

Quarter Two (2022/23)- Progress Against Priority Two of the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy:

Priority Two – Violence Against Women and Girls

Partner – VAWG, Police, Community Safety

Priority Two - This priority looks at protecting women and girls from violence. We support Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime in their stance of taking a zero-tolerance approach wherever this violence and abuse takes place, with meaningful support for victims and survivors, and significant consequences for perpetrators. The services commissioned by Bromley will support victims and survivors whatever their gender. The Metropolitan Police Service has made tackling domestic abuse a high priority and has a dedicated unit within the Borough Command Unit. They will investigate all instances of domestic abuse, even in cases where a victim has not reported it themselves. There are key interrelationships between this priority and our other priorities.

Objectives :

To reduce violence against women and girls,
change the culture that allows this to happen, and empower them to take control, in doing so we will:

- Better protect women and girls
- Improve support for those affected
- Target offenders

Colleagues are asked to note the change of language to domestic abuse in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The word violence, and all reference to gender have been removed. When the strategy and priorities are formally reviewed, this will need to be updated.

Commitments within the SBPS

Rag
Status

1. Provide strategic direction


Green


Refreshing the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) 2016- 2019 Strategy;

"Refreshing the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy. A new strategy has been written, approved, and published in 2021. The new strategy is titled '*An intergenerational Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2021-2024 Making Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business*'"



The Strategy outlines the priorities that Bromley and partners are committed to support and achieve during the life cycle of the current document. We have identified and agreed the following five priorities as detailed on page 50.

<p>The focus for 2022/23 will be to review and update the draft action plan this will be reported on at quarter 4 2022/23</p> <p>This objective, to refresh the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) 2016- 2019 Strategy is complete.</p>	
<p>DASLO Role and Domestic Abuse agenda</p> <p>The DASLO role and related domestic abuse work transferred from Public Protection to Adult Services some years ago. In 2018, a decision was taken to move this work from Adults Services, and Early Intervention and Family Support Services (EIFS) in Children's Social Care were asked to 'caretake' the post of DASLO and related work whilst options were explored.</p> <p>EIFS Services believe that domestic abuse sits strategically in the public protection arena with VAWG and the wider protection work. EIFS approached Public Protection and Environment colleagues in 2022 to explore whether now was the right time for the DASLO post and related work to return to Public Protection.</p> <p>Agreement has been reached, and the DASLO post and related domestic abuse work will return to Public Protection under the Community Safety Manager in mid-November 2022.</p> <p>A handover is currently in planning.</p>	Amber
<p>Update the Domestic Homicide Review protocol.</p> <p>DHR protocol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed by Rob Vale (Public Protection) and circulated to relevant parties. It is now an operational document. 	Green
<p>2. Communicate</p> <p>Develop a communication plan to increase awareness of the services Violence Against Women & Girls provide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of the DA Strategic Lead Officer was vacant for a period of months earlier this year but has been successfully filled and the new DASLO (Jamie O'Malley) started in post on the 10 October 2022. DA Strategic Lead Officer publishes a regular newsletter which is shared across the wider workforce... with thanks to colleagues who manage the SBP, HWB, BSCP, and BSCB meetings and membership. Five have been published, and the sixth will be published shortly, delayed by the DASLO post being vacant. Reminder that credit-card sized information cards have been developed and are available from the DA Strategic Lead Officer, Jamie.o'malley@bromley.gov.uk 	Green

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA Strategic Lead Officer developed and circulated a directory of support interventions for DA victim survivors, and perpetrators. This was shared via BSCP, BSAB, SBP, and HBW to reach the wider workforce. This document will be reviewed by March 2023 • BCWA social media presence has grown and EIFS has been promoting BCWA (Bromley's provider) via their Social Media feeds too. • Bromley Local Authority have updated their DA information on the council's corporate site, but there is more to do on this as there has been a review of the website and this has delayed updates. This is planned for Winter 2022. • The post of DA Strategic Lead Officer had been vacant for a number of months which has resulted in a suspension of the delivery of the awareness raising presentations and training to partner agencies requesting this service. This will be available now on request- please contact Jamie O'Malley. • Strategic Board and Operational Forum are now both active with good level of representation across partner agencies. Membership has been reviewed and updated with new partners including Probation, Job Centre Plus and Youth Justice Service. • Developing a wider DA communications strategy is part of our work plan. This is now live and called the Bromley Parenting Hub. The ambition is to create a satellite, bespoke for domestic abuse information, advice, support and signposting with its own hyperlink. We have taken care to distinguish between DA and reducing parental conflict to ensure anyone who suspects or identifies DA seeks the right specialist support. The DASLO will be working closely with the RPC coordinator to develop a training tool which will be embedded for the wider workforce (the ambition is to complete this for March 2023). • We continue to work closely with L&D, BSAB and BSCP to provide a core training package for all professionals working within the wider workforce and in addition to this we have commissioned targeted training on coercive control and the impact of domestic abuse on children, MARAC panel training and MARAC awareness for the wider workforce. 	
<p>Tackle under-reporting through media engagement, partnership and information sharing between professionals (particularly health), and engaging the third sector including campaign groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA Forum has increased communication and awareness amongst agencies. • Regular meetings are taking place between the DA Strategic Lead Officer, partner agencies and community and voluntary sector organisations. • A senior officer in the MET based at the time in Bromley launched an app to support the reporting of VAWG incidents called 'Safe & the City'. 	Green
<p>3. Take an Intelligence Led Approach Improving the response to victims by developing mechanisms to capture data in addition to that provided by the Police;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The post of DA Strategic Lead Officer was vacant and our key contacts in the MET for DA related work have recently changed. This has resulted in limited progress in this area in recent months. 	Amber

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requesting data from partners on the prevalence of DA within families they are supporting has identified a gap and lack of consistency in way that data is captured and reported. Work was undertaken with the Operational Forum and a new data sheet agreed however, many partners have now decided that this is not data they wish to share in the format previously agreed. The DA Strategic Lead Officer is looking again at how other London boroughs have achieved a successful model for sharing their data. This will include analysing the language used to provide a shared language and enable comparison. • Partners who are not currently sharing their data in relation to DA are encouraged to do so. Whatever data you are able to share would be welcome. All that is asked is that it comes with an explanation, permission to incorporate and publish, and that regular, ideally monthly (but quarterly broken down by month would also be extremely valuable) updates can be sustained. This will add value and improve our understanding of issues, prevalence, mapping of victims and perpetrators across all levels including where they have not yet engaged with the police/judicial process. • The development of a data sheet will be a key area of progress for the remainder of 2022/23 and will be shared at the DA Strategic Board, the DA Operational Forum and other relevant Boards e.g. SBPB. Our ambition is to create this in a cloud-based environment allowing agencies to 'submit and click' e.g., Survey Monkey. 	
<p>Enable accurate mapping of the prevalence of Violence Against Women & Girls and implement appropriate responses and services where needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARAC data will be used to add intelligence to the data that is held and this will link to the DAPP data (Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel delivered under the DRIVE programme). Options have been explored to resolve the absence of a MARAC coordinator and agreement in relation to this between LBB and colleagues in the MET are currently being finalised. 	Red
<p>4. Protect High Risk Victims Support victims through an effective and robust Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC),</p> <p>MARAC</p> <p>The MARAC Steering Group is currently working to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the recommendations made by SafeLives in the MARAC Review that was conducted in September 2020. • Membership of the Steering Group has been reviewed and agreed and will be monitored regularly, to ensure consistent representation of core agencies. • The action plan has been shared at the DA Strategic Board, work has commenced and the planned update, initially for quarter 2, will now be shared at quarter 4 meeting due to the DASLO post being vacant for several months. 	Amber
<p>Implementing any learning points from Domestic Homicide Reviews, For Rob or Sarah</p> <p>DHR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently three DHRs in progress. Of these three, two are now at the Action Plan stage. The Action Plans have been submitted to the Home Office. One of the Action Plans is live and one is now completed. For the completed one, Agencies are reporting that they have implemented required changes to their procedures. 	<p>Green</p> <p>Progress Made but more to do moving</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the Home Office has ratified the DHR and approved the level of information that can be shared, this will be shared via BSCB, BSCP, SBP, and HWB in order to reach the wider workforce in line with Bromley's DHR Protocol. 	into 2022-23
<p>Ensure that all local domestic abuse services are aware of the relevant support services that are available, including: The One Stop Shop, Outreach Support and the DRIVE programme.</p> <p>Services for victims and survivors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bromley and Croydon Womens Aid (BCWA) are currently commissioned by the Council to provide services for victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Bromley. BCWA continue to provide services both face to face and online, which is meeting the needs of victim/survivors. Details of these services are being promoted via BCWA and EIFS social media and their websites. BCWA continued to deliver the OSS virtually during this financial year. Considering the change in delivering the OSS from drop-in service to virtual, the number of service users, calling to receive advice and guidance through the BCWA support line, has not reduced. Callers to BCWA are now being captured in our data records as OSS enquiries regardless of the day/time that they initiate their contact by the commissioner's request. The co-location of the IDVA into the MASH Team has had a significant impact on the number of referrals that were made by Children Social Care. In accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement Regulations, EIFS is currently leading on a fresh commissioning cycle for DA victim survivor services to commence April 2023. The procurement exercise is live on the Portal with a closure date of 9 November 2022. The Evaluation Panel for this exercise is multi-disciplinary and multi-agency. <p>Perpetrators' Intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DRIVE perpetrator programme has been operational in Bromley for two years and funding has been extended for this to run until March 2023. The DRIVE data we have received is being interrogated and any significant outcomes will be shared once identified. Conversations are currently happening at Director level across Bromley and with partner agencies to identify the most suitable perpetrator intervention for Bromley, and how to fund this when MOPAC ceases to fund the DRIVE programme. MOPAC have advised that they will be focussing on earlier intervention as was described in the Mayors Police and Crime Plan 2021/25. 	<p>Green</p> <p>Good progress made but more to do moving into 2022/2023</p>
<p>Sanctuary Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calvin Pearson and Lydia Lewinson are leading on this project. The service is now live - contact calvin.pearson@bromley.gov.uk. Request made for data in relation to the use of this scheme. Update not received in time to be included in this paper but the Sanctuary Scheme is on the agenda for the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board. Data will be requested for this report moving forward. 	<p>Green</p>
<p>5. Make use of Legislation</p> <p>Ensure that perpetrators of violence against women and girls are held accountable according to the law and are provided with assistance to change</p>	<p>Green</p>

their abusive behaviour in order to prevent them from causing harm or violence to their current, past or future partners.

- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced new changes in law to make perpetrators more accountable for their behaviour. We produced and circulated a paper on the changes implemented by the DA Act 2021 for use by professionals working across the London Borough of Bromley regardless of their agency. This paper can be found on both the BSAB and BSCP.
- The London Borough of Bromley received new duties funding to support the implementation of the new duties in the DA Act 2021 and this is being led by colleagues in the housing department; Lydia Lewinson.
- The DRIVE programme aims to work with agencies such as the Police and Probation to address and change the behaviour of high-risk perpetrators. Data has been requested from RISE who have been commissioned to deliver DRIVE across our BCU by MOPAC.
- Additional services that can provide assistance to perpetrators of abuse in Bromley include the 'Fathers to Fathers' programme run by HomeStart, and 'Respect'. This is in addition to programmes run by partner agencies e.g., our Youth Justice Service run Healthy Relationship groups, Welcare deliver Healthy Relationship sessions in some schools as part of the PHSE syllabus too.

6. Work in Partnership

With Children's Social Care and Children's Early Intervention Teams to provide support, advocacy and deliver age-appropriate work in a range of educational, youth and community settings.

- EIFS sits with Children's Social Care. EIFS is providing child focused support sessions for children who have witnessed DA against their primary female carer, an evidence based licenced programme overseen by the charitable organisation 'AVA' (Against Violence and Abuse). This programme has been renamed 'CODA' which stands for Children Overcoming Domestic Abuse.
- The CODA programme has been running for over 5 years. Schools work in partnership to enable the children to attend these sessions.
- Other agencies are also working with our children and young people in schools and other settings. We have not yet managed to persuade those agencies to share their data and success stories. This is a continuing piece of work for the DA Strategic Lead.
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors ('IDVA') from BCWA are sharing the co-location within the MASH Team and continue to work closely with other agencies in Bromley.
- In addition to the IDVAs within BCWA, there is an IDVA based at the PRUH employed through Victim Support pan-London MOPAC funding, and an addition resource via the IRIS programme (ICB) which supports health professionals through access to the IDVA-E.
- Anthony Powell – Community Safety Officer/Serious Youth Crime and Gangs Lead was the chair of the DA Operational Forum for 2021/2022 and this will change to Paul O'Brien – Consultant Lead Practitioner within Adult Social Care for 2022/2023, with Anthony taking the role of Vice Chair.

Amber

There is a lot going on but always more to do and this will be the case 2022-23

<p>7. How we will know we are on track</p> <p>This theme will be included as a substantive discussion item at the Safer Bromley Partnership Board in quarter 2, whereby Violence Against Women & Girls, Police and associated Partners will provide an update.</p> <p>An update was produced as requested in line with the agreed programme.</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>See Appendix 1</p>
<p>The Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women & Girls subgroup will lead on the effective monitoring and scrutiny of partner agencies in their service delivery, present findings within that setting, and report exceptions to the Safer Bromley Partnership Board if they occur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DA Strategic Board and DA Operational Forum are now taking place three times a year. • A regular agenda item has been introduced at the DA Operational Forum where agencies are required to respond to a set topic/issue. This improves communication between agencies and provides an overview of what is happening in relation to domestic abuse at a local level. • There has been a lot of work undertaken to produce a universal DA reporting tool but unfortunately this is still not operational. It is on the agenda for both the DA Operational forum and DA Strategic Board with the ambition to achieve this in 2023. 	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Update the Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy and the Domestic Homicide Review Protocol by August 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA VAWG Strategy - Completed • DHR Protocol – Completed 	<p>Green</p>
<p>8. General Annual Update of achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the new DA/VAWG Strategy covering 2021 – 2024. • DA/VAWG Strategic Board and DA Operational Forum successfully set up and running three times a year. • Increased awareness and commitment from partner agencies in relation to domestic abuse. • Review of Bromley's MARAC undertaken, Action Plan moving forward led by MARAC steering group. • The DRIVE perpetrator programme has been operational in Bromley for two years and funding has been extended for this to run until March 2023. <p>END</p>	