

Title of Report	Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Hackney Strategy	
Key Decision No	CE S122	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	24 October 2022	
Cabinet Member	Councillor Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cabinet member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	All	
Key Decision & Reason	Yes	Significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards
Implementation Date if Not Called In	1 November 2022	
Group Director	Jacquie Burke, Group Director of Children and Education	

1. **Cabinet Member's introduction**

- 1.1. Hackney's *Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022* needs to be replaced with an updated Strategy.
- 1.2. The *Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Hackney Strategy 2022-2025* provides a framework for how the Council in partnership with statutory agencies, community and voluntary groups and residents will tackle domestic abuse and gender-based violence.
- 1.3. Hackney's Policy and Strategy Group held on 4 July 2022 endorsed the *Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Hackney Strategy 2022-2025*

2. **Group Director's introduction**

- 2.1. I endorse the *Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Hackney Strategy 2022-2025*. The *Strategy* has been developed through consultation with and input from members of the public, young people, survivors of abuse, partner agencies and elected Members.

2.2. The *Strategy* is accompanied by an operational Action Plan, reviewed quarterly by Hackney's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Board, which has powers delegated from the Community Safety Partnership.

2.3. The *Strategy* provides a framework and impetus for the Council, partners and residents to make Hackney safer for women and girls in particular and for all residents at risk from gender-based violence.

3. **Recommendation**

3.1. **That the *Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Hackney Strategy 2022-2025* is approved / endorsed.**

4. **Reason(s) for decision**

4.1. Sections 5-7 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 created Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) which have a duty to -

- reduce crime and disorder;
- prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence
- reduce instances of serious violence

4.2. In pursuance of these duties as they pertain to gender-based violence, the Council has been guided by the national Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and the London MOPAC VAWG Strategy in having its own Hackney Strategy and Action Plan.

4.3. Approval of the *Eliminating VAWG Strategy* is in accordance with the principles of decision making in Article 13 of the Constitution:

Proportionality: Given the scale of the issue, it is proportionate for the Council to have an *Eliminating VAWG Strategy*

Due consultation: While the Council has not been required to conduct a public consultation it has consulted with members of the public, statutory and community agencies, Council staff and VAWG providers

Officer advice: It is the advice of the Lead Officer for Violence Against Women and Girls that the Council endorse the *Strategy*

Human rights: Prevention of domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls is in accordance with the Council's commitment to human rights and there is no contradiction between the exercise of the *Strategy* and the Human Rights act 1996

Openness: The Council plans to publish and publicise its *Eliminating VAWG Strategy 2022-2025*. Its ongoing review and implementation involves groups from across the statutory and voluntary sectors in Hackney.

Clarity of aims:	The <i>Strategy</i> sets out clearly the 4 key areas of work and accompanying priorities
Efficiency:	The <i>Strategy</i> identifies and take forward areas of work already underway; their formal endorsement will not hinder the delivery of services and will assist a partnership approach

4.4. No additional funding is required

5. **Details of alternative options considered and rejected**

5.1. An alternative course of action would be to allow Hackney's 2019-2022 Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy to lapse without refreshing or extending a strategic framework for this specific area of work. To do so would render the Council an outlier in the London and national contexts, would impede the ability to reduce harm and may interfere with the Council's ability to comply with future requests from MOPAC and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office.

6. **Background**

Policy Context

6.1. The Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy commits the Council to continuing and further developing work to address violence against women and girls as well as domestic abuse against any member of the Hackney community.

The four priority areas of the Hackney Strategy mirror those of the London MOPAC VAWG Strategy and the national VAWG Strategy:

- Preventing and reducing VAWG
- Supporting all victims and survivors
- Holding perpetrators to account
- Building trust and confidence

Equality impact assessment

6.2. The Strategy commits the Council to provision of domestic abuse services for all residents.

6.3. The Strategy explicitly references marginalised groups.

6.4. The Strategy explicitly references and complements Anti Racist Practice.

Sustainability and climate change

6.5. There are no foreseeable impacts on sustainability or climate change.

Consultations

- 6.6. The development of the Strategy has involved consultation by the Council with organisations working with victims / survivors of domestic abuse and VAWG and consultation with women and girls in Hackney.

Risk assessment

- 6.7. There would be a risk for the Council and residents of not having a current strategy and Action Plan to address domestic abuse and violence against women and girls; it could lead to an increased likelihood of harm to individuals as well as reputational damage to the Council.

7. Comments of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources.

- 7.1. This paper recommends the approval and endorsement of the 'Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Hackney Strategy 2022-2025', the strategy will replace the 'Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022'.
- 7.2. Additional resources are not required to implement the new strategy and there are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. Any financial implications that arise from the strategy will need to be implemented via detailed business cases including financial implications through the appropriate governance process.

8. Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 8.1. The Mayor's Scheme of Delegation gives authority to the Mayor and Cabinet to approve corporate policies and strategies in line with Article 5.5 (viii) of the constitution where it is necessary to promote and improve the economic and social wellbeing of residents. The strategies accompanied by the action plan set out in this report is designed to protect the safety and wellbeing of women and girls from gender based violence.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - [Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) Hackney Strategy 2022-2025](#)

Background documents

None

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