

Subject: Mayor's Response on Violence Against Women and Girls

Report to:	Police and Crime Committee
Report of:	Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat
Date:	29 September 2022
Public Access:	This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

1.1 This report outlines the response received to a Police and Crime Committee report.

2. Recommendation

2.1 **That the Committee notes the response from the Mayor to the Committee's report, *Violence Against Women and Girls*, as attached at Appendix 1.**

3. Background

3.1 The Police and Crime Committee used its meeting on 3 November 2021 to discuss Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) with invited guests. Following that meeting, the Committee prepared a report making the following recommendations to the Mayor of London:

- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) must work with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to prioritise action to improve the way VAWG data is gathered, recorded and analysed, including by race and other protected characteristics. MOPAC must also ensure it has robust performance-monitoring arrangements in place to hold the MPS to account on this.
- MOPAC and the MPS should carry out a dip sample of domestic abuse incidents to ascertain how many incidents result in multiple arrests, and to determine how widespread the issue of counter-allegations may be.
- MOPAC must commission specific research to examine the barriers that prevent victims from reporting VAWG offences, to better understand the scale of underreporting in London and the action that can be taken to encourage more women and girls to come forward.

- The MPS must listen to and learn from the conversation now taking place on VAWG. It must actively seek and respond to feedback from partners and communities on its VAWG action plan, particularly Black and minority ethnic women and organisations, to ensure it implements what London's women and girls want to see from their police.
- The Mayor must set clear and measurable VAWG targets in both his Police and Crime Plan and renewed VAWG strategy, and detail the resources needed to ensure he is able to deliver on his VAWG commitments.
- MOPAC must demonstrate, by September 2022, that it has robust performance monitoring in place to hold the Met to account on its work to increase trust and confidence.
- MOPAC must put in place, by September 2022, a forum to ensure regular engagement with organisations working with VAWG victims in order to hold the Mayor to account on his VAWG commitments.
- The Mayor must commit funding to ensure that specialist support services are available and accessible for every woman and girl in London that needs them, and end the postcode-lottery access to specialist services.
- The Mayor must demonstrate how he is working with the Government, and using his commissioning powers, to ensure long-term funding to provide specialist services with the certainty they need to provide support to victims.
- The Mayor must work with the specialist VAWG sector and use his commissioning powers to ensure smaller 'by and for' services are able to access funding, and are supported through the procurement process.
- The Mayor's forthcoming VAWG strategy must strengthen MOPAC's commitment to provide wraparound support for victims of VAWG with no recourse to public funds. This should include both immigration and intensive resettlement support.
- The Mayor's refreshed VAWG strategy must include an emphasis on services for children affected by sexual violence and domestic abuse.
- The Mayor must work with specialist VAWG partners to determine what more is needed to increase and improve the provision of programmes for VAWG perpetrators in the capital. This work must take account of cultural and age-related need, and identify the funding required to deliver a stable long-term programme of support to perpetrators and their victims.
- The Mayor must use his influence, and work with partners, to lobby for investment in education resources and training for schools to provide programmes that promote healthy relationships, and support children and young people affected by VAWG, including early intervention.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The Mayor responded to the recommendations on VAWG on 18 August 2022. The letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to note the response received.

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 to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Letter from the Mayor, dated 18 August 2022

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers:

None.

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