

## 2 Issues for consideration

- 2.1 There are a number of policy considerations following from the data analysis and consultation which have informed the strategy.
- 2.2 Sexual harassment and street-based harassment have been key emerging themes from the VAWG strategy consultation, and many women and girls told us that they experience low-level harassment in London on a daily basis, to the point where they felt it was a normalised part of living in a city. MOPAC will work with the GLA and the MPS towards becoming part of the UN Women's initiative 'Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces'
- 2.3 Grass roots movements around the #metoo campaign has left a changing picture around survivor expectations and police resources relating to sexual harassment and this is an area that requires ongoing consideration
- 2.4 The VAWG strategy will address inequality by supporting all victims and addressing the specific challenges for those women and girls with protected characteristics accessing and receiving support.
- 2.5 The strategy is specifically focussed on Violence Against Women and Girls, and not men and boys. That is not say that men and boys do not experience these types of abuse and violence, and we recognise their specific needs both in the Police and Crime Plan and in the services we commission. However, it is clear that women and girls are disproportionately affected by these offences.

## 3 Financial Comments

- 3.1 Implementation of the strategy and requests for procurement decisions will be made in line with agreed budgets and the requirements of the MOPAC Scheme of Consent and Delegation.

## 4 Legal Comments

- 4.1 Decision form PCD 168: Issuing the Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021 approved the Police and Crime Plan including all of its commitments which included the refresh of Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. The legal comments in the aforementioned decision apply to this decision.
- 4.2 Under MOPAC's Scheme of Consent and Delegation (the "Scheme") the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has delegated authority for the approval of significant strategies and policies. Paragraph 4.3 of the Scheme requires DMPC approval of:-
  - The Police and Crime Plan for submission to the Mayor.
  - Other significant policies and strategies.
  - MOPAC's annual report.

## 5 Equality Comments

- 5.1 MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination,

advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The equality comments in the aforementioned decision PCD 168: Issuing the Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021 apply to this decision.

- 5.2 All providers who deliver or services under the auspices of the VAWG strategy will or already have been asked to provide details of their Equalities processes as part of their tender.
- 5.3 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for the VAWG strategy is also published alongside the strategy.

## **6 Background/supporting papers**

### **APPENDIX A - Key strategy commitments**

**Public access to information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

**Part 1 Deferral:**

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? YES

If yes, for what reason: Not to be published before the launch

Until what date: 9 March 2018

**Part 2 Confidentiality:** Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form – No

**ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

		Tick to confirm statement (✓)
<b>Head of Unit:</b> The Chief Executive Officer has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.		✓
<b>Legal Advice:</b> Legal advice is not required.		✓
<b>Financial Advice:</b> The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.		✓
<b>Equalities Advice:</b> The Acting Director of the Integrated Offender Management Programmes and Neighbourhoods has reviewed the Integrated Impact Assessment of the VAWG Strategy and has been consulted on this proposal.		✓

**OFFICER APPROVAL****Chief Executive Officer**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor of London.

Signature

R. Lawrence

Date

08/03/18

## Key strategy commitments

This strategy focusses on preventing violence against women and girls, tackling perpetrators, and protecting and supporting victims and survivors of VAWG and will provide targeted responses to address the key challenges which survivors, partners and stakeholders have expressed to us regarding VAWG. The strategy will drive forward a new and refreshed strategic focus on priority areas which will aim to provide demonstrable and long lasting impact for both survivors and perpetrators.

The overarching aim of our work to protect and support victims and to punish and rehabilitate offenders is to prevent harm from occurring and to prevent further harm once it has occurred. The VAWG strategy is committed to not just preventing VAWG and tackling perpetrators but to help change the attitudes and behaviours that have all too often come to normalise many forms of violence against women and girls.

### Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls

At school and college:

- MOPAC will work with partner agencies and communities to develop and deliver a campaign that not only raises awareness of VAWG but also robustly tackles unacceptable attitudes to women and girls. We will bring partners together as a subgroup of the London VAWG Board to take this forward.
- Safer London will continue to deliver its Empower service aimed at reducing sexual violence and child sexual exploitation across London through groups work, work in schools and Young People's Advocates (YPAs).
- MOPAC will lobby the education sector, supporting calls for a proactive approach which challenges the normalisation of views and behaviours that facilitate VAWG.
- MOPAC will fund and support the implementation of a whole school prevention pilot in four Croydon schools over three academic years. This is focused on gangs, serious youth violence and violence against women and girls within the context of healthy relationships; resilience and enabling young people to make positive choices.
- The MPS will ensure that Safer Schools Officers tackle VAWG within schools as a priority issue.
- MOPAC will convene local authorities and the MPS to drive forward work to ensure that tackling VAWG is treated as a priority within Pupil Referral Units
- MOPAC will look to the projects and programmes we commission to ensure that any agency working with young people is capable of supporting young men to be strong in their commitment to equality and healthy relationships, making this a part of the tendering process.

Safer Public Spaces:

- MOPAC will work with the GLA and the MPS towards achieving accreditation from the UN, endorsing London as a safe city, as part of the UN Women's initiative 'Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces'
- MOPAC will continue to support efforts to encourage greater reporting of any form of sexual harassment, to improve the MPS' intelligence picture of where these offences happen and enable a more targeted response
- MOPAC will join with partners including the MPS, local authorities and the business community in a Review Group to take forward the recommendations in the evaluation report for the Safeguarding in Public Spaces pilot project
- TfL, the MPS, the British Transport Police and the City of London Police will continue to work in partnership to tackle unwanted sexual behaviour on the transport system



- TfL and the MPS Road Traffic Policing Command will continue to work together to ensure taxis and private hire vehicles are as safe as possible

#### Reclaiming the night:

With the GLA Culture team, MOPAC will call on its partners to support the Charter below:

##### Reporting

- The GLA and MOPAC will continue to coordinate prominent, cross-departmental GLA campaigns across London to keep women safe at night that discourage harassment and encourage reporting.
- For all sectors to identify and encourage champions across the industry within businesses, local authorities and community groups that proactively promote women's safety at night and support women to report.

##### Response

- For the licensed premises industry to have appropriately trained staff, who are proactive and vigilant around women's safety at night. This includes a duty to capture information and report to the police where appropriate.
- For every woman to be and feel believed when coming forward and for referrals to the VCS or other relevant support agencies to always be made where appropriate.

##### Responsibility

- For London to promote campaigns that target and educate perpetrators to change behaviours, highlight examples of good practice and to encourage reporting, including bystander and third party.
- For the GLA and MOPAC to work with the industry champions to build an atmosphere of transparency and safety for women who work at night

##### Redesign

- To empower women with the correct safety information and clear guidance to confidently use all public spaces.
- Ensure that planning and the built environment factor in and support women's safety at night, recognising good practice and existing campaigns across London and broaden them to cover all public spaces.

#### Respect and safety at work:

- MOPAC will advise and support on the development and implementation of the Mayor's Good Work Standard
- MOPAC and the GLA will lead by example, setting clear standards of acceptable behaviour, encouraging a culture of respect and ensuring that all areas of City Hall and the wider GLA family have in place gold-standard processes for reporting abuse and harassment.
- MOPAC will work with the GLA to ensure that City Hall has a victim-centred approach that supports those that do come forward, embedding a pathway in Human Resource policies across the GLA family.

#### Within public institutions:

- MOPAC will continue to use its convening powers and networks to increase awareness and understanding of VAWG, and encourage learning from other sectors such as healthcare, where concepts of emotional intelligence have been successfully embedded into their ways of working to improve the experiences of service users.
- 
- MOPAC will await and evaluate learning and evidence from the Nottinghamshire pilot on using misogyny as a criterion for recording hate crime.

## Tackling Perpetrators

Understanding the risk of offending against women and girls:

- MOPAC will convene and facilitate discussions between key agencies through the London VAWG Coordinators forum and the London VAWG Board to establish the appropriate levels of risk identification training and specialist skills for front-line staff who potentially come into contact with victims of crime
- MOPAC and the Victims' Commissioner will work with Safe Lives, the MPS, the Community Rehabilitation Company, HM Probation Service and HM Courts Service to establish a Review Group to develop and implement an approach in which risk is considered at an earlier stage in a victim's journey through the justice process, working with disclosure schemes such as Clare's law to ensure the safety of potentially vulnerable people.
- With all key partner agencies, such as the MPS and local authorities, MOPAC will facilitate discussion on whether the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-based violence (DASH) risk assessment currently used by the police and specialist agencies, could be used more widely to help identify who is at risk. As part of this work we will look at existing risk assessment tools which seek to prevent perpetrating behaviour and likelihood of domestic and sexual abuse.

A more effective police response:

- The MPS will introduce enhanced training for officers on the first response to domestic incidents.
- MOPAC will scrutinise the work of the MPS and CPS in improving the quality of evidence provided to prosecutors.
- MOPAC will hold the MPS to account for delivering on the investment in key technologies such as body-worn video, digital forensic technology and core IT systems, and ensuring that they impact positively on VAWG cases.
- MPS to report on the impact of the BCU programme in relation to VAWG offences
- The MPS will use HR data and visits to investigation teams to scrutinise the workload of officers involved in VAWG cases to ensure they have the time and resource they need to deliver the right response.
- MOPAC, the MPS and the Probation Service will work together to analyse domestic and sexual offenders as a 'cohort of interest', so that we can build a better picture of who and where these offenders are.
- MOPAC will feed analysis on domestic and sexual violence offenders into an interactive data dashboard for police and partner agencies to use.
- The MPS will review practices regarding evidence gathering from technology.

A more intensive focus on the most dangerous individuals:

- The MPS will continue its Dauntless+ programme, which identifies, monitors and disrupts individuals who are often deliberately transient, target vulnerable individuals and pose an ongoing risk to others through their violent offending behaviour.
- The National Probation Service (NPS), Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and the MPS will work together to improve the flow of information between them to support cases and identify more strategic learning on how the police respond to early identification of high risk.
- MOPAC will convene a meeting with local authority and criminal justice service partners to establish the current use of risk assessments and encourage better sharing of knowledge around risk

assessments for individuals suspected of or being treated for spousal or family-related assault, helping better determine the degree to which an individual poses a threat to his/her spouse, children, family members and others, ultimately helping to prevent further offending.

- The MPS will review its practices around arrest by appointment, to provide assurance that it is used appropriately and with due regard to risk management and the needs of the victim.

Effective interventions with perpetrators of domestic abuse:

- MOPAC will go beyond the original Police and Crime Plan commitment to review the use of Criminal Behaviour Orders, Domestic Violence Prevention Orders and the MPS, CRC, HMPS and HMCTS, and extend the review to examine the use of all out of court disposals, including new measures surrounding Stalking Protection Orders as introduced by the recent Stalking Protection Bill.
- MOPAC will continue to support calls for the creation of a register system for domestic abuse and harassment perpetrators, pushing for it to be included in the forthcoming Domestic Violence Bill.
- With the MPS, CRC, HMPS, HMCTS, MOPAC will review what more can be done to improve compliance with license conditions.
- Embed the Drive Project within the work of the MPS, challenging perpetrators of domestic abuse to change their behaviour
- MOPAC will lobby the Sentencing Council to seek a change to current practice, where there are small, if any, consequences for non-attendance at behaviour-change programmes for perpetrators after release

Alcohol, drugs and offending:

- MOPAC will work with the CRC and Probation to understand whether existing drug, alcohol and mental health programmes adequately address an intersection between these issues and VAWG.

Tackling stalking and harassment:

- MOPAC will lobby the Government for changes in the law to enable the prosecution of perpetrators of 'upskirting' and for tougher sentences for those convicted of such offences.
- A partnership involving MOPAC, the MPS, the NHS and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust will establish a new Stalking Threat Assessment Centre, based within the MPS, to assess the risk of offending and put appropriate treatment and management plans in place to address stalking behaviour.
- MOPAC and the MPS will continue to assess and address the emerging issues around the use of livestreaming to harass women and girls, such as the filming and broadcasting of women visiting abortion clinics.
- MOPAC and the MPS will continue to discuss and address any future risks to women and girls arising from technological advances.

A stronger response to harmful practices:

- MOPAC will commit £200k from its Victims Fund to support the London Councils Harmful Practices programme.

Tackling the criminals behind modern slavery and people trafficking:

- MOPAC will continue to lead and develop the newly-established London Modern Slavery Partnership Board, sharing intelligence and best practice, pooling resources and developing new approaches to tackle the criminals behind these crimes.

## Protecting and Supporting Victims of VAWG

### Victims and the Criminal Justice Service:

- The Victims' Commissioner for London will lead and complete a review of adherence to the Victims' Code of Practice throughout London. Where it is found that the Code is not being fully adhered to, the Victims' Commissioner will work with partners to address these shortcomings, ensuring that victims can have confidence in a standard level of quality service from all parts of the justice process.
- MOPAC, the Victims' Commissioner, the MPS and CJS will explore innovative approaches to victims giving evidence, including pre-recorded evidence.
- MOPAC and the Victims' Commissioner will continue to push the MPS to ensure that all victims can make a Victim Personal Statement and understand their rights regarding how this can be presented in courts.
- Roll out a pilot for Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 with HMCTS and other justice partners, which allows vulnerable and intimidated witnesses such as children to video record their cross-examination before a trial, rather than have to face reliving their trauma in the courtroom.

### Integrated services for victims of VAWG:

- MOPAC and the MPS will work together to integrate MOPAC-commissioned Victim Support services with the MPS-managed Witness Care Unit, as part of a three-year change programme that will transform the currently siloed and disparate range of victim and witness services into an integrated service that meets the diverse and individual needs of all victims in London

### Helping victims find the support they need:

- MOPAC will fund and work with partners to develop and launch an online portal for victims of crime – providing a single point for victims to find out about the services available to them in London and enabling them to get in touch.

### Strengthening the law around domestic abuse:

- MOPAC and the Victims' Commissioner will provide a comprehensive response to the consultation on the Government's Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill, seeking the views of all organisations involved in tackling VAWG in London and ensuring that the voices of survivors are heard.

### Improving our understanding of rape cases:

- The Victims' Commissioner, the MPS and the CPS will conduct a 'deep-dive' study into rape cases in London, to improve our understanding of the victim's experience, identify common points of attrition, and guide future service provision in the capital.

### Victims and family courts:

- MOPAC and the Victims' Commissioner will call on the Government to ensure that the 'presumption of parental involvement' should always consider the significant implications of contact when one parent is at high risk of offending, ensuring that the presumption does not put children in harm's way.
- MOPAC and the Victims' Commissioner will call on the Government to enshrine in law measures that require civil courts – such as family courts – to recognise and have regard to criminal proceedings and other safety-based restrictions.

- The MPS and Victim Support will produce and analyse victim benchmarking data on victim satisfaction, to enable a better understanding of the need for training around safeguarding issues and coercive control.
- MOPAC, with the Pan-London Domestic Violence Service, will develop and implement an approach to enable victims to access IDVA support in criminal, civil and family courts.

#### Victims and immigration status:

- The Victims' Commissioner will convene all the agencies and groups with an interest in this issue, to share information and research and to make joint recommendations for safe reporting routes for these highly vulnerable women and girls.

#### Specialist victim support services:

- MOPAC and the Victims' Commissioner will, in partnership with the London VAWG Board, examine the case for a London-wide accreditation or quality standard for VAWG services, to build confidence and provide a means of recourse for service users dissatisfied with their experience.
- MOPAC will use the learning from the Pan-London Domestic Violence Service to inform future development of the service.
- MOPAC will sustain funding for the three London Sexual Assault Referral Centres (also known as the Havens), which treat female and male victims of sexual assault, and the four London Rape Crisis Centres.
- MOPAC will commission a new single specialist victim and witness service that is designed with and for London's children and young people, handling all crime types including VAWG.
- MOPAC will fund youth workers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors to support victims of knife crime, gang crime, domestic abuse and sexual exploitation in London's four major trauma centres to prevent repeat victimisation. We will take this work further and extend the programme to key A&E departments in boroughs that have high levels of knife crime.
- MOPAC and the Victims' Commissioner will engage with the Home Office to discuss how support can be improved for victims of FGM.
- MOPAC and the Victims' Commissioner will engage with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to discuss whether and how better support could be offered to women and girls subjected to FGM who live in London, but are victimised abroad.
- A review group will be convened by the London VAWG Board to review and ensure that MARACs function effectively. This includes ensuring that the Pan London DV service fully supports the effective running of local MARACs and reviewing the capacity of MARACs to exercise their responsibilities regarding tackling perpetrators.
- MOPAC will work together with HMCTS and the Pan-London Domestic Violence Service to enable victims to access IDVA support in both criminal and family courts.
- MOPAC will invite bids for new VAWG services made through the new co-commissioning element of the London Crime Prevention Fund and support implementation of the successful applications.
- In partnership with NHS England and the MPS, MOPAC will open London's first Child House – providing investigative, medical and emotional support in one place to young victims of sexual violence.
- MOPAC will review its commissioned support services to ensure they are equipped to meet the needs of victims of online offences, and consult with partners on whether lobbying is required to strengthen the laws around this kind of offending. This will include raising the profile of support services for victims of online crime, so that victims of crime are aware of the help available to them.
- We will lobby the Government to create an online standard for internet companies, introducing an ombudsman to invigilate the online space.

#### Victims and the Health Service:

- MOPAC will meet with the NHS and conduct a feasibility study into expanding the NHS IRIS Model to encompass wider forms of VAWG beyond domestic abuse.
- MOPAC will meet with Directors of Public Health to explore VAWG as a priority issue. Specifically enabling better access to mental health services for those currently trying to access support.

#### Alcohol, drugs and victimisation:

- MOPAC will ensure that dispelling myths regarding alcohol/drug abuse and domestic violence feature as part of our wider approach to challenging in harmful attitudes toward women through the Pan London VAWG campaign and associated VAWG Board subgroup.

#### Housing and places of safety:

- The Pan-London Housing Reciprocal will continue to look to raise awareness of its services and bring in additional Housing Associations.
- MOPAC will conduct a review into the lack of connection between child safeguarding and domestic abuse approaches in London. This review will focus on better communication and links between CSE / MASH practitioners and domestic abuse / MARAC stakeholders to increase consistency of approach and appropriate safeguarding which also recognises the nature of domestic abuse and VAWG.
- MOPAC and GLA Housing will jointly explore options for pan-London commissioning of refuges and other safe accommodation, particularly for those who have no recourse to public funds.

#### Prostitution:

- MOPAC will engage with the London Housing and Domestic Abuse Strategy Group to jointly explore the relationship between domestic abuse, prostitution and homelessness to seek solutions to minimise these risks to women.
- MOPAC will work with the London VAWG Board and London Heads of Community Safety to put into place a strategic response across London to encourage women to leave prostitution.
- MOPAC's Directorate of Audit, Risk and Assurance will conduct and complete an audit of the MPS response to prostitution.
- The MPS, the MPS Sex Workers Advisory Group and MOPAC to work together on a pan-London approach to reducing on-street prostitution, emphasising the use of a problem-solving approach.

#### Female offenders:

- MOPAC and the London CRC will continue to fund and develop the Female Offender Service, building on the work of the Minerva project which works with women either leaving custody or serving their sentence in the community. We will enhance services in ten boroughs, including specialist care in the areas of domestic and sexual abuse.
- MOPAC will Ensure that its commissioned services and partner services are able to reach victims and survivors that are female offenders, specifically focusing on their intersecting vulnerabilities.