

# Note of Meeting

## Reducing Reoffending Board

30 May 2023, 10:30-12:30

MS Teams

Chair: Director of Commissioning & Partnerships (MOPAC)

### 1. Welcome, apologies and actions from previous meetings

**Attendees:**

MOPAC

LPG

NHS

LB Barnet

RISE

LB Camden

LB Haringey

LB Lambeth

Drive

Clinks

MPS

HMCCS

OHID

Public Health

London Probation

### 2. Continuity of care Update

OHID provided a recap on the strategic context with slides. The period after release from prison is hugely challenging. It was flagged up in the Dame Carol Black Review as a priority and its center in the government's drug strategy. The evidence itself shows that people getting into substance misuse treatment will substantially reduce levels of offending hence why this was emphasised by the Home Office Department of Health with an Investment of £80 million in drug treatment services to give more support to offenders with drug and alcohol addictions.

MOPAC noted there has been significant work undertaken by partners in the last few months to improve continuity of care in London, including a Roundtable in November which a number of those present will have attended. This led up to a conference which was held yesterday in City Hall.

## **3. VAWG Perpetrators**

### **- Introduction to VAWG Strategy commitments**

*MOPAC* spoke on the VAWG strategy which was published in 2022 setting out a path for prevention and strengthening partnership work to address VAWG.

The Strategy sets out four key priority areas for action:

- Preventing and reducing VAWG
- Supporting all victims and survivors
- Holding perpetrators to account
- Building trust and confidence

There are 19 commitments within the strategy relate specifically to our work with perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Broadly speaking these commitments fall into several categories:

- Sufficiency of offending behaviour interventions
- Collaboration and partnership working
- The need for specialist support services and spaces that meet the needs of London's diverse communities
- Building trust and confidence in the Criminal Justice System
- Enhancing the knowledge and evidence base for effective management

### **- MOPAC Work already taking place with VAWG Perpetrators**

*MOPAC* are delivering commitments through a combination of work that is taking place within the CJS team and VAWG team, of which the oversight boards cover this.

Historically, there's been two key areas of activity: Multi-Agency Stalking Intervention Program (MASIP) and the Drive Program funded through the Home office transformation projects across the country.

In addition to this, through the London crime prevention fund *MOPAC* have funded boroughs but relatively small budgets. In 2021, DA home office perpetrator fund commenced which has been running year by year, the significant portion has gone to boroughs.

What is happening now?

- Drive programme – targeting high harm, high volume perps and we are moving to a pan London model
- Supporting boroughs to deliver interventions – perp and victim support programmes. 2 of which, covering 17 boroughs, are funded for two years through the latest Home Office DA fund.
- Stalking – Supporting the delivery of Staling Threat Assessment Centre, including funding victim advocacy and the coordinating for the programme. We are also working to commission stalking awareness training
- Victim advocacy to meet the need and demand
- Early intervention of perp focusing on better outcomes for survivors and children – this includes funding Restart which is in 5 London boroughs
- SAFE and TOGETHER which has been piloted through Home office funding in 6 boroughs
- GPS pilot – has been extended to DA perps with just over 500 tagged
- Exploring OoCD – interventions such as CARA

- **Partner work already taking place with VAWG Perpetrators**

London Probation

Provided the board with information on two domestic abuse interventions. One of these interventions is an accredited programme called "Building Better Relationships." The second intervention is known as "Positive Pathway Plus," which is a structured intervention aimed at addressing domestic abuse issues.

In terms of addressing existing gaps, there are currently two non-statutory perpetrator programmes being implemented in Lambeth and Greenwich, with the involvement of probation services. It would be beneficial for everyone involved to have a clear understanding of the progress and developments within these programmes. Additionally, there is a specific requirement within the accredited programme, "Building Better Relationships," for domestic abuse safety officers to establish contact with victims. However, obtaining the necessary contact details for victims has proven challenging, prompting an exploration of the possibility of obtaining this information through MARAC.

MARACs operate differently in each borough. Efforts have been made to establish a unified approach by London Probation in handling referrals, with the respective MARAC SPOC representing each borough at the meetings. Given the variation in referral rates across different boroughs, collaborative work with DRIVE is required to establish limits on the number of individuals they can support across all boroughs. Furthermore, the exact referral criteria for a Pan London approach are currently being addressed and resolved.

Regarding information sharing for MAPPA, the domestic abuse and stalking chapter of the MAPPA guidance was updated last year and focused on category 3 referrals.

Category 1 -sex offenders

Category 2 - violent offenders

Category 3 – other (offenders who don't meet the criteria from their actual index offences)

Category 3 mainly encompasses of domestic abuse offences that fail to meet the statutory criteria for categories 1 or 2. To enhance information sharing and effectively manage the offender's risk, efforts have been made to expand the scope of category 3 referrals.

The HDC policy framework will be updated from the 6th of June to include a provision that individuals who have been convicted of domestic abuse offences will no longer be placed on the presumed suitable list. Instead, they will be categorized under the presumed unsuitable list for HDC.

In addition, information was provided on the victim contact scheme and the victim notification scheme. The victim contact scheme aims to provide support to approximately 5,500 victims of serious sexual and violent offenses. However, the exact volume of victims related to domestic abuse remains difficult to ascertain. Furthermore, the victim notification scheme, which was initiated on March 1st, ensures that victims of stalking and harassment receive ongoing contact and support, regardless of the length of the prison sentence imposed on the offender.

## MPS

Provided an update on a new pilot starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> July on VAWG most harmful offenders in London. The pilot is called VAWG 100 but is up for review. Interventions are being explored for this pilot.

Across the 32 boroughs, there's 12 Basic Command Units (BCUs). As part of the public protection uplift initiative, a new Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) has been assigned to each of these BCUs. The role of these DCIs is to focus on proactive measures and tasking, aiming to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public protection efforts. Cases will be tasked to the DCIs, they will talk about the cases in the MARACs.

Two-tier framework is an approach to cautioning. Previously conditional caution might have been an appropriate course of action for an offender. This framework ensures that the conditions that are placed on those cautions are rehabilitative and/or restrictive. These can be placed between 16-20 weeks, with monitoring by the police.

MPS, emphasised the introduction of the Unwanted Prison Contact Service Portal. This transformative function serves as a link between prison units and prisons, specifically designed to prevent contact from prisoners towards victims of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The implementation of this portal aims to significantly enhance safety measures and provide a valuable resource for VAWG victims.

## London Prisons Group

Stated there's a limited amount of work taking place in prisons to address this, or any specific interventions running in London. Any prevention would take place via harassment and restraining orders to prevent any contact with victims.

Resettlement panels are in place for accommodation support, and this could help prevention. All prison leavers are discussed 16 weeks prior to release. Education could be considered around relationships, boundaries etc.

OoCD will help reduce people coming to prison who don't need to be and could be managed more effectively in the community. Often prisons are not the right place for some people who may develop concerning behavior in this environment.

## - **Home Office DA Perpetrator Fund Bid Outcomes**

MOPAC spoke about the recent outcome announcement of the Home Office DA Perpetrator Fund, has extended invitations to the three successful bids in London to present their initiatives.

### Domestic Violence, Recovery, and Integrated Victim Engagement (Drive)

Drive was set up from 2015 and formed by three organisations – Respect, Safelives, Social Finance. Drive is an intervention for high risk, high harm perpetrators of domestic abuse. The cohort are often individuals who have multiple complex needs or multiple disadvantages.

The Drive Project is set to be implemented across London in the next 18 months, with a pan-London rollout plan. The implementation process will follow a borough-by-borough approach, ensuring a systematic and comprehensive rollout of the Drive Project throughout London.

### Culturally integrated family approach to domestic abuse (CIFA)

Brent and Barnet council have commissioned the CIFA pilot in September 2021 to overcome language barriers and provide 1-2-1 abuse perpetrators programmes. The programme is expanding to deliver an intersectional family and community approach to tackling DA in 10 London borough.

### Prevent and change (PAC)

PAC is a case management programme which includes multi agency panel approach and interventions to perpetrators. First pilot ran from 2018 to 2020 in Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark. This was evaluated by London Metropolitan university; the learning is now being put into practice.

## - **Board discussion on gaps in provision and challenges**

*Clinks* highlighted the views of the third sector. Challenges and concerns that were raised in the provider forum held were as follows:

- There are concerns that the focus on individual or recent incidents may overlook patterns of behaviour and offenses. This approach could potentially result in the inadequate addressing of serious issues, such as repeated abusive behaviour.
- Resources are stretched which makes it difficult to monitor perpetrators e.g. when perpetrators have breached injunctions/ bail conditions the police response was either too slow or lacking, which reduced the trust in the system

## Interventions:

- The importance of Community focused awareness and education was highlighted several times. Particularly programmes that take into account culture and languages. This would be particularly important within some of London's communities, where individuals may or may not recognise what constitutes an offence, especially within families, and it was mentioned how more funding for these types of education opportunities would be welcomed.

Concerns were raised on the two-tier framework model potentially normalising and minimalizing violence against women and girls with perpetrators maybe not recognising the seriousness of their actions leading to further offences and victims.

MOPAC requested the board to reflect on the following discussion points:

1. MOPAC asked the board where are the gaps in perpetrator management intervention?

MOPAC expressed that prisons and through-the-gate interventions are missing. Emphasising the need to consider individuals with short sentences as well as the significant number of men on remand in London.

DRIVE announced that a pilot program is currently underway at Swansea prison in South Wales. The program aims to implement a drive-in prison model, specifically designed for individuals serving short-term sentences. Additionally, it focuses on supporting men transitioning through the gate and into the community. Although in its early stages, the program has already received ten referrals, all of which have shown 100% engagement.

London Probation highlighted an absence of a directory of services.

2. MOPAC asked the board What more can social care, housing and education do to deliver prevention, diversion, disruption and/or enforcement tactics? How can RRB partners bring these partners into this space more to address gaps?

LB Haringey raised concerns about the lack of coordination in the current activities and services, emphasising the need for a unified referral system. Observing a scattered approach both within London and nationally, resulting in a failure to hold perpetrators accountable and leading to victims losing trust and confidence in the system. Furthermore, noted that victims often experience revictimisation due to capacity issues, making it challenging to provide an adequate response. This could sit with the Community Safety Partnership Board as the governing body or across a couple of boards in the local councils. We need a consistent programme of interventions and pathways

## 4. AOB and Close

The next meeting will be on Thursday 31 August 2023.