

Isle of Wight VAWG Strategic Partnership

Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020

Introduction

In line with the cross Government 'Ending Violence against Women and Girls' document, this strategy encompasses the broader term of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) to take a holistic approach at the types of violence, control and coercive behaviour that can have a serious effect on victims and survivors. Domestic Violence and Abuse is a complex issue which can be experienced by women and men in heterosexual and same sex marriages and relationships. The VAWG approach extends the strategy to include Serious Sexual Violence including Rape, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Stalking. This strategy is inclusive of male victims of violence and controlling behaviour, but acknowledges that the prevalence of physical assaults from a partner or adult family member is higher among heterosexual woman than among men. Moreover, heterosexual women experience more repeated physical violence, more severe violence, much more sexual violence, more coercive control, more injuries and more fear of their partner¹.

A new criminal offence was introduced on the 29th December 2015 of 'Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an intimate or Family Relationship', which complements existing legislation and closes the gap in law around patterns of controlling or coercive behaviour. The cross Government definition of Domestic Violence and Abuse is:

'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality' The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape, and regulating their everyday behaviour.

¹ NICE public health guidance 50

Coercive behaviour

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Whilst the legislation is gender neutral, statistics consistently show that women and girls are disproportionately affected by crimes of domestic violence and abuse. In 2014/15 92.4% of defendants in Domestic Abuse flagged cases were male².

With the introduction of HM Governments 'Ending Violence against Woman and Girls' Strategy 2016-2020 (launched March 2016), this document aims to complement national aims and objectives to ensure our community receives the best available service provision. This will be met with our preparedness to meet new Government criteria for the commissioning of VAWG services through the 'VAWG Service Transformation Fund', ensuring compliance to a 'National Statement of Expectations' (NSE) and ensuring NSE is fully utilised to secure funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for the provision of specialist accommodation based support.

Close collaborative working will be essential for our strategic aims and objectives to be met, especially with our Clinical Commissioning Group to provide effective mental health interventions to address domestic and sexual violence and abuse. We will also work closely with our Integrated Early Help Services and Family Intervention Teams to ensure that VAWG is tackled in conjunction with the Troubled Families programme for 2016-2020.

Making VAWG everyone's business is our priority. A recent national review of services indicated that around 85% of victims/survivors of domestic abuse seek help from professionals at least five times before getting the help they need³. It is vital that better use is made of these critical opportunities to identify incidents and implement support.

Our Vision

'Our vision is for an Island that is a safe place for all residents to live; where acts of Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence are not tolerated and where victims are supported and perpetrators held to account for their actions'

² Home Office 'Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family relationship' Statutory Guidance Framework document December 2015.

³ Taken from HMIC report 4/2014 Improving the Police Response to Domestic Abuse.

Terms of Reference

- Effective leadership to ensure shared strategic objectives and “buy-in” across all services and sectors.
- Robust governance structures with clear lines of accountability that empower operational arms to make tactical decisions.
- Joint outcomes focussed commissioning (or grant funding⁴) based on comprehensive needs analysis.
- Effective partnership working across all services, both at the strategic and operational levels.
- Robust monitoring and evaluation process embedded within governance structures.
- The chair to the board (or his/her delegate) will report quarterly to the Local Childrens Safeguarding Board, Local Adult Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership.
- The MARAC and SDAC working sub groups will be incorporated into the Strategic Forum as standing agenda items. Any particular work streams generated from agenda items will be dealt with through a Task and Finish Group which will report back to the Forum.
- The Forum will address the recommendations coming from any DHR (Domestic Homicide Review), Serious Case Review (Children), Safeguarding Adult Review and OFSTED review.
- The Forum will consist of a 2 part meeting structure to maximise attendee time. Part 1 will consist of the full strategic membership followed by Part 2 which will be known as the VAWG operational delivery group and chaired by the DAC. Members attending part 1 will have the option to remain for Part 2 where operational demands dictate.

⁴ The forum and funding partners will need to establish whether integrated commissioning or integrated grant funding is the most effective delivery tool.

Membership

The Local Authority and Strategic Partners should ensure that senior officers attend and participate at the strategic forum (part 1). This should be at Director or an equivalent level where the authority to make decisions and commit funds exists. Senior officers may delegate but must ensure that attendees have delegated decision making authority for meetings to progress efficiently and effectively.

Members attending the Strategic Meeting may remain for the part 2 VAWG Operational delivery group or delegate attendance to an operational manager.

Attendance should be made from the following organisations:

Local Authority:

Children

Adults

Housing

Public Health

Fire Service

Police and Crime Commissioner

Police

Ambulance Service

NHS Trust including the Acute Trust

CCG

Named GPs for Childrens and Adults

Safeguarding Lead for GPs

Community Safety Partnership

Probation,CRC

Education, schools, colleges

Voluntary Sector: Island Women's Refuge, Hampton Trust

Third Sector: Age UK, Barnardo's, IoW Mental Health Alliance, IRIS

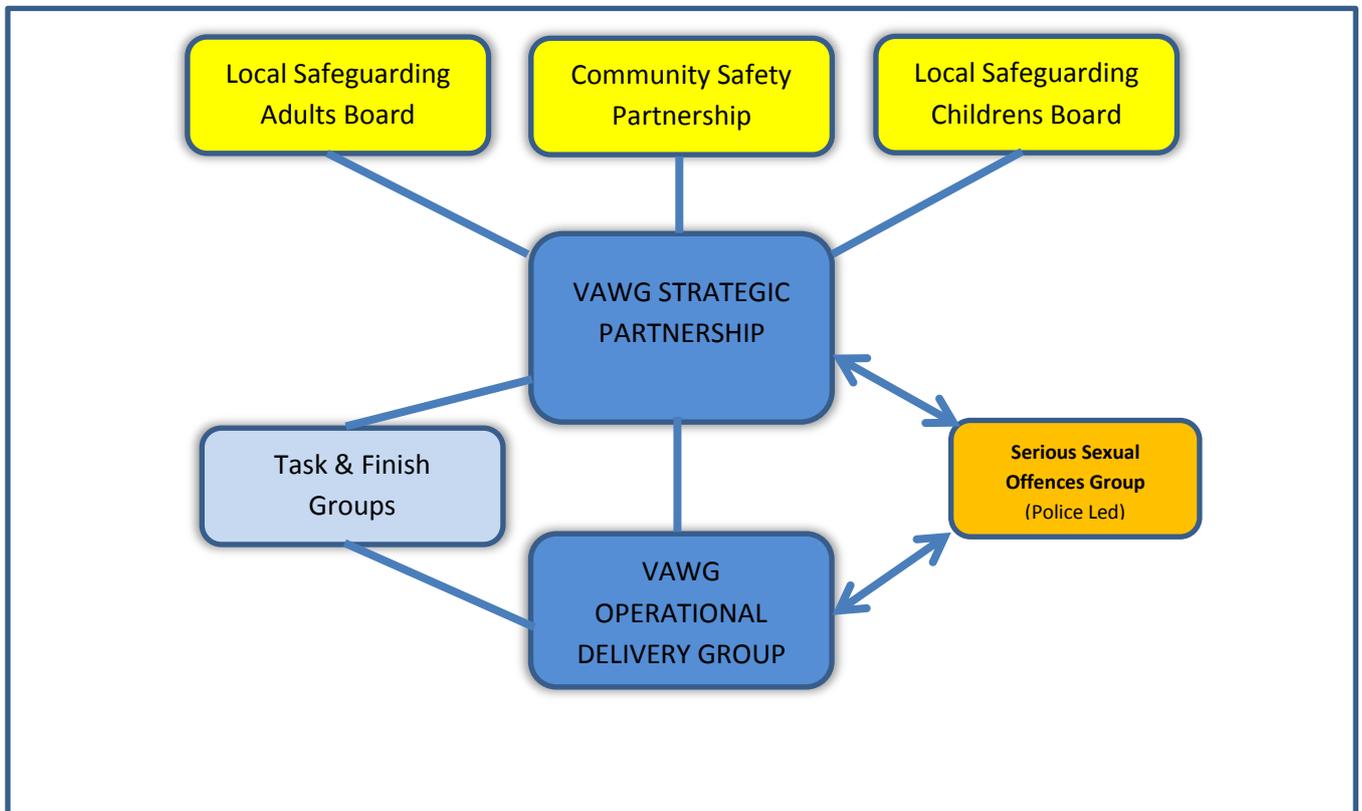
Social Landlords: Spectrum, Southern Housing Group

IoW Community Action

Chair and Frequency of meetings

An officer of Director level will be nominated to chair the Forum who is committed to improving and enhancing the provision of VAWG services on the Island. A deputy Chair will be nominated by Hampshire Constabulary. Meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis to ensure emphasis is maintained on the delivery of the strategic plan.

VAWG Strategic Partnership Structure



Strategic Plan 2016-2020

A four year Strategic Plan has been developed and agreed to ensure that strategic vision can be delivered. A long term strategic plan supports the Integrated Commissioning (or grant funding) of services ensuring a joined up approach to deliver services where they are most needed. The strategy falls into 4 primary headings:

- Preventing Violence
- Provision of Services
- Partnership Working
- Justice Outcomes and Risk Reduction

Key National and Local Drivers for Strategic Delivery are:

- HM Government Action Plan ‘A Call to End Violence against Woman and Girls’ (2014)
- HM Government ‘Ending Violence against Women and Girls’ Strategy 2016-2020 (March 2016)
- OPCC Commissioning Plan 2014-17
- OPCC Sexual Crime Strategy 2015-2018 (Sept 2015)
- Hampshire Constabulary Domestic Abuse Action Plan
- NICE Public Health Guidance 50 (issued Feb 2014)
- EU Directive 2014/24/EU and 2012/29/EU
- Isle of Wight Needs Assessment 2015-2017

<p style="text-align: center;">Preventing Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign to move to a culture where Domestic and Sexual Abuse is unacceptable • Increase confidence in reporting incidents through awareness. • To reduce the number of incidents of domestic and sexual violence • Develop effective preventative model through awareness campaigns • To ensure a robust approach to domestic abuse and healthy relationships is part of education in schools and colleges • Identification of abuse happening at the earliest stage • Positive action/approach to re-victimisation to reduce escalation of harm • A clear and structured approach to dealing with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse to reduce reoffending • More employers to recognise the signs of domestic and sexual abuse to enable early support • Prevention of older person, child to adult abuse through awareness campaigns and agency training • Statutory agency awareness and support to victims when Domestic and Sexual Abuse has been identified
---	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support for the positive impact of the ‘Freedom Programme’ for women and girls to recognise and move on from abusive relationships
<p>Provision of services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain provision of Refuge accommodation and secure long term funding • Review move on process for Refuge to ensure Island women receive a prompt service where risk of harm is high. • Review of social housing provision to facilitate move on from refuge and address issues of homelessness. • Sustain and where possible enhance the provision of IDVA/ISVA support to victims and ensure that all criminal justice agencies fully support process to build trust and confidence in prosecution process. • Support to all victims/survivors of sexual crime regardless of whether they intend to make a formal complaint and promote the introduction of ISVA and Rape Counselling service to young people (currently unmet on the Island) • Review and ensure that capacity is met within national guidance for IDVA and ISVA provision. • Scope opportunities for perpetrator programme on Island in conjunction with mainland schemes currently running • Ensure equality of services to all groups • Ensure a holistic problem solving approach to incidents • Provide intensive support to children and families who have experienced and witnessed domestic/sexual abuse and violence • Address domestic abuse from a ‘life course’ perspective

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify methods for early identification and support to victims through A&E, Midwifery, GP, Dentist, Health Visitor etc. • Ease of access to services for victims, location/times/specialism's available. Need for one stop shop/hub • Confusion for service users with different agency involvement, need for SPOC • Proactive engagement programmes with Disabled/LGBT/LD/BME groups • Continued support for the positive impact of the 'Freedom Programme' for women and girls to recognise and move on from abusive relationships
<p>Partnership Working</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective information sharing and training of professionals to improve awareness for signposting and support to victims • Integrated Commissioning (or Grant Funding) of VAWG services for the Island to ensure a joined up approach. (Dialogue will need to take place with funding partners for agreement on whether integrated commissioning or integrated grant funding is the most effective way to move forward) • Active participation of all agencies at the VAWG Partnership, MARAC and SSOG to ensure objectives are achieved • Maximise opportunities for joint collaborative working with local Isle of Wight groups such as the 'Voluntary Sector Forum'. • Maximise opportunities to join and be part of wider Hampshire perpetrator and crime reduction programmes such as CARA, DAPP, FIT and Troubled Families initiatives.

<p>Justice Outcomes and Risk Reduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and Reduce repeat offending • Increase the confidence of victims through the criminal justice process to reduce discontinued cases • Promote use of the CARA conditional caution disposal for local perpetrators • Monitor and increase the local use of DVPO's and DVPN's • Ensure that local women can be accommodated in refuge accommodation quickly when risk is high. • Increase the confidence for victims when dealing with statutory agencies where user experiences have been poor. (For example improve the knowledge of court staff on Domestic and Sexual Violence to improve survivor experience during court process)
---	---

Performance Framework 2016-2020

The Performance Framework identifies measures from the key strategic objectives and will need to be flexible to encompass new measures (yet to be introduced) that will be set in HM Governments 'National Statement of Expectations'. This will make clear to local partnerships what good commissioning and service provision looks like and will require local area's to publish detailed data on the level of need and the provision of services to meet that need, and provide access to money from the VAWG Service Transformation Fund.

The strategy will also incorporate the recommended requirements of 'NICE Public Health Guidance 50' for the introduction of 'Integrated Commissioning (or Grant Funding) of Services' which will be introduced with effect from April 2017. This will ensure the partnership focus funding on VAWG priorities, promoting long term service stability and support.

VAWG Partnership Strategic Objective	What can be measured	Agency responsible
<p><u>Preventing Violence Partnership Working</u></p> <p>Increase confidence of victims to report incidents (through awareness and improved agency access to take reports)</p>	<p>Increase in reported incidents and MARAC referrals.</p> <p>Agencies making referrals (Are we encouraging more partner agencies to make referrals?)</p> <p>Police analyst will provide forum with Business Object search of police data which will identify: incidents/crimes/arrests/disposals/ Repeat victim and offender/age, sex and ethnicity.</p> <p>ASC Safeguarding data not reported to police.</p> <p>ISVA/SRC/Outreach referral levels</p>	<p>Police, MASH, IDVA, ISVA, Victim Support and all</p>
<p><u>Preventing Violence Partnership Working</u></p> <p>Positive action/approach to re-victimisation to reduce escalation of harm</p>	<p>Reduction in repeat offending levels measured through incident recording (re above police data) and MARAC.</p> <p>Measures of perpetrator attendance on Perpetrator programmes such as CARA/CRC programmes/Hampton Trust. Monthly/quarterly comparison of data.</p>	<p>Police ,MASH, CRC</p>
<p><u>Provision of Services Partnership Working</u></p> <p>Refuge accommodation. Provision of service to Island woman/children and move on.</p>	<p>Accommodation provided to Island and non-Island.</p> <p>Woman unable to be accommodated IWR but found space in mainland refuge or Bed and Breakfast with support.</p> <p>Woman where no suitable refuge accommodation found either IWR or mainland.</p>	<p>IWR/Woman's Aid</p>

<p><u>Partnership Working</u> <u>Provision of Services</u> <u>Justice Outcomes and Risk Reduction</u></p> <p>Positive experience for victims journey through criminal justice process</p>	<p>Number of cases referred to IDVA/ISVA where perpetrator charged.</p> <p>Number of cases leading to a successful prosecution outcome</p> <p>Reasons for cases being discontinued.</p> <p>Lessons learnt from discontinued cases with qualitative data gathered from victims.</p>	<p>IDVA,ISVA, Police, Courts, SDAC sub group</p>
<p><u>Partnership Working</u> <u>Provision of Services</u> <u>Justice Outcomes and Risk Reduction</u></p> <p>Provide intensive support to children and families who have witnessed/experienced domestic/sexual abuse</p>	<p>Number of children/families identified where DA is identified, and outcomes from early intervention and engagement.</p> <p>FIT/IWR/Barnardos child engagement programmes.</p>	<p>IWR/Barnardos</p> <p>MARAC/MASH incidents involving children</p> <p>Strengthening (Troubled) Families Team engagement</p>
<p><u>Preventing Violence</u> <u>Partnership Working</u></p> <p>VAWG Awareness campaigns (public/schools/events/employers/underrepresented groups)</p>	<p>When/where/periods of engagement/which section of community targeted/any increase or decrease in reporting during this period</p>	<p>DAC and all agencies</p>
<p><u>Preventing Violence</u> <u>Partnership Working</u> <u>Provision of Services</u></p> <p>VAWG Professionals Training</p>	<p>Who/numbers/training provided. Basic e-learning packages and phased training according to level of professional need for competent/confident service delivery.</p>	<p>DAC and all agencies</p>

<p><u>Preventing Violence Partnership Working</u></p> <p>Engagement with schools/colleges on PHSE sessions</p>	<p>Number of sessions delivered at: topic/school/college/age group/number of students</p>	<p>Public Health/Schools</p>
<p><u>Preventing Violence Partnership Working Provision of Services</u></p> <p>Service user awareness</p>	<p>Numbers of woman passing through and completing Freedom Programme and other IWR sessions. Agency making referral.</p> <p>Numbers accessing rape crisis counselling</p>	<p>IWR/SRC</p>
<p><u>Preventing Violence Partnership Working Provision of Services</u></p> <p>Customer surveys</p>	<p>IWR trustee interview and feedback process. ISVA feedback process</p>	<p>IWR/use of survey monkey</p>
<p><u>Partnership Working Provision of Services</u></p> <p>Audit of service provision</p>	<p>Dip sample audit of MARAC cases. Child case studies where views of child are recorded. Can be anonymised and fed into forum.</p> <p>Sexual violence surveys. Audits of adults safeguarding and child safeguarding cases where DV a factor to ensure use of risk assessment, appropriate responses and support mechanisms.</p>	<p>DAC/IWR</p>
<p><u>Partnership Working Provision of Services</u></p> <p>Introduction of Integrated Commissioning (or grant funding) of VAWG services</p>	<p>Core VAWG services required and costing.</p> <p>Funding provider and VAWG strategic theme funded.</p> <p>Period funding available for.</p> <p>KPI's attached to funding</p>	<p>DAC</p>

	<p>Relative bench marking of costs to demonstrate cost effectiveness e.g cost accommodating homeless family v refuge cost for 8 month period.</p>	
<p><u>Preventing Violence</u> <u>Partnership Working</u> <u>Provision of Services</u></p> <p>Reduce the number of DHR's and domestic abuse cases linked to SCR's and SAR's</p>	<p>Monitor DHR/SCR/SAR numbers</p>	<p>CSP/LSAB/LSCB</p>

Integrated Commissioning of services (wef 1/4/17)

To be added by August 2016