

CABINET 4 OCTOBER 2021

Title: Lambeth Made Safer Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021-27

Wards: All

Portfolio: Deputy Leader of the Council (Jobs, Skills and Community Safety): Councillor Jacqui Dyer

Report Authorised by: Merlin Joseph: Strategic Director for Children's Services

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REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the development of the new Lambeth Made Safer Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021-27, its contents, and proposed next steps.

FINANCE SUMMARY

None arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To adopt the new Lambeth Made Safer VAWG Strategy, attached at Appendix C, which outlines the Council's commitment as a partnership to a six-year vision for tackling all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls in Lambeth.

1. CONTEXT

1.1 VAWG includes multiple types of violence and abuse that disproportionately affect women and girls and are usually perpetrated by men. However, people of any gender can experience abuse of this nature and the consequences affect everyone. The term includes:

- domestic abuse
- female genital mutilation/cutting
- forced marriage
- so-called "honour"-based violence
- sexual exploitation
- sexual violence
- stalking and harassment

This is not an exhaustive list and our approach must continue to recognise that there is significant crossover in the types of abuse; for example, forced marriage and so-called "honour"-based violence are forms of domestic abuse and most perpetrators of stalking or rape are current or former partners.

1.2 This is our third VAWG Strategy since 2011 and builds on ten years of significant progress and commitment from partners. This puts us in a strong position to develop better processes to work in partnership with our communities to strengthen our understanding of where there are differences in reporting, responses, risks and outcomes for individuals experiencing VAWG.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 Communications are leading on the launch publicity and are developing a public facing animation that will explain the Strategy and our work in an accessible format. This will be interpreted into Lambeth's key languages, including British Sign Language.
- 2.2 The animation, our Strategy and the first action plan will be officially launched to the public at an event on 25 November to coincide the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- 2.3 We will mobilise the strategic priority workstreams to lead delivery and align these with Lambeth Made Safer for Young People. We are finalising the reporting structure to include quarterly update to our Cabinet Member, Lambeth Made Communities, the Safer Lambeth Partnership Executive, and Cabinet.
- 2.4 We are asking that the new VAWG Strategy is adopted, shaping our commitments as a partnership to tackling all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls in Lambeth.

3. FINANCE

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

4. LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY

- 4.1 Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that, without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of the Council (amongst others including the Police) to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:
 - (a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
 - (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
 - (c) re-offending in its area.
- 4.2 This proposed key decision was entered in the Forward Plan on 31 August 2021 and the necessary 28 clear days' notice has been given. The report will be published for five clear days before the decision is considered by Cabinet. Should it be approved and following the publication of the Cabinet minutes, a further period of five clear days, the call-in period, must then elapse before the decision becomes effective. If the decision is called-in during this period, it cannot be enacted until the call-in has been considered and resolved.

5. CONSULTATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

- 5.1 Over the past year we reviewed:
 - VAWG prevalence data and analysis
 - learning from previous VAWG strategies
 - benchmarking with other VAWG strategies (local, regional and national)
 - asset mapping of services available in the borough
 - findings from our stakeholder engagement.
- 5.2 We worked in partnership with experts by experience (those with lived experience of VAWG) to develop a new model of consultation that included:
 - interviews with those with lived experience of VAWG

- events with community members, Councillors and MPs, and practitioners
- a public survey: residents and practitioners
- focus groups with practitioners from across statutory and voluntary services.

- 5.3 The development of the Strategy was overseen by a Project Board with representatives from across the partnership who reviewed the evidence and engagement findings to agree the vision, goals, priorities and governance, and to offer commitments on behalf of their agencies.
- 5.4 The five new strategic priorities are: specialist support; working together; community response; children and young people; and reducing harm from perpetrators. Intersectionality and anti-racism as principles underpinning them all.
- 5.5 The Strategy will run for six years and these strategic priorities will be reviewed at a half-way point. The partnership will have annual action plans that are reviewed and agreed by a Strategic Partnership Board and a panel of experts by experience. These will be published.
- 5.6 The draft Strategy was provided to specialist services for their expert opinion as 'critical friends'. The suggestions and edits were incorporated into the final Strategy which has received sign off from Councillor Dyer as Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Community Safety; the Safer Lambeth Partnership Executive; and Management Board. The Strategy has received endorsement from the Lambeth Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive and the Lambeth Safeguarding Adults Board.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The main risks that impede on the successful delivery of this are:

Item	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Score	Control Measures
1	Strategy is not adopted and no framework for commissioning and partnership working to address VAWG from 2021	1	4	4	Partnership development and consultation. Involvement of Cabinet Member and presentation to Cabinet.

Key

Likelihood	Very Likely = 4	Likely = 3	Unlikely = 2	Very Unlikely = 1
Impact	Major = 8	Serious = 4	Significant = 2	Minor = 1

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 VAWG includes multiple types of violence and abuse that disproportionately affect women and girls and are usually perpetrated by men so is a product and cause of gender inequality. However, VAWG but can affect any Lambeth resident and so all protected groups can be impacted by the new strategy.
- 7.2 The strategy itself does not represent a change in resident facing service provision; however, the strategy will produce a variety of deliverables and these may be individually assessed for their impact on equality as necessary.
- 7.3 Full details of the EIA and Corporate EIA Panel feedback can be found in appendices A and B.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 8.1 VAWG sits under the Safer Lambeth Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).
- 8.2 Addressing VAWG is a key priority, as identified in the Safer Lambeth Strategic Assessment 2020-21.
- 8.3 The new VAWG Strategy supports the Council's duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The key outcome of partnership work is to safeguard victims and their children and protect them from further harm.

9. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental

- 9.1 No current implications.

Health

- 9.2 The strategy will inform work across the partnership that contributes to improving the health and wellbeing of all Lambeth residents who have experienced gender-based violence and that of their children.
- 9.3 We monitor and review health and wellbeing outcomes as part of the annual action plans that will be developed to support delivery of the commitments outlined in the Strategy.

Corporate Parenting

- 9.4 No current implications but the strategy has a new strategic priority of 'children and young people' and partnership work to deliver the commitments outlined will include consideration of the Council's corporate parenting duties/responsibilities for Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers up to the age of 25.

Staffing and accommodation

- 9.5 None.

Responsible Procurement

Good Quality Jobs with Fair Pay and Decent Working Conditions

- 9.6 The strategy itself does not represent a change in resident facing service provision; however, the strategy will inform future commissioning of services and these will be individually assessed for ensuring providers pay the London Living Wage to employees.

Quality Apprenticeships, targeted Employment for Lambeth residents and Lambeth Priority Group

- 9.7 N/A as the strategy itself does not represent a change in resident facing service provision.

Reduce Emissions: Lambeth Council has a commitment to being Zero Carbon by 2030

- 9.8 N/A as the strategy itself does not represent a change in resident facing service provision; however, the strategy will inform future commissioning of services and these will be individually assessed for supporting the Council's commitment to being Zero Carbon by 2030.

Single Use Plastics

9.9 N/A as the strategy itself does not represent a change in resident facing service provision; however, the strategy will inform future commissioning of services and these will be individually assessed for supporting the Council's commitment to being Zero Carbon by 2030.

Positive Health and Wellbeing

9.10 N/A as the strategy itself does not represent a change in resident facing service provision; however, the strategy will inform future commissioning of services and these will be individually assessed for Health and Wellbeing impact.

Other Offers (Innovation)

9.11 N/A as the strategy itself does not represent a change in resident facing service provision.

10. Timetable for implementation

10.1 The table below details the stages and deadlines for implementing the recommendations:

Activity	Proposed Date
Date published on Forward Plan	31.08.2021
Cabinet Decision	04.10.2021
Minutes Published	08.10.2021
End of Call-in Period	15.10.2021
Strategy to be launched	25.11.2021

11. Audit Trail

Name and Position/Title	Lambeth Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in paragraph:
Councillor Jacqui Dyer	Deputy Leader of the Council (Jobs, Skills and Community Safety)	21.09.21	22.09.2021	
Merlin Joseph, Strategic Director	Children's Services	21.09.21	22.09.2021	
Rachel Harrison, Finance	Finance and Property	21.09.21	21.09.2021	
Andrew Pavlou, Legal Services	Legal and Governance	21.09.21	21.09.2021	4
Maria Burton, Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	21.09.21	21.09.2021	4
Dan Stoten, Associate Director	Integrated Children's Commissioning and Community Safety	21.09.21	21.09.2021	

Report History

Original discussion with Cabinet Member	22.08.2019
Report deadline	30.09.2021
Date final report sent	30.09.2021
Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?	No
Key decision report	Yes
Date first appeared on forward plan	31.08.21
Key decision reasons	3. Meets community impact test.
Background information	N/A
Appendices	Appendix A – LMS VAWG Strategy EIA Appendix B – Corporate EIA Panel feedback, LMS VAWG Strategy Appendix C – VAWG Strategy 2021-2027