

**Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Board
Minutes – 4 December 2023****Attendees:**

Andrea Simon – EAW – Co-Chair
Diana Luchford – MOPAC – Co-Chair
Aisha Graham-Sharif – MOPAC
Azara-Jane Higgins – Ernst and Young
Bethany Langan – Gate One
Caroline Dart – VRU
Casey Mackins – WRC
Chloe Collins – NHS
Connie Stygall – MOPAC
Donna Love – NHS
Helen Millichap – MPS
Jain Lemom – MOPAC
Jane Garvan – MPS
Jonny Miller – Gate One
Karina Wane-Henry – VRU
Katie Nash – HMPPS
Katy Mutemi – Respect
Nickiesha Barnett – VRU
Lisa Le Masson – MOPAC
Lisa Ramsarran – CPS
Lucy Hadley – Women’s Aid
Lucy Hayton – MOPAC
Michael Taylor – MOPAC
Nicola Franklin – MPS
Nita Bull – NHS
Rob Bradshaw – Gate One
Rhona Wilkinson – MOPAC
Samantha Cunningham – Crest Advisory
Sarbjit Granger – AWRC

Apologies:

Diane Egan – London Heads of Community Safety
James Bottomley – MOPAC
Joanne Towens – HMCTS
Kevin Southworth – MPS
Mandy McGregor – TfL
Siwan Hayward – TfL
Viv Hayes – WRC
Yolande Burgess – London Councils

1: Welcome and minutes and actions from previous meeting (04/12/23)

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 an updated version of the MPS VAWG Action Plan will be launched shortly; following consultation feedback, the original 10 commitments have been enhanced. An activity tracker will monitor progress on the commitments and there will be ongoing

engagement with statutory and VCS stakeholders as work is delivered. To support black and minoritized victims with additional intersectionality needs, the MPS will be co-creating a plan with external partners, including the VCS. The MPS is liaising with the VCS Expert Reference Group to discuss this development. Predatory Offender Units (POUs) proactively target perpetrators and high-risk offenders. The MPS has placed more staff resources from central units to local BCUs, to allocate staff where the need is greatest, including POUs.

3: VRU – VAWG Programmes

The Board was provided with an overview of the work programmes of the VRU Women and Girls Team; this includes the development of the VRU Girls and Young Women Plan, including the stakeholder engagement sessions which supported the development of the Plan.

4: Transforming Support for victims of Sexual Violence in London

MOPAC Commissioned Sexual Violence Redesign

The Board was advised that the engagement period has concluded, and recommendations have been developed. An overview of the recommendations was provided, grouped on themes of equitable access, needs-led service provision, and enablers. The long-term transition plan will be conducted over three phases up to April 2025.

NHS - London Sexual Assault and Abuse Enhanced Mental Health Pathfinder

The Board was provided with an overview of the Pathfinder and work undertaken to develop the optimal pathway of support. There will be ongoing engagement with communities throughout the programme, and it is proposed to establish a Provider Alliance of mental health service providers, to coordinate this service transformation.

5: VAWG Board Outcomes Framework: Prevention

City Hall – The Board was advised that the Mayor recognises that prevention and tackling perpetrators is an important aspect of tackling VAWG in London. The Board was provided with an overview of several City Hall initiatives.

CPS – The Board was provided with an overview of conviction volumes of RASSO crimes, for London North and London South. The CPS does not measure performance solely based on conviction data, but also on police referral rates, numbers of cases being brought to trial, and how cases progress through court.

MPS – The Board was advised that the MPS is utilising the wide range of available data to identify hot-spots and inform action to increase public safety. This includes data from local MPS walk-and-talk sessions and local community engagement and is also exploring how to collate data from women's safety Apps.

NHS – The Board was advised that NHS England and MOPAC have commissioned Sexual Assault Referral Centres. For the London Stalking Support Service, the NHS supports perpetrators with mental health concerns, to reduce future reoffending. The NHS has commissioned perpetrator training through Integrated Care Boards (ICB).

6: Any Other Business

VAWG Prevention Principles

The Board was advised that MOPAC has commissioned Ernst & Young and Crest Advisory to develop VAWG Prevention Principles, which will be co-designed with stakeholders. They will be

working with statutory and VCS partners to schedule stakeholder engagement, including with victim groups, which will take place from January – February. The Principles will be published in early March 2024 before the pre-election period.