

The London Violence Against Women and Girls
Strategy

INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

March 2018

1. Introduction

The London Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy was published on 9th March 2018. During development of the strategy, a wide range of consultation activities were conducted with different groups and stakeholders. Research was conducted, existing data sources were analysed and interested groups were consulted (details of those consulted and other research are at Appendix A). This final Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) takes into account feedback from stakeholders, the output of the consultation and research activities and makes an assessment of its impact on the following objectives:

Crime, Safety and Security – to contribute to safety and security and the perceptions of safety;

Equality and Inclusion – to make London a fair and inclusive city where every person is able to participate, reducing inequality and disadvantage and addressing the diverse needs of the population;

Health and Health Inequalities – to improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of Londoners and to reduce health inequalities across the city and between communities; which will include an equality impact assessment against each protected characteristic.

Social Integration – to ensure London has socially integrated communities which are strong, resilient and free of prejudices; which will include an impact assessment on socio-economic factors.

Economic, Competitiveness and Employment – to maintain and strengthen London's position as a leading connected knowledge based global city and to support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, providing opportunities for all.

2. Aim of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) is required by law to produce a plan that explains how the police, community safety partners and other criminal justice agencies will work together to reduce crime. This Police and Crime Plan (PCP) prioritises action in three areas of highest need:

- **violence against women and girls;**
- **keeping children and young people safe; and**
- **hate crime and intolerance.**

A commitment to refresh London's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy is included within the Police and Crime Plan.

The VAWG Strategy covers the broad range of offences – and attitudes and behaviours that can lead to criminality – that constitute what we describe as violence against women and girls. This

includes domestic abuse, sexual violence, child sexual exploitation, stalking, harassment, harmful practices and online abuse.

The Strategy sets out the latest evidence on VAWG in London, and three priority areas for action:

- **Preventing violence against women and girls**
- **Tackling perpetrators**
- **Protecting and supporting victims of VAWG**

Through the measures set out in the Strategy, our vision is that London becomes a safer city for every woman and girl.

3. Policies and evidence of impact

The safety and security of Londoners is the Mayor's number one priority. The ambition for policing and crime is to make London a safer city for all Londoners, no matter who they are or where they live.

The Police and Crime Plan is based on two clear ambitions for the MPS and all our partner agencies:

- **A safer city for everyone in London, no matter who you are or where you live.**
- **Extra protection and support for the most vulnerable people and places in London.**

The Police and Crime Plan has set out the actions we will take to deliver these. One of our core priorities for the Police and Crime Plan is to reduce violence against women and girls.

MOPAC is clear that the outputs from the VAWG Strategy will ultimately benefit everyone living in, working in or visiting London, although by definition the focus of the strategy is on the safety of women and girls.

As a key Police and Crime Plan priority area, VAWG is a key element of MOPAC's performance framework for the Plan. High harm crimes – including sexual violence, domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation – are mandatory local priorities across the city.

In addition, using crime statistics and data from the Ministry of Justice, we will actively monitor and look for positive progress in:

- **Encouraging more domestic abuse victims to come forward and reducing repeat victimisation**
- **Encouraging more victims of sexual violence to come forward and reducing repeat victimisation**
- **Reducing the rates of attrition in cases of violence against women and girls as they progress through the criminal justice process**

- **Encouraging more victims of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), 'honour'-based violence and forced marriage to come forward and report**

Appendix A

Consultation for the VAWG Strategy

Partner agencies and key stakeholders

There have been twelve consultation workshops with our key partner agencies on the following areas: Evidence and data sharing; Female Offenders; BAME; Perpetrators; Prevention; Enforcement; Support to Victims; Prostitution; Harmful Practices; Priority Boroughs; Survivors roundtable and a final partner roundtable with stakeholders.

Survivors of VAWG

We worked with the MOPAC Voluntary and Community Sector reference group and Imkaan (a second tier VCS agency supporting BME women who have experienced VAWG) specifically to lead on consultation with survivors of VAWG. This was led by the Victims Commissioner for London. The work involved 15 focus groups and 19 one-to-one interviews held with 133 survivors of VAWG, providing detailed feedback from survivors regarding their experience of services in relation to violence and abuse.

In addition, we undertook an online survey giving views of survivors of the services they encountered throughout their journey.

Results and themes from the consultation, together with anonymised quotes from survivors, are reflected throughout the strategy.

Survivors made recommendations around the following areas:

- Services
- Provision of information
- Criminal justice, civil court and statutory partner processes
- Perpetrators
- Cultural change

A more detailed summary of the survivor consultation is published alongside the VAWG Strategy.

Public consultation

Face to face interviews with 400 individuals have taken place: 300 interviews with females and 100 interviews with males from the following 5 priority boroughs: Brent, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark.

Desk research and data

A wide variety of data and research has been drawn upon as part of the drafting process and is referenced throughout the strategy. This includes MPS crime data, national crime statistics, criminal justice service performance data, externally conducted research and surveys conducted as part of the Police and Crime Plan consultation.

Appendix B

Integrated Impact Assessment

The following assessment is based on the final VAWG Strategy which details the priorities that are proposed and assesses the potential impact, whether positive, negative, neutral or unknown. In conducting the assessment, and in line with the intentions of the strategy, the potential impact has been assessed as generally positive across all objectives. There are some areas where the strategy may result in unavoidable disproportionality and some areas have been identified for further engagement.

Topic	IIA objective	Context	Policy	Impact
Crime, Safety and Security	1. To contribute to safety and security and the perceptions of safety	<p>The safety and security of Londoners is the Mayor’s number one priority. The ambition for policing and crime is to make London a safer city for all Londoners, no matter who they are or where they live.</p> <p>As the strategy details, VAWG offences account for a significant percentage of all crimes committed in London. For example, around one tenth of all crimes recorded by the MPS are related to domestic abuse. VAWG offences are often particularly harmful to individuals and families, not only in terms of physical harm, but also through psychological harm.</p> <p>Research shows that fear of harassment and abuse is a reality for women and girls in London. In a recent survey of 8,000</p>	<p>The VAWG Strategy prioritises three key areas of activity, two of which relate to the prevention of crime and to effective intervention with perpetrators.</p> <p>Prevention of VAWG must be the first priority, and over the long-term, that can only be achieved by tackling the misogynistic attitudes and behaviours that can lead to these crimes.</p> <p>Attitudes are shaped early in life, and it is vital that we support our children and young people to develop in a culture of respect for one another. Through the measures set out in this strategy, we will help schools to further embed healthy relationships and respect into the curriculum, and improve the support available where children and young people are exhibiting signs of vulnerability to offending or victimisation.</p>	<p>The impact of the strategy will be consistent with the aim of the Police and Crime Plan – to have a positive impact on crime and safety with aim of delivering a better police service and criminal justice service to all, whilst tackling vulnerabilities that exist and improving victim’s experiences of crime.</p>

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		<p>Londoners on policing and crime, 74 per cent of female respondents told us they worried about their safety some or all of the time.</p>	<p>We send out a clear message that public spaces, workplaces and cyberspace should be safe for all. All too often, women face harassment on the street, at work or online – to the point that for many, harassment and abuse is seen as a normal part of everyday life. This kind of offending reduces the freedom of women and girls to live their lives as they want to. This is simply not compatible with our vision of London as a city of freedoms, opportunities and rights for all.</p> <p>Tackling perpetrators</p> <p>To keep women and girls safe, those who are committing violence against them must be dealt with robustly and effectively. However, we know that a comparatively small number of offenders ever come to the attention of services, with fewer still being brought to justice, and often the resulting legal outcome fails to finally resolve the problem. While the police identify a significant number of perpetrators each year, the majority of these perpetrators have previous convictions either for VAWG-related offences or broader criminality.</p> <p>These relatively low level of offenders being brought to justice, and high</p>	

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			<p>reoffending rates show that more must be done to bring perpetrators before the courts and to use the justice system to put a stop to their behaviour. Moreover, if VAWG reporting rates are to increase, victims need to know that reports will be taken seriously, will be properly investigated, and that action will be taken against the perpetrator.</p> <p>This activity must take four forms: work to secure convictions of offenders, work to address the behaviour of offenders, work to reduce repeat offences and work to ensure sanctions are meaningful and effective.</p>	
Equality and Inclusion	<p>2. To make London a fair and inclusive city where every person is able to participate, reducing inequality and disadvantage and addressing the diverse needs of the population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender: Women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to MARAC or accessing an IDVA service are women. • Low income: women in households with an income of less than £10,000 were 3.5 times more at risk than those in households with an income of over £20,000. • Age: Younger people are more likely to be subject to violence. The majority of high risk victims are in their 20s or 30s. In March 2016, the Crime Survey for 	<p>The VAWG Strategy is intended to address offences which overwhelmingly affect women and girls of all backgrounds in London. Our ambition is that women and girls in London can live their lives and fulfil their potential in safety and security.</p> <p>The policies put forward in the Strategy reflect the diversity of London’s communities and the different circumstances of women. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with schools to encourage healthy relationships 	<p>The ambition of this strategy is to make London a safer city for all of its women and girls, whoever they are or wherever they are. That might be at school, at home, on the street, at work, on the transport network, in a nightclub, online or in prison.</p> <p>Reducing the risks to women and girls – and increasing their sense of safety – is key to ensuring that they are not deterred from full participation and self-determination in our</p>

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		<p>England and Wales identified that 12% of women aged 16 to 19 had experienced domestic abuse in the past year. This compares to 9% for women aged between 20 and 29 years of age . Young victims of domestic abuse are more likely to be victims of familial abuse (abuse committed by other family members) than the group as a whole.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy: Nearly one in three women who suffer from domestic abuse during their lifetime report that the first incidence of violence happened while they were pregnant. • Separation: Domestic violence is higher amongst those who have separated, followed by those who are divorced or single. • Previous criminality of the perpetrator: domestic abuse is more likely where the perpetrator has a previous conviction (whether or not it is related to domestic abuse). • Learning difficulties: Women with learning disabilities are at increased risk of abuse and are least likely to proceed through the criminal justice service to see the conviction of the offender. For victims who have learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The women’s safety at night charter - Establishing and promoting the Good Work Standard in the GLA family and with employers across the city - Work with TfI, the MPS, BTP and City of London Police to reduce unwanted sexual behaviour on the transport network - Work with female offenders in prison, to ensure underlying needs arising from previous victimisation are met 	<p>city. This is a key element of the Mayor’s wider programme of work encouraging gender equality in London.</p>

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		<p>disabilities the chance of “no criming” a rape – where no further action is taken - is 4.4 times higher than for those without.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness: One in five women (21%) who have experienced extensive sexual abuse have also experienced homelessness. • Prostitution: Participation in prostitution significantly increases vulnerability, with more than 50% of women and men involved in the sex trade suffering assaults. • Immigration status: Illegal or uncertain immigration status has an impact in terms of increased risk of assault, increased barriers to reporting and access to support for both women and men. • Prison: 46% of female offenders in prison report having previously suffered domestic violence.(80% of the women the support organisation Women In Prison works with have reported experiencing domestic violence). 53% of women in prison report having experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse during childhood. 		

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<p>Social Integration</p>	<p>3. To ensure London has socially integrated communities which are strong, resilient and free of prejudice</p> <p>Also includes an assessment on socio-economic factors</p>	<p>Data and research shows that women and girls are overwhelmingly affected by some types of offending. While many VAWG offences are hidden behind the closed doors of the home, many are more overt – such as sexual harassment in the workplace, catcalls or abuse on the street.</p> <p>Fear of VAWG governs many women’s lives. This ranges from avoiding particular streets or areas to avoid harassment and intimidation, to altering their behaviour in an attempt to avoid physical abuse and coercive abuse.</p> <p>A national YouGov survey commissioned by the End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW) in 2016 found that 64% of women of all ages had experienced sexual harassment in public spaces, a figure that increased to 85% for women between the ages of 18-24 .</p> <p>Since 2013, reports of sexual offences on London’s transport network have doubled to more</p>	<p>UN Women’s Global Flagship Initiative, ‘Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces’, builds on the “Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls” Global Programme. It is the first ever global programme that develops, implements, and evaluates tools, policies and comprehensive approaches on the prevention of and response to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls across different settings.</p> <p>The programme is born from the idea that although violence in the private domain is now widely recognised as a human rights violation, violence against women and girls, especially sexual harassment in public spaces, remains a largely neglected issue, with few laws or policies in place to prevent and address it. This reduces women’s and girls’ freedom of movement. It reduces their ability to participate in school, work and public life. It limits their access to essential services and their enjoyment of cultural and recreational opportunities. It also negatively impacts their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>We want London to be a beacon of safety and freedom for women and girls. The principles as set out in this strategy will allow London to seek accreditation</p>	<p>The VAWG strategy is an important element of the Mayor’s wider campaign to improve gender equality and boost social integration in London.</p> <p>The strategy recognises the wider societal harm of VAWG and the need to challenge offending attitudes and behaviours whenever and wherever they are exhibited – ensuring that women and girls are safe and feel safe wherever they are in the city, at any time of day or night. Through the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces programme, and the actions being undertaken to achieve this endorsement, we send out a clear message in London and around the world that we are determined to stamp out inequality, prejudice and abuse in our city.</p>

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		<p>than 2,000 a year, and arrests have increased by 36 per cent.</p> <p>For many reasons, overall, women worry about their safety in London more often than men. This perception of risk is connected to the circumstances in which the woman finds herself – for example, we know that certain environments such as empty streets and isolated transport locations can increase an individual’s feelings of vulnerability.</p> <p>Fewer than half of respondents (44%) in a recent online survey on TalkLondon, agreed that London is a safe place for women and girls and 68% of respondents were concerned about sexual offences on public transport. 74% of female respondents told us they worry about their safety ‘all the time’ or ‘sometimes’.</p>	<p>from the UN, endorsing London as a safe city.</p>	
Health and Health Inequalities	4. To improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of Londoners	The evidence indicates that there are clear relationships between	The strategy responds to health and mental health needs as they relate to	The strategy will ensure that more women and girls in London who have been victims of VAWG

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	<p>and to reduce health inequalities across the City and between communities.</p>	<p>VAWG, physical health and mental health. For example: <u>Drug and alcohol abuse:</u> Victims of abuse have a higher rate of drug and/or alcohol misuse (whether it starts before or after the abuse): at least 20% of high-risk victims of abuse report using drugs and/or alcohol. <u>Mental health issues:</u> Around one third of both female and male victims of sexual assault have a pre-existing mental health issue. Severe mental illness increases the risk of assault for women by five times and for men by ten times. A report for Standing Together indicated that two thirds of victims of Intimate Partner Homicide (IPH) had mental health needs requiring support.</p> <p>The MOPAC-commissioned Needs Assessment into Sexual Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation reported that three in five (61%) victims of serious sexual assault suffered mental or emotional problems, while two in five (41%) reported having problems trusting people or having difficulty in other relationships. In 9% of incidents, the victim attempted suicide as a result. 5% of victims</p>	<p>victims, and as a driver of offending behaviour.</p> <p>For victims of VAWG, the strategy sets out a range of actions aimed at protecting them from further harm and addressing the health impacts of their experience. Through projects such as the single specialist victim and witness service for children and young people, and through our commissioned services for victims of VAWG, we are working to ensure that all aspects of victim needs are met. Furthermore, we are extending access to these support services, to ensure that women in the secure estate can access them.</p> <p>The strategy sets our intent to work with partners to better understand issues such as mental health and drug abuse and their relationship to offending. In addition, through innovative projects such as Drive and the Stalking Threat Assessment Centre, new approaches are being used to identify and act on these risks.</p>	<p>have access to specialist support, including for their physical and mental health. This extends across different age groups, communities and, for the first time, also into the secure estate.</p> <p>The strategy also ensures that health is a consideration in identifying and managing individuals at high risk of offending, seeking to intervene more effectively in addressing the causes of their actions.</p>

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		<p>reported becoming pregnant as a result of the incident and the victim reported contracting a disease in 3% of incidents.</p>		
<p>Economic Competitiveness and Employment</p>	<p>5. To maintain and strengthen London’s position as a leading connected knowledge based global city and to support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, providing opportunities for all</p>	<p>The Police and Crime Plan recognises that local businesses have specific needs and an important contribution to make to the safety, prosperity and wellbeing of communities.</p> <p>The VAWG Strategy recognises the vital contribution of women to London’s economy, and the importance of safety and equality in the workplace to women’s quality of life. It discusses the recent high-profile cases of sexual harassment and abuse in different sectors of the economy around the world – as highlighted through movements such as #MeToo.</p>	<p>The strategy sets out actions to contribute to the Mayor’s wider vision for London as the best place in the world to work.</p> <p>MOPAC will support the GLA in the development and implementation of the Mayor’s Good Work Standard, a compact with London employers to promote fair pay and the London Living Wage; excellent working conditions; and diversity in the workplace.</p> <p>In addition, we make clear our intention that MOPAC and the GLA will lead by example, setting the standards of acceptable behaviour, encouraging a culture of respect and ensuring that every element of City Hall and the wider GLA family have in place gold-standard processes for reporting harassment and abuse.</p>	<p>The commitments made in the strategy will directly help to ensure that the GLA family is setting the gold standard for equality and safety in the workplace. Through the Good Work Standard, we will work with employers to encourage similar standards in workplaces across the city, ensuring that women in London has confidence that they are safe at work and that their rights will be respected.</p>

The following assessment has been conducted to determine whether the proposed priorities within the strategy would have any negative impact on any protective characteristics. In conducting the assessment, and in line with the intentions of the strategy, the potential impact has been assessed as positive across all objectives. There are, however, some gaps in data for some areas and mitigations have been identified to work towards improving this.

Topic	Context		Impact
Age	<p>VAWG encapsulates a wide range of offences, which can occur at any age – from infancy to old age.</p> <p>Evidence shows that the risk of VAWG offences is particularly heightened amongst younger women and girls.</p> <p>A national YouGov survey commissioned by the End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW) in 2016 found that 64% of women of all ages had experienced sexual harassment in public spaces, a figure that increased to 85% for women between the ages of 18-24.</p> <p>Younger people are more likely to be subject to violence. The majority of high risk victims are in their 20s or 30s. In March 2016, the Crime Survey for England and Wales identified that 12% of women aged 16 to 19 had experienced domestic abuse in the past year. This compares to 9% for women aged between 20 and 29 years of age. Young victims of domestic abuse are more likely to be victims of familial abuse (abuse committed by other family members) than the group as a whole.</p>	<p>The strategy – and the commitments within it – cover women and girls of all ages. It recognises the different vulnerabilities of women and girls at different stages in their lives, and the different support needs they may have as a result.</p> <p>Prevention activity focuses significantly on early years and education, with both girls and boys. However, the city-wide campaign to tackle harmful attitudes and behaviours will encompass all ages.</p> <p>Measures to tackle perpetrators cover crime types which affect all ages, recognising the disproportionate effect of some crimes on certain age groups – such as harassment of young women, or FGM on children.</p> <p>Our work to protect and support victims again incorporates services and policies that relate to all age groups. The strategy also sets out additional support to young victims, who have historically had fewer specialist services available to meet their specific needs. Through the Child House programme and the young victims and witness service, children and young people who are victims of VAWG in London will be better served.</p>	
Disability	<p>No relevant data or specific impact identified in relation to this group, although wider issues around physical and mental health – as they relate to victimisation and offending – are</p>	<p>The strategy supports a wide range of interventions and activities to prevent crime and support victims. It also sets out an ambition to work closely with health services to</p>	

	considered. However, this group will benefit from the wider positive impact being delivered through the strategy.	ensure that the physical and mental health needs of victims are met.	
Gender reassignment	No relevant data or specific impact identified in relation to this group. However, this group will benefit from the wider positive impact being delivered through the strategy.	There is currently a data gap in respect of our understanding of the impacts of violence on members of the transgender community. We will continue to work with partner agencies – in the VAWG sector and those working on hate crime – to understand the specific needs and concerns of this community.	
Marriage and civil partnership	This group will benefit from the wider positive impact being delivered across the strategy. Forced marriage is recognised as a harmful practice by the strategy.	VAWG affects women in all forms of relationships, including those who are married. Encouraging healthy relationships, taking action against perpetrators and providing effective support to victims are key elements of the Strategy. We recognise the risk to women of harmful practices such as forced marriage. MOPAC will commit £200k from its Victims Fund to add value to a regional London Councils Harmful Practices programme to increase the training available to those who may come into contact with potential victims of Harmful Practices, such as midwives, nurses and social workers and also ensure that the MPS introduces enhanced training to improve the first response to VAWG victims to ensure that officers get this right.	
Pregnancy and maternity	Nearly one in three women who suffer from domestic abuse during their lifetime report that the first incidence of violence happened while they were pregnant. The MOPAC-commissioned Needs Assessment into Sexual Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation reported that 5% of victims	Specific issues relating to reproductive rights, pregnancy, maternity and parenting are recognised in the strategy. We welcome and support the Government’s pledge to ensure that domestic violence committed in households where there are children is recognised as a serious aggravating factor in the sentencing of perpetrators, which is an important step towards improving the safety of children exposed to this kind of crime at home.	

	<p>reported becoming pregnant as a result of the incident.</p> <p>140,000 children in the UK live in households where there is high-risk of domestic abuse. A quarter (25%) of children in high-risk domestic abuse households are under 3 years old. On average, high-risk abuse has been going on for 2.6 years, meaning these children are living with abuse for most of their life.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation highlighted an issue around harassment and unwanted filming of women visiting abortion clinics – not only invading their privacy, but potentially deterring them from accessing sexual and reproductive health services.</p>	<p>MOPAC will sustain funding for the three London Sexual Assault Referral Centres (also known as the Havens), which treat female and male victims of sexual assault, and the four London Rape Crisis Centres.</p> <p>MOPAC and the Victims' Commissioner will call on the Government to ensure that the 'presumption of parental involvement' should always consider the significant implications of contact when one parent is at high risk of offending, ensuring that the presumption does not put children in harm's way.</p> <p>In addition, MOPAC and the MPS will continue to assess and address the emerging issues around the use of livestreaming to harass women and girls, such as the filming and broadcasting of women visiting abortion clinics.</p>	
Race	<p>The London Domestic Violence Needs Assessment found that there are gaps in the provision of services for people with disabilities, BAME communities, LGBT victims and those with no recourse to public funds.</p>	<p>We know that VAWG is significantly underreported which is why it is particularly important to ensure that those who do come forward are believed and supported. People will report crime if they are confident that the justice service will take them seriously and act against offenders. Public confidence in the justice service depends on positive experiences. We will place the needs of those that face significant barriers to reporting and accessing services such as BAME and LGBT victims, or those with no recourse to public funds at the heart of our work.</p>	
Religion and belief	<p>VAWG affects women of all beliefs, however, we recognise that some harmful practices are rooted in religious traditions and beliefs.</p>	<p>MOPAC will commit £200k from its Victims Fund to add value to a regional London Councils Harmful Practices programme to increase the training available to those who may come into contact with potential victims of Harmful Practices, such as midwives, nurses and social workers and</p>	

		also ensure that the MPS introduces enhanced training to improve the first response to VAWG victims to ensure that officers get this right.	
Sex	<p>Gender is at the heart of this strategy, which recognises and responds to the disproportionate harm caused to women and girls by certain types of crime.</p> <p>Women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to MARAC or accessing an IDVA service are women.</p> <p>Men are most frequently the offender in all reported types of domestic abuse (88%) and sexual abuse (97%).</p>	<p>The needs of women and girls are at the heart of this strategy and it puts forward a wide range of policies and actions to prevent offending against them, tackle the individuals who pose the greatest risk to them, and provide general and specialist support services to all victims who need them.</p> <p>We recognise that men are most frequently the perpetrator in cases of VAWG, and whilst the strategy has a specific focus on tackling perpetrators, equally we are keen that any approach to tackle VAWG focuses on empowering young men and boys to respect women and girls, enjoy healthy relationships and speak out against VAWG. MOPAC is committed to affecting behaviour change around this issue. We will look to the projects and programmes we commission across all of our areas of work to ensure that any agency working with young people is capable of supporting young men to be strong in their commitment to equality and healthy relationships, making this a part of the tendering process.</p>	Taken together, the measures in the strategy will contribute to making London a safer city for women and girls.
Sexual orientation	The London Domestic Violence Needs Assessment found that there are gaps in the provision of services for people with disabilities, BAME communities, LGBT victims and those with no recourse to public funds.	We know that VAWG is significantly underreported which is why it is particularly important to ensure that those who do come forward are believed and supported. People will report crime if they are confident that the justice service will take them seriously and act against offenders. Public confidence in the justice service depends on positive experiences. We will place the needs of those that face significant barriers to reporting and accessing services such as BAME and LGBT victims, or those with no recourse to public funds at the heart of our work.	