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<b>Decision Maker:</b>	<b>Public Protection and Safety Policy and Scrutiny Policy</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Non-Urgent
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls Service (VAWG)</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Victoria Roberts, Interim DV/VAWG Commissioner Tel: 020 83134290 E-mail: Victoria.roberts@bromley.gov.uk
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	Anne Watts, Assistant Director Strategic Development & Performance, Adult and Community Services (ECHS)
<b>Ward:</b>	Borough Wide

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1. Reason for report

- 1) To provide a briefing report on the Domestic Violence (DV) and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) contracted services and project work for the Safer Bromley Partnership.
  - 2) Provide background information to the PDS committee on the strategy for Domestic Violence (DV and violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and the strategic aims of the London Borough of Bromley.
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2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1) The committee is asked to note the contents of this report for information.

## Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. The reported Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence incident rate in Bromley from July 2015 to June 2016 was 15 victims per 1000 of the local population, this equates to roughly 4800 victims of these 2480 were domestic abuse offences. Women are more commonly affected by domestic violence than men with an estimated 1 in 4 women in England and Wales experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime. Two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner as reported by the Crime Survey of England and Wales for the year 2013/2014.
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## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:

The LBB Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2019 (DRAFT)

The Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Assessment 2016-2019 (DRAFT)

HM Government Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020

2. BBB Priority: Safer Bromley:
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost: N/A
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Community Safety
  4. Total current budget for this head: £660k (2013-2017)
  5. Source of funding: MOPAC (Mayors Office for Police and Crime)
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## Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 1
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 36
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
2. Call-in: Not Applicable:

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### Procurement

1. N/A
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Responding to domestic violence and abuse is a complex and multi-faceted issue that touches many people's lives in many different ways. Domestic violence is like no other crime insofar as the perpetrator has intimate and constant access to the victim. Domestic violence and abuse are experienced by adults and children from all backgrounds, and many domestic incidents remain unreported and often result in devastating consequences for long-term mental and physical health. Domestic violence/abuse crosses all ethnicities, sexual orientations, class and age, with the impact of abuse on the elderly and those with complex and multiple needs often poorly reported.
- 3.2 The reported domestic abuse and sexual violence incident rate in Bromley from July 2015 to June 2016 was 15 victims per 1,000 of the local population, this equates to roughly 4,800 victims of these 2,480 were domestic abuse offences. A high number of domestic violence incidents remain unreported and nationally 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.
- 3.3 We focus on the needs of women and girls due to the disproportionate impact of VAWG crimes on women and girls. A 2009 study based on police reports, which accounted for the dynamics of domestic violence, found that only 5% of domestic violence incidents were perpetrated by women in heterosexual relationships. This does not mean that men are never victims of for example domestic violence, rape or forced marriage or that women are not occasionally the perpetrator.
- 3.4 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to monitor the level of domestic abuse in their communities and establish partnerships, in order to reduce the problem as well as work together with other agencies to highlight the issue and coordinate a response. Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) came into effect on 13 April 2011. They were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). The Safer Bromley Partnership has the responsibility for establishing domestic homicide reviews within Bromley. A VAWG Strategy (2016-2019) has now been completed and will be ratified by the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group. When completed the VAWG Strategy will incorporate the domestic violence and VAWG strategic aims from the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Assessment 2016-2019.
- 3.5 Domestic abuse costs society an estimated £15.7bn per year. Domestic abuse has a significant impact on a wide range of services including housing, criminal justice and social services provision. Nationally, violent crime figures show that despite a long downward trend in violent crime, domestic abuse remains a widespread problem which affects more than 8.5% of women and 4.5% of men every year, two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner.

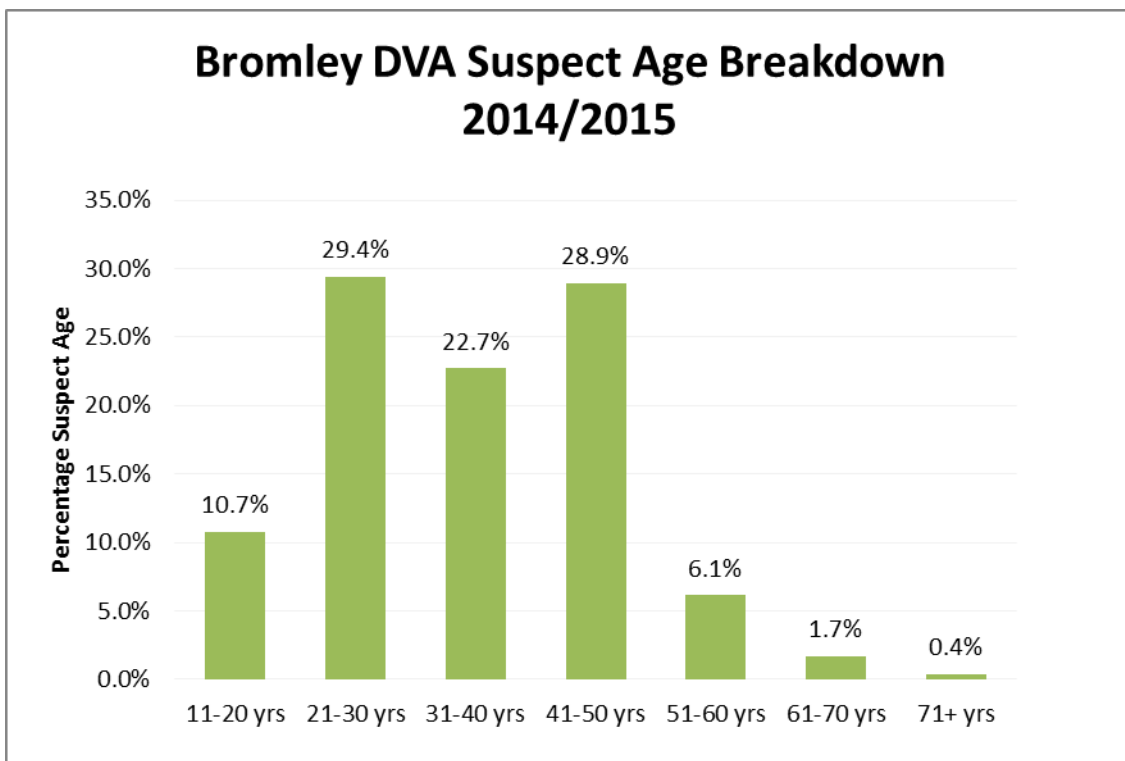
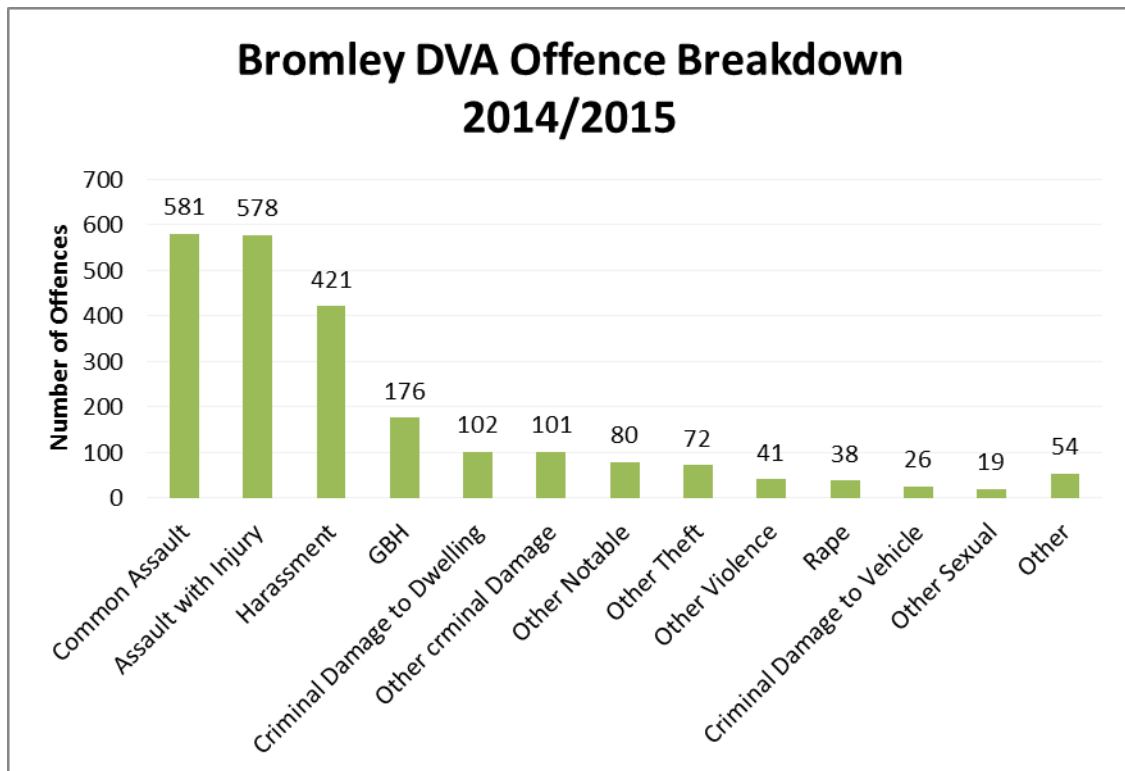
#### 3.6 **BROMLEY OFFENCES, VICTIM AND SUSPECT PROFILES**

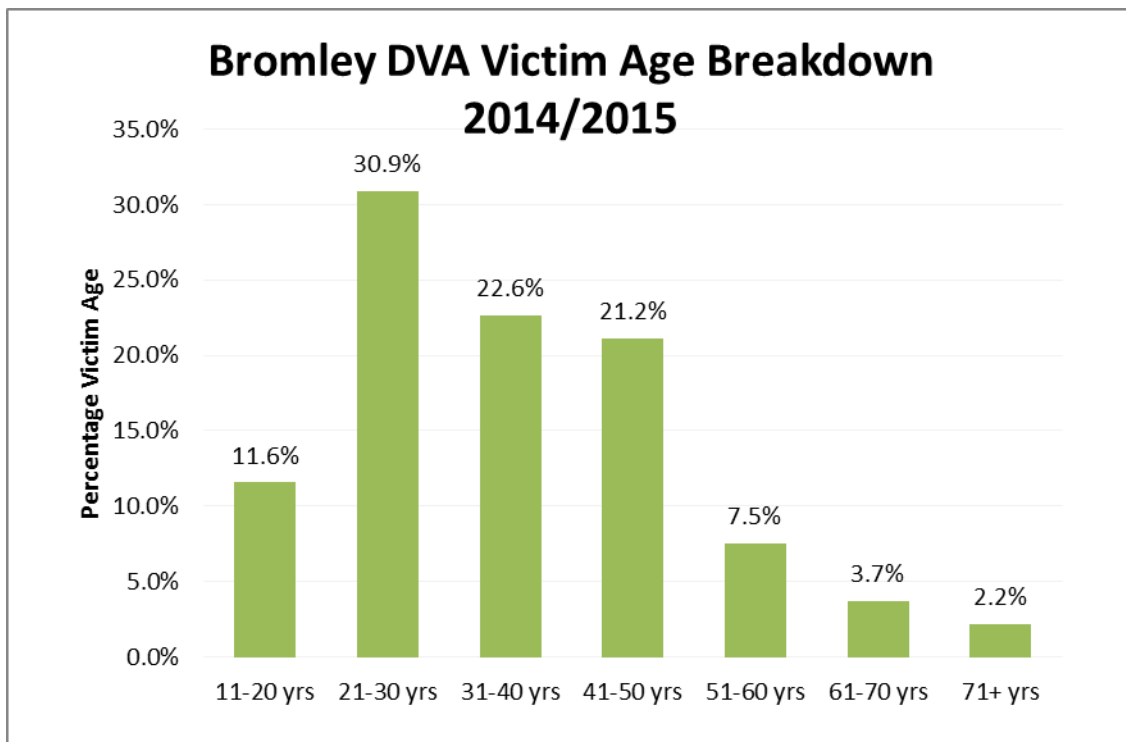
The tables below provide basic demographic information on domestic violence/abuse offences victim and perpetrator information.

Data supplied by Bromley Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) for the year 2014/2015 shows that of the 2,289 reported offences:

- 581 offences were Common Assault
- 578 offences were Assault with injury
- 176 of grievous bodily harm
- 41 Offences recorded as other violence

Over 60% of all offences recorded by the MPS in Bromley were physical offences with 12.7% of those being of the more serious offence of grievous bodily harm. There were 421 cases of Harassment recorded in the year 2014/2015 and account for just over 18% of the recorded domestic violence/abuse cases for Bromley MPS.





Data supplied by Bromley Metropolitan Police shows that:

- The highest numbers of suspects are in the age range of between 21 and 30 years old (32%) this mirrors the highest victim age range of between 21 and 30 years old (30.7%)
- This trend follows through from 11 years old to 60 years old as the tables show.

Data supplied by the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project for the period 2015/2016 shows that:

- The Bromley Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project received 297 new referrals of whom a total of 267 engaged with the service.
- 89% were identified as medium risk and 11% were defined as at high risk and were eligible for the multi agencies risk assessment conference (MARAC).
- 97% of service users accessing the service were female.

#### **4. THE PROPOSED SERVICE FUNDED BY MOPAC 2017-2020/2021**

- 4.1 At this stage it is not certain what level of MOPAC funding will be available for this service in future years. MOPAC have confirmed that LB Bromley will receive the same level of funding in 2017/18 that was received in 2016/17 which is £257,730. MOPAC funding is expected to reduce by 40% in 2018/19. No further details have been released about funding in future years.
- 4.2 Due to the uncertainty of future MOPAC funding, it is proposed to tender the service for a contract term of 1 year, with options to extend for a further two single years. This will provide flexibility to procure the service differently in future years.
- 4.3 The proposal is for one organisation to provide the whole service outlined below either by forming a consortium with other providers or by undertaking delivery of all the services.

- 4.4 The benefits to LBB will be that one lead service provider will take responsibility for all data collection and there will be a more streamlined contract monitoring and performance of the providers of the consortium. LBB currently has five separate contracts from three service providers that require monitoring on a quarterly basis.
- 4.5 The service specification requires the provider to deliver the provision of the following as part of the VAWG Service:
- Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocates (IDSVAs) addressing all forms of VAWG.
  - Standard, medium and high level support to females.
  - An appropriate service for male victims and relevant signposting when necessary.
  - Provision for a Young Persons IDSVAs including working with children's early intervention teams.
  - Provision for specialist adult support for elder victims of domestic abuse, service users with complex additional needs including substance misuse (drugs, and/or alcohol) and those service users with mental health conditions.
  - A dedicated domestic abuse/violence perpetrator programme.
  - A One Stop Shop offering a wide range of services under one roof.
- 4.6 The following service specification requires the following structure to deliver the provision to support LBB strategic ambitions, as outlined in the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Assessment 2016-2019 and the LBB Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2019.
- 4.7 Community Safety Unit and Community IDSVAs  
One IDSVAs will be based with the Community Safety Unit (CSU) offering a specialist support service to police staff and the high risk domestic/sexual abuse cases they work with.
- 4.8 Young Person IDSVAs  
This IDSVAs will support 16-17 year old victims of domestic abuse. Safe Lives research identified that 16% of young victims of domestic abuse are looked after children with a combination of additional complex needs e.g. depression, anxiety, challenging behaviour and self-harm. The Young Person's IDSVAs will work with the Leaving Care Team and with schools and youth clubs, also co-locate with the Children Early Intervention Team.
- 4.9 Specialist Adult Support IDSVAs  
This IDSVAs will provide specialist support to elderly victims of domestic violence; nearly half of elderly victims of domestic abuse also have a disability. The IDSVAs will also link in and be a single point of contact for the Adult Early Intervention Team, substance misuse and mental health teams to support service users with complex additional needs.
- 4.10 Dedicated Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme  
A perpetrator programme is specifically designed to address intimate partner violence, drawing upon a wide range of approaches.
- 4.11 One Stop Shop  
The One Stop Shop is a free and confidential service for victims and survivors of domestic abuse offering services under one roof including a police officer, a family law solicitor and IDSVAs and representatives from housing, Bromley Women's Aid and Victim Support.
- 4.12 The proposed service specification were approved; the Commissioning Board on the 22nd August 2016, E & R PDS on the 7th September 2016, the Executive Committee on the 14th September 2016.

## **5. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

- 5.1 Research by the NSPCC highlights the impact domestic abuse on children living in the family with 1 in 5 children witnessing domestic abuse. A third of children witnessing domestic abuse also experience another form of abuse. SafeLives estimate that 62% of children living with domestic abuse are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others. There is a growing amount of research that highlights the long term effects of domestic abuse on children, this includes aggressive, anti-social, fearful and/or inhibited behaviour. As a result, young people that witness abuse in the home are more likely to develop long term problems such as depression, trauma related symptoms and be violent in their own adolescent and adult relationships.
- 5.2 The abuse of children often starts prior to them even being born. The Department of Health in 2004 reported that in 30% of cases domestic violence either starts or will intensify during pregnancy. Domestic abuse has been identified as a prime cause of miscarriage or still birth.
- 5.3 In March 2013 the Home Office introduced a new official definition of domestic violence, this was expanded to include 16 to 17-year-olds.
- 5.4 Older victims of domestic violence experience abuse for twice as long as those aged 61 and under. Nearly half have a disability yet older victims are hugely under represented among domestic abuse services. In research conducted by SafeLives they found that older victims are less likely to attempt to leave in the year before accessing help and more likely to be living with the perpetrator after getting support. Research shows that:
- Only 27% of older victims will attempt to leave in the year before accessing help compared to the 68% of those under 60 years old
  - 32% of older victims will continue to live with the perpetrator after getting support compared to 9% of those under 60's
  - 48% of older victims also have a disability for a third of those, this is a physical disability
  - Victims aged 61 years old and over are far more likely to experience abuse from an adult family member (44%) than those under 60 years old (6%)

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The LBB Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2019 (DRAFT) .  
The Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Assessment 2016-2019 (DRAFT).  
HM Government Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Domestic Violence and VAWG Co-ordinator is currently a MOPAC funded position. In the event that the MOPAC funding ceases, this employee will be at risk of redundancy. In this respect full consultation in line with the Council's 'Managing Change', procedures will be undertaken with the employee affected, along with staff representatives.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Health, social and related services are covered by Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, thus any tender would subject to the application of the "Light Touch" regime (LTR) under those regulations. Authorities have the flexibility to use any process or procedure they choose to run the procurement, as long as it respects the following obligations;
- The tender must be advertised in OJEU.



- A Contract Award Notice must be published in OJEU at the end of the procurement.
- The procurement must comply with Treaty principles of transparency and equal treatment.
- The procurement must conform to the information provided in the OJEU advert regarding; any conditions for participation; time limits for contacting/responding to the authority; and the award procedure to be applied.
- Time limits imposed, such as for responding to adverts and tenders, must be reasonable and proportionate. There are no stipulated minimum time periods in the LTR rules, so contracting authorities should use their discretion and judgement on a case by case basis.

## 10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The current service for domestic violence against women and girls has been fully funded by a MOPAC grant since April 2013 and the funding is due to end on 31 March 2017. The table below shows the individual projects that are funded by the annual grant of £257,730.

Project	Provider	Annual Contract Value £
One Stop Shop	B Womens Aid	£4,750
DA Support Group	B Womens Aid	£24,870
Safer Bromley Van	Victim Support	£30,570
IDVA Project	Victim Support	£122,540
Perp Programme	DVIP	£30,000
DV Co-ordinator	LBB	£45,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£257,730</b>

- 10.2 A formal procurement exercise has commenced to test the market for the delivery of this service as a single tender to ensure that the Council achieves value for money. The estimated contract value for the proposed length of contract of 1 year with an option to extend for a further two single years is £660k.
- 10.3 At this moment in time funding has been confirmed for 2017/18 at the same level as 2016/17, however this is dependent on MOPAC approval of the proposed project spending plan. Funding for 2018/19 will be reduced by 40% and therefore the projects will have to be tailored to be delivered within the available funding.
- 10.4 The award of contract will not be made until confirmation of funding and approval of the project plan has been received. Officers must ensure that the contract has adequate flexibility built in to enable the level of service to be amended to match the amount of funding that MOPAC may award.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	[List non-applicable sections here]
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<p>HM Government Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020  <a href="#">VAWG Strategy FINAL PUBLICATION MASTER vRB.PDF</a></p> <p>The London Borough of Bromley VAWG Strategy 2016-2019 (FIRST DRAFT)</p> <p>Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Assessment 2016-2019 (DRAFT)</p>