

Minutes

Violence Against Women and Girls Panel

Thursday 16 July 2015, 10.00-12.00, City Hall

1. Attendees and apologies for absence

- **Co-chair** Stephen Greenhalgh (SteG), Deputy Mayor Policing and Crime (DMPC)
- **Co-chair** Joan Smith (JS), Journalist
- Adela Kacsprzak (AK), National Probation Service (NPS)
- Baljit Ubhey (BU), Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- Bernadette Keane (BK), Victim Support (VS)
- Besty Stanko (BS), MOPAC
- Christine Jones (CJ), Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
- Claire Laxton (CL), Women's Aid
- Gemma Woznicki (GW), MOPAC
- Heather Harvey (HH), Eaves for Women
- Hong Tan (HT), National Health Service (NHS) England
- Jain Lemom (JL), MOPAC
- Karen Ingala-Smith (KIS), Nia
- Lee Barnard (LB), MPS
- Marai Larasi (ML), IMKAAN
- Mark Simmons (MS), MPS
- Mathew Pickering (MP), MOPAC
- Mike Howes (MH), LB Harrow
- Pat Green (PG), Victim Support
- Paul Monk (PM), MPS
- Phoebe Pluckrose-Oliver (PPO), MOPAC
- Rangan Momen (RM), London Councils
- Sam Cunningham (SC), MOPAC
- Sarah Green (SarG), End Violence Against Women (EVAW)
- Sarah Tyler (ST), MOPAC
- Siwan Hayward (SH), TfL

Apologies from:

- Alison Renouf, London Safeguarding Children's Board
 - Jo Todd, Respect
 - Sima Maqbool, London Councils
 - Lib Peck, LB Lambeth
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2. Minutes and actions from previous meetings

Jain Lemom (JL), MOPAC, updated on the actions from the previous meeting. Progress against each action is given in the table below.

Action	Owner	Progress
Develop and circulate a detailed paper concerning perpetrator programme.	Diana Barran	Complete.
Liaise with CF from Respect about the pilot work to ensure that Respect were happy with the proposals.	Diana Barran	Complete.
Officers from MOPAC to work with VCS and Eaves Coalition to progress work around counter narrative regarding false rape allegations	MOPAC	Not complete. Identified in narrative of Dame Elish Angiolini Review.
Send KIS MPS information on domestic abuse	Lee Barnard	Chasing.
Restorative Justice (RJ) to feature on next meeting's agenda.	MOPAC	Not complete.
KN agreed to send MOPAC data around prevalence of FGM in areas	Keith Niven MPS	Complete.
Send the governance of MPS Domestic Abuse to MOPAC for circulation	Lee Barnard MPS	Complete.
PD to meet with KIS to look at development of the dashboard	MOPAC	Not complete.
PD to present an updated version of the dashboard at the next VAWG Panel	MOPAC	Complete.
PD to speak to BU outside of the meeting about CPS data	MOPAC	Initial contact made with the CPS.

Siwan Hayward (SH), TfL, noted some points of inaccuracy in the previous minutes (10 March 2015) and made corrections as follows:

- Project Guardian is ongoing (not coming to an end) and they have recently launched a media YouTube campaign on harassment;
- TfL are not launching a child sexual exploitation campaign; and
- the research TfL are doing around unlicensed mini-cabs is looking to understand changes in trends around the use of taxis and crime related to this.

The March 2015 minutes will be updated and re-circulated to reflect this.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Amend March 2015 VAWG Panel minutes to reflect amendments from Siwan Hayward.

3. Domestic and Sexual Violence Dashboard

Mat Pickering (MP), MOPAC, presented on the new Domestic and Sexual Violence Dashboard, which can be accessed publicly online at <https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-crime/data-information/vawg-dashboard>

Key information from this item included:

- there has been an increase of 18% in reporting of domestic abuse offences;
- 35% of Violence With Injury offences are recorded as domestic abuse;
- domestic homicide numbers remain generally static;
- domestic abuse rates per borough remain generally static;
- numbers of repeat victims fluctuate on a monthly basis;
- 18% of victims are repeat victims; and
- 60% of those arrested are charged – this percentage has remained generally static.

MP also presented information from the internal Dashboard to the Panel for the first time. The internal Dashboard utilises CPS data.

Karen Ingala-Smith (KIS), Nia, noted that receiving this data prior to the meeting would enable members to comment and discuss.

JL acknowledged this issue and apologised for the late distribution of papers.

Betsy Stanko (BS), MOPAC, noted that an advantage of the new Dashboard is that it is available publically online; this will allow Panel members to access the information prior to the meeting. She noted that it would be beneficial for MOPAC to remind panel members prior to the next meeting to use the dashboard to understand the data under discussion.

MP agreed that in the future it would be beneficial to pick out main points of data from the Dashboard and disseminate in a short report with the papers. This could also direct members to areas of the dashboard to note.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Incorporate update paper on headline information from DSV dashboard into panel papers as a standing item.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Re-send link to Dashboard with minutes of this meeting.

It was noted that the data on the Dashboard relating to sexual violence incorporated both adults and children.

Heather Harvey (HH), Eaves for Women, raised that there was a lack of robust and accurate data being collected at police level and asked MOPAC if the data collected for the dashboard is accurate, particularly around relationships.

MP responded that it was not mandatory for the police to collect relationship data and therefore there are still some issues being worked on in terms of accuracy and comprehensiveness of data.

Christine Jones (CJ), MPS, responded that the MPS has an accuracy process for data, which involves dip sampling.

Baljit Ubhey (BU), CPS, noted that there is work ongoing on a national level to look at data accuracy and make improvements in this area.

BS noted the difficulties in matching CPS and MPS data as this must be done on an individual, case-by-case basis; therefore it is only really possible to do so with selected, sample cohorts.

Mark Simmons (MS), MPS, highlighted that Tony Gallagher, MPS, had recently done some in-depth analysis on a sample of 1,000 domestic violence cases and that he would be happy to share this if requested.

ACTION (Mark Simmons) – Circulate Tony Gallagher’s data on sample of domestic violence cases.

4. VAWG Strategy and Governance

(a) VAWG Strategy – Achievements and challenges

Samantha Cunningham (SC), MOPAC, presented on the [VAWG Strategy](#), noting that as we are mid-way through the Strategy it is an opportune moment to review progress with the Panel.

SC highlighted the achievements made to-date, which are included in report 4a 'VAWG Strategy – Achievements and Challenges'.

It was noted that the Harmful Practices Pilot has been particularly successful in bringing key agencies together, especially joint work with Children's Services. It was also noted that this project utilises a joint funding model with the Department for Education.

SC then moved on to lead a discussion on the 11 outstanding commitments in the VAWG Strategy. It was noted that the report and presentation provided to Panel members focussed on the 11 strategy commitments highlighted as red for discussion – meaning they represent a challenge or risk.

Commitments discussed and points raised are given below:

- **Commitment 3** - Work with schools in London to develop and implement a "whole school" approach to VAWG and promote and disseminate learning.

It was asked what work had been done on this commitment to-date. MOPAC noted that a prevention workshop had been held to discuss development of partnership approach (as noted in paper 4a). No further work has been carried out on this commitment.

Hong Tan (HT), NHS England, highlighted the safeguarding 'golden thread' and noted that there had been good engagement with safeguarding work that NHS England has done in schools. He suggested that safeguarding could act as a lever to get prevention of VAWG issues into schools as all schools have a safeguarding commitment.

Mike Howes (MH), LB Harrow, noted that the Harrow Borough Commander had been speaking about a number of crime issues in schools in the Borough covering child sexual exploitation, Prevent, etc. He noted that this has been effective in both boosting confidence in the police and spreading crime prevention messages.

Joan Smith (JS) asked whether and how more boroughs could get their Borough Commanders into schools to speak to young people.

MS responded that this would be a big commitment for Borough Commanders and that in order to do this there would need to be a clear return on investment; there would need to be evidence that this was effective.

Sarah Green (SarG), EAW, raised the issue that the meeting did not provide enough time to discuss prevention and that a focussed workshop was required. She suggested that the Mayoral Academies may be a useful pilot site, but that this conversation needed to be had in-depth outside of the Panel meeting.

MS noted that while you may be able to have positive yearly events on prevention, this approach is not likely to create a substantive impact.

Marai Larasi (ML), IMKAAN, supported this point, stating that a whole school approach cannot be delivered simply via school assemblies. She also concurred with SarG in that a separate space needed to be created for this discussion.

CJ asserted that the police are not the best people to deliver this message and that it is better led by agencies which young people can relate to and are familiar with. She noted that we need to think differently about ensuring there is a whole message incorporating work on healthy relationships, etc. as well as direct VAWG prevention.

MS noted that the idea of a 'whole school' approach would likely not be possible as it would be difficult to get into every single secondary school in London over the next two years. In light of this, it was felt specific schools should be chosen as pilot sites but that a further discussion was needed on selection of these schools.

SarG noted that the Mayor sponsors three academies. However Jain Lemom informed the Panel that these academies no longer have the same association with the Mayor.

SC noted that the decision of school would also need to be evidence based.

SarG highlighted that a programme of prevention was also required to be developed in order to begin a pilot.

MS suggested that a school should be identified and then worked with to develop this programme jointly.

HT asserted that a process by which this work could be taken away by a task and finish group and brought back for updates to the Panel was required. This feeds into the governance item on the agenda.

Paul Monk (PM), MPS, noted that we also need to consider the 'here and now', not just planning for the future. Currently there is an issue in that young people do not always know where to go when they are experience issues relating to VAWG.

SarG noted that the Women's Organisations have the expertise to deliver this work. SC suggested that the voluntary agencies present take the lead on commitment 3. The voluntary agencies felt that they would not have the resource to take the lead but would be happy to co-lead with MOPAC.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Task Evidence and Insight Team to conduct data analysis with regards to prevention of VAWG to inform subsequent workshop.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Arrange workshop with to look at resourcing and taking forward commitment 3 on prevention.

- **Commitment 31** - Work with local authorities, London Councils and the VAWG sector to explore new housing and financial solutions for women fleeing VAWG in London.

ML noted that a conversation is currently taking place with VAWG Coordinators around complying with statutory housing responsibilities. So far, this has indicated that Local Authorities are not always meeting the statutory requirements.

HH supported this comment and noted that a point was being reached where services are failing to meet targets because of housing problems. She noted that housing is essential to underpin the rest of the sector; however barriers to securing housing for women are increasing.

MS noted that this comes into the governance conversation as there is evidently a gap in the remit of the VAWG Panel to actually deliver commitments and that the appropriate people need to be present at the meeting to ensure work is delivered.

SC picked up on this point and suggested that a more senior representative from Housing was required. She asked Rangan Momen (RM), London Councils, if it would be possible for Paul Martin (lead for community safety for London Councils) to attend future meetings.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Invite Paul Martin or housing representative to future VAWG Panel meetings.

Housing need was also discussed and Jain Lemom mentioned the recent UK Refugees Online (UKROL) data collection project funded as part of the London Council's grants programme. This will form the basis of understanding of refuge provision in London but further work is needed with particular input from VCS agencies and local authorities.

ACTION (VCS) – Provide MOPAC with information on housing and refuge provision from a service perspective to supplement UKROL data.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Utilise data collected from UKROL and VCS to understand current position around housing need for victims/survivors of VAWG in London.

- **Commitment 38** - Develop a pan-London exit model providing holistic support to address the physical, sexual, substance use, mental health, housing and employment needs of women involved in prostitution who wish to exit.

Heather Harvey nominated herself to support on work around commitment 38.

- **Commitment 52** - Work with the CPS and partners to explore the feasibility of developing a pilot specialist sexual violence court in London.

BU noted that the London Criminal Justice Board want to look at an end-to-end analysis of rape cases in order to understand the victim journey.

BS added that MOPAC are also doing some analysis of the victim journey via the Evidence and Insight Team and that one of the key areas of focus for this work is rape and sexual violence.

ACTION (Baljit Ubhey and Betsy Stanko) – Bring data on victim journey for victims/survivors of rape and sexual violence to future VAWG Panel.

- **Commitment 63** - Publish an overview of the findings, outcomes and lessons learnt from DV homicide reviews in London and use this to encourage partners to put in place measures to improve agency responses to prevent future DV homicides; and
- **Commitment 64** - Undertake a review of homicides related to other forms of VAWG, in particular “honour”-based violence and trafficking and prostitution to inform future practice.

MH raised the issue that he was unaware of the potential for boroughs to bid for funding for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

JL noted that this had been publicised in the past.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Send information on DHR funding to Mike Howes.

Karen Ingala-Smith nominated herself to be support on work on commitments 63 and 64.

- **Commitment 71** - Work with criminal justice partners to improve the enforcement of community orders.

Adela Kacsprzak (National Probation Service) agreed for the NPS and the London Community Rehabilitation Company to lead on commitment 71.

Overview of input/support agreed for commitments:

Commitment	Lead/Support
3	Marai Larasi (IMKAAN), Heather Harvey (Eaves), Karen Ingala-Smith (Nia) and Sarah Green (EVAW) agreed to co-lead with MOPAC
38	Heather Harvey (Eaves) agreed to support
63 & 64	Karen Ingala-Smith (Nia) agreed to support
71	Adela Kacsprzak agreed for the NPS and CRC to lead

Stephen Greenhalgh (SteG), Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) raised the issue of men who are victims of domestic and sexual abuse and asked the Panel how this can be approached in a VAWG context.

SarG noted that this is a continual issue faced by her organisation and offered to support with how to communicate this message.

(b) VAWG Governance

SC led a discussion on the future governance of VAWG presenting a new governance model proposed by MOPAC. She highlighted the key points as:

- the need to rationalise the purpose of the panel;
- the need to slim-down membership of the board;
- the need for consistency and appropriate seniority of members; and
- the proposal to change the name of the VAWG Panel to VAWG Board.

SC noted that the proposed Board would have a greater role in commissioning oversight where high level discussions can be had and decisions can be made.

SC proposed that the new VAWG Board should have the chair of the VCS Reference Group as a member.

It was agreed that the Panel could send comments back to MOPAC on the proposed governance model, which would be incorporated to draft a revised model. The revised model including terms of reference for the existing panel and for key new/changed meetings will then be circulated to members for further comment before being brought to the October Panel for sign-off. Comments on the model should be sent to the MOPAC VAWG mailbox (VAWG@mopac.london.gov.uk).

ACTION (All) – Send comments on proposed VAWG governance model to VAWG@mopac.london.gov.uk by 31 of July.

ACTION (MOPAC) – send revised version of VAWG governance model inclusive of comments from members and proposed terms of reference to Panel members for further comment and approval. Bring final version to October VAWG Panel for sign-off.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Align new governance structure with other boards/groups that deal with VAWG external to this governance framework.

SC agreed to have a separate conversation with Lib Peck about VAWG governance as she was unable to attend this meeting.

ACTION (MOPAC) – Arrange conversation for Sam Cunningham and Lib Peck to discuss VAWG governance.

SteG asserted that there was an issue having Voluntary and Community Service representatives on the Panel, as they are often the recipients of funding allocated by the Panel. SteG acknowledged that there was a need for VCS input and that this was very valuable, however noted the challenge with this.

ML acknowledged this point and highlighted that there is a need for transparency, particularly if the board membership reduces and the VCS are no longer represented.

KIS acknowledged that there was an issue with the VCS being recipients of funding allocated by the panel; however she also asserted that losing VCS representation on the VAWG Panel would reduce the level of VAWG expertise available to the group.

SC responded that the conflict between VCS representation being needed on the board and the VCS being recipients of funding is a fundamental tension. MOPAC would like to work to develop the VCS Reference Group and then have a representative from that group on the Panel to address this tension.

MS suggested that the future VAWG Panel/Board could be separated into open and closed sections to address this.

SarG noted that it may be overwhelming for one representative to attend the future VAWG Panel/Board and that in light of this it would be useful to know intended membership of the group. **This will be sent out with revised governance model once comments are received from members (see action 6b).**

CJ noted that from the MPS perspective the VCS are crucial in terms of understanding victims.

HT asserted that in principle he liked the greater clarity regarding functions of each part of the structure and feels the proposed model strengthens governance.

JS noted that there was a wealth of experience available at the VAWG Panel, however the structure was unwieldy and this needs addressing and will be addressed via changes to the governance model.

ML asserted the need to ensure there is a balance in terms of Panel/Board membership to guarantee equality in decision making and level of influence. She noted that if only one representative from the VCS is present, they will not have the same level of influence as other members. She also noted that there is not only a conflict of interest in terms of the VCS; there is also a conflict of interest for the MPS, CPS and other organisations.

5. Performance and Commissioning

(a) Pan London Domestic Service

Pat Green (PG), Victim Support, presented on the Pan London Domestic Violence Service (PLDVS) with particular reference to Service Part 2.

PG noted the following key challenges for Service Part 2:

- Victim Support will continue to work with Local Authorities and MOPAC on ensuring that the PLDVS is integrated with existing local services, however they require support from partners on this;
- there is a continuing need to ensure that the Service is responsive to changes within the sector;
- there is a need to ensure that stakeholders are aware that the new provision is in place and that it is well promoted; so that all stakeholders are informed and engaged in all aspects of service delivery;
- partner support is required to ensure targets are met; and
- in particular, data on victims/survivors who do not go through the court process is required earlier to ensure early intervention.

SteG noted the importance of case level, granular data rather than simply looking at figures.

ML noted that it was critical to consider how work is done with Black and Minority Ethnic organisations at a local level.

HH asked how Victim Support were linking with prostitution and housing.

Bernadette Keane (BK), Victim Support, asserted that they were keen to have partner input and advice in this area.

PG noted that the PLDVS has access to two Housing Officers to advise Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) on housing provision, which will give IDVAs and Caseworkers a better understanding of housing in order to develop pathways.

MS noted that the current models being tested with specialist Domestic and Sexual

Violence Courts needs to link to Victim Supports work – in particular the use of video links.

CJ agreed to take on an analysis working with HT and linked to the Joint Strategic Health Needs Assessment looking at victims/survivors that do not attend court and the link to mental health needs.

ACTION (Christine Jones and Hong Tan) – Conduct analysis of victims who fail to attend court, with a particular focus on mental health needs. Bring findings to Panel.

BU noted that an approach is currently being piloted for Domestic Violence Courts in Croydon, Stratford and Camberwell Green Magistrates Court. This work includes ensuring that Domestic Violence cases are dealt with quickly and exploring the use of specialist judges utilising a multi-agency approach.

MS noted that this had been piloted as part of the Trial Blitz and that he would send feedback and learning from this to Panel members.

ACTION (Mark Simmons) – Send learning from the Trial Blitz to Panel members.

PG noted that one of the biggest challenges was around getting data.

CJ asked where data was being requested from and offered to act as a gateway for data retrieval for Victim Support.

(b) Sexual Violence Needs Assessment

SC noted that there are currently three recent reviews that impact or will impact the Sexual Violence Needs Assessment:

- [the Havens Paediatric Review](#);
- [the Dame Elish Angiolini Review](#); and
- the Estates Review.

The Sexual Violence Needs Assessment will incorporate these reviews and findings will be brought to a future board.

It was agreed to circulate the current specification to the Panel for comment.

ACTION (Hong Tan) – Circulate Sexual Violence Needs Assessment specification to Panel members for comment.

6. VAWG Panel Action Log

No	Action	Lead	Others	Start Date	Target Completion	Update	Status
1	Minutes/Actions previous meetings						
1a	Amend March 2015 VAWG Panel minutes to reflect amendments from Siwan Hayward	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)		16/07/2015	22/07/2015	Complete	Closed
2	Data Dashboard						
2a	Incorporate update paper on headline information from DSV dashboard into panel papers as a standing item	Mathew Pickering (MOPAC)		16/07/2015	Ongoing	This information will be given as part of the agenda to future meetings	Closed
2b	Re-send link to Dashboard with minutes of this meeting	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)		16/07/2015	14/08/2015	The link is included in the minutes	Closed
2c	Circulate Tony Gallagher's data on sample of domestic violence cases	Mark Simmons (MPS)		16/07/2015	30/09/2015		G
3	Strategy - Prevention						
3a	Arrange workshop to look at resourcing and taking forward commitment 3 on prevention	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)		16/07/2015	14/08/15	Meeting scheduled for 21 September	Closed
3b	Task Evidence and Insight Team to conduct data analysis with regards to prevention of VAWG to inform subsequent workshop	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)		16/07/2015	28/08/15		G

No	Action	Lead	Others	Start Date	Target Completion	Update	Status
4	Strategy - Housing/Refuge provision						
4a	Provide MOPAC with information on housing and refuge provision from a service perspective to supplement UKROL data	Heather Harvey (Eaves for Women), Karen Ingala-Smith (Nia), Marai Larasi (IMKAAN), Sarah Green (EVAW)	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)	16/07/2015	24/09/2015	Information requested	G
4b	Utilise data collected from UKROL and VCS to understand current position around housing need for victims/survivors of VAWG in London	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)		16/07/2015	09/10/2015		G
4c	Invite Paul Martin or housing representative to be a member of the VAWG Panel	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)	London Councils	16/07/2015	15/09/2015	Paul Martin to be invited to October Panel meeting. Additionally, this has been included in the membership section of the proposed ToR for the VAWG Board – awaiting feedback from consultation.	G

No	Action	Lead	Others	Start Date	Target Completion	Update	Status
5	Strategy - Domestic Homicide Reviews						
5a	Send information on DHR funding to Mike Howes	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)		16/07/2015	24/07/2015	Details sent to Rebecka Stevens at Harrow.	Closed
6	Governance						
6a	Send comments on proposed VAWG governance model to VAWG@mopac.london.gov.uk by 31 of July	All		16/07/2015	31/07/2015	Responses received from four organisations (London Councils, Eaves, EVAW and RASASC)	Closed
6b	Send revised version of VAWG governance model inclusive of comments from members and proposed terms of reference to Panel members for further comment and approval. Bring final version to October VAWG Panel for sign-off	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)		16/07/2015	28/08/2015		G
6c	Arrange conversation for Sam Cunningham and Lib Peck to discuss VAWG governance	Samantha Cunningham (MOPAC)	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)	16/07/2015	28/08/2015	Meeting arranged for September	Closed
6d	Align new governance structure with other boards/groups that deal with VAWG external to this governance framework	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)		16/07/2015	28/08/2015		G

No	Action	Lead	Others	Start Date	Target Completion	Update	Status
7	Strategy - Domestic and Sexual Violence Courts						
7a	Bring data on victim journey for victims/survivors of rape and sexual violence to future VAWG Panel	Betsy Stanko	Baljit Ubhey	16/07/2015	TBC		G
7b	Conduct analysis of victims who fail to attend court, with a particular focus on mental health needs. Bring findings to Panel	Christine Jones (MPS)	Hong Tang (NHS England)	16/07/2015	TBC		G
7c	Send learning from the Trial Blitz to Panel members	Mark Simmons (MPS)		16/07/2015	31/08/2015		G
8	Sexual Violence Needs Assessment						
8a	Circulate Sexual Violence Needs Assessment specification to attendees for comment	Jain Lemom (MOPAC)	Hong Tang (NHS England)	16/07/2015	31/08/2015		G