

Joanne McCartney AM

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Dear Joanne

Thank you very much for sending me the Police and Crime Committee's response for my violence against women and girls (VAWG) consultation. Further to my letter of 27 August, my full response is below.

Tackling VAWG remains one of my top priorities for London and, as you say, my aspiration is nothing less than the eradication of all forms of violence against women and girls.

I am pleased to inform you that we have received a very positive response to the consultation from the public and key partners and that the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) also commissioned a consultation with survivors of VAWG to ensure that their voices inform the development of my second strategy.

Analysis of consultation responses is still underway and the recommendations of the Committee have been noted and will be considered by MOPAC as they develop the final Strategy which will be published before the end of this year. As requested, please see below my response to each of your recommendations.

- **Recommendation 1**

To inform the Strategy, MOPAC are mapping existing domestic violence service provision to ensure a clear understanding of the current landscape, levels of demand and unmet need to inform future commissioning and service developments. I am very keen for MOPAC to develop a partnership approach to the funding of VAWG services, as this is key to ensuring the future sustainability of specialist services in London. This will be reflected in the forthcoming Strategy.

- **Recommendation 2**

I am determined to ensure that there is a more consistent level of Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) provision across London and this will be addressed through the forthcoming Strategy. IDVA provision is for the most part commissioned locally through a combination of government grant funding and local authority funding. As part of my second VAWG Strategy, MOPAC are seeking to understand the levels of demand for these services and other forms of domestic violence service provision. We will also be guided by what survivors of VAWG tell us about the types of services they value most and what the current gaps in provision are.

MAYOR OF LONDON

- **Recommendation 3**

I have been informed that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is already rolling out training on rape and sexual violence to frontline officers which has been designed by the new Sexual Offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse Command (SC02/5). This training aims to improve victim care through improved referral pathways and a better understanding of the impact of rape on victims. The training will be rolled out to the remaining 16 boroughs next year.

- **Recommendation 4**

I am determined to ensure that gang-associated young women and girls are identified and offered appropriate support and routes out. MOPAC is currently developing a girls and gangs strategic framework document to guide staff in local authorities in tackling these issues locally.

- **Recommendation 5**

- a) To clarify, I am not suggesting that support for women involved in prostitution should be dependent on a willingness to exit as suggested in your paper. I want to ensure that women involved in prostitution in London are given appropriate support and have the confidence to report crimes against them. However, I also want them provided with greater opportunities to exit through the provision of specialist services that address their multiple, complex needs. Evidently this also involves harm-minimisation work to enhance women's safety and to facilitate the reporting of crimes. I am pleased to say that the consultation has highlighted that there is support for my approach in London both from stakeholders and survivors of VAWG.
- b) As part of my second VAWG Strategy, the MPS will be developing a common understanding and protocol for responding to prostitution in London.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all members of the Police and Crime Committee for taking the time to submit a response to my VAWG consultation.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London