

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Board Minutes – 5 June 2023

Attendees:

Diana Luchford – MOPAC - Co-Chair
Andrea Simon – EAW – Co-Chair
Andrew Wadey - MPS
Alison Aedy - HMCTS
Bethany Langan – Gate one
Caroline Dart - VRU
Chloe Collins - NHS
Claire Waxman - Victims Commissioner for London
Connie Stygall - MOPAC
Diane Egan - London Heads of Community Safety
Donna Love – NHS
Helen Millichap – MPS
Jain Lemom - MOPAC
Jonny Miller – Gate One
Katie Nash – HMPPS
Kevin Southworth - MPS
Lisa Ramsarran – CPS
Louise Capel-Cure - MOPAC
Michael Taylor – MOPAC
Nour Gazarin - WRC
Paul Dawson - MOPAC
Rob Bradshaw – Gate One
Siwan Hayward – TfL
Viv Hayes - WRC

Apologies:

Joanne Towens - HMCTS

1: Welcome and minutes and actions from previous meeting

The board was welcomed to the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. All actions have been completed or are in progress.

2: MPS Updates

The Board was advised that the MPS is refreshing the 13 commitments in the MPS VAWG Action Plan. Progress will be regularly reviewed and published. There will be cross-cutting metrics with the Turnaround Plan, Public Protection Mandate and work to strengthen neighbourhood policing to ensure that there is a real impact to the public. The MPS is reviewing all cases under Operation Onyx to identify any cases to close or reopen. The delivery of Operation Soteria is an ongoing focus for the MPS and RASSO detection rates are improving within the MPS.

3: London Probation - McSweeney Case

The Board was advised that in January 2023, HM Inspectorate of Probation published an independent review of the case. This included ten recommendations; nine for national probation services and one specifically for London to develop a London wide initiative on neurodiversity and invest in trauma informed training for

staff. Probation is co-commissioning this service with MOPAC; the tender is pending approval and delivery is expected to begin from September. There is ongoing work in Probation to implement the other recommendations, including reviewing and refreshing guidance, improving data sharing, and improving risk assessment processes.

4: MOPAC Commissioned Sexual Violence Reform Overview

The Board was advised that this work is a commitment in the Mayor's VAWG Strategy. MOPAC has commissioned Gate One to work with stakeholders to review the commissioned RASSO services to explore how a new service delivery model can be designed and delivered. The Board was provided with an overview of context and approach to delivering this work.

5: VRU – Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA), Capacity Building

The Board was advised that, following comprehensive research into CAPVA, the VRU published a Needs Assessment in March 2022. The research found that there is an absence of CAPVA policy guidance, legal definition, and processes for agencies to record it. In January 2023 the VRU held a roundtable with partners to consider the implementation of the report recommendations. Pending a final decision on the bidding process, the VRU is appointing two local authority programmes to improve their response to CAPVA. The VRU will commission further research to develop national guidance on CAPVA and will hold a Strategic Working Group to support this.

6: Data Analysis: trust and confidence

The Board was provided with an overview of Pan-London data on trust and confidence and perceptions of key VAWG issues using data from the Public Attitude Survey (PAS). There are national surveys about confidence in police services in England and Wales; these show that the MPS has similar levels as other police services.

7: VAWG Board Outcomes: trust and confidence in the criminal justice system

CPS - The CPS and MPS have a Joint Improvement Plan to review performance on DA and RASSO cases, including increasing referral rates from the MPS to the CPS and cases referred for pre-charge decisions. The recent 18 months have seen an increased number of cases received and charged; historic cases are also being reviewed and progressed. In the recent quarter the London performance of positive trial outcomes has improved as have detection rates for DA cases.

MPS – There will be training for officers to increase awareness of Section 28. To increase local public confidence, public communications will highlight the recently improving outcomes, including positive testimonials from victims.

London Probation - The risk management for offenders after release includes assessing risks to any partners and children and safeguarding checks on any electronic tagging. Around 25% of probation cases are for DV perpetrators; Probation works with partners on MAPPAs, the DRIVE Programme and Stalking

Threat Assessment Centres. An intelligence sharing MOU with the MPS is being developed to enable Probation staff to have direct access to MPS data systems.

8: Any Other Business

The MOPAC VAWG Team circulated a report providing an update on MOPAC programmes.

The Board was advised of the London Policing Board, the VAWG Prevention Plan and the second phase of the 'Have A Word Campaign' which will continue to challenge misogynistic attitudes.