

Title of Report	Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Hackney Strategy 2022-2025
For Consideration By	Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting Date	8th March 2023
Classification	Open
Ward(s) Affected	All
Report Author	Cathal Ryan, Service Manager, Domestic Abuse Intervention Service, Children and Education Directorate

Is this report for:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	information
<input type="checkbox"/>	discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	decision

Why is the report being brought to the Board?

For the Health and Wellbeing Board to be aware of the strategy given cross-cutting areas

Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council or other stakeholders?

Yes, the Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 24th October 2022

Background

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.

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.

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 and domestic abuse.

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

Policy Context

Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities this report relates to?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Improving mental health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing social connection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supporting greater financial security
<input type="checkbox"/>	All of the above

The Eliminating VAWG Strategy aligns with the above policy contexts from [Hackney’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026](#) in the following ways:

Improving mental health

The Eliminating VAWG Strategy seeks to prevent VAWG which we know can have significant and lasting adverse effects on mental health of victims / survivors.

1.1: Children and young people in Hackney exhibit positive behaviours and attitudes relating to gender, including non binary, trans and non-conforming gender

Example: DAIS has created *Young Person Gender-based Attitude and Behaviours Screening and Intervention Guidance* containing resources to identify and intervene around problematic attitudes. This is being rolled out to partners to help them challenge misogyny and help young people develop positive attitudes and behaviour around relationships

1.2: Children and young people in Hackney harmed through violence or abuse are enabled to heal and avoid experiencing harm from or causing harm to others in adolescence and adulthood

Example: Work is being done in partnership with NHS North East London and Homerton NHS Trust to expand provision for survivors of domestic abuse and enable access for trauma-informed therapeutic responses.

Supporting greater financial security

Domestic abuse can result in a high level of disruption to victims/survivors and their children in terms of income, employment security and housing. The Eliminating VAWG Strategy, by addressing domestic abuse, seeks to enable people to live safely in their homes and be supported to be safe in their place of work.

2.3: The housing needs of victims / survivors of domestic abuse are prioritised

Example: DAIS is working with Registered Social landlords to reduce homelessness by obtaining their agreement to a *Hackney Social Landlords Domestic Abuse Protocol*. The Protocol sets out how RSLs will identify and support victims/survivors of domestic abuse and reduce the need for them to flee their homes.

2.4: Employers to support victims / survivors of VAWG and domestic abuse

Example: Developing work as per the Hackney Businesses and VAWG Plan so anyone working in Hackney can be supported by their employer around domestic abuse

Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy Ways of Working this report relates to?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening our communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creating, supporting and working with volunteer and peer roles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Collaborations and partnerships: including at a neighbourhood level
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Making the best of community resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	All of the above

Collaborations and partnerships: including at a neighbourhood level

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Making the best of community resources

The Eliminating VAWG Strategy includes the following actions which relate to these Ways of working:

- 4.1: All agencies across the Hackney partnership to understand and work to an agreed casework pathway when addressing all forms of VAWG and domestic abuse
- 4.3: VAWG partnership to foster a learning culture where good practice flourishes
- 4.4: The Hackney partnership is committed to ensuring provision for services working with victims / survivors who are male, trans, non-binary, Black and Global Majority or who have unresolved immigration status as well as any groups within the community for whom services are not meeting their needs.

Equality Impact Assessment

Equalities issues have been considered in the development and approval of the Eliminating VAWG Strategy

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

The Strategy explicitly references marginalised groups.

The Strategy explicitly references and complements Anti Racist Practice.

Consultation

Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
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The Eliminating VAWG Strategy has been developed through consultation with and input from members of the public, young people, survivors of abuse, partner agencies and elected Members.

Have the relevant members/ organisations and officers been consulted on the recommendations in this report

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
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Risk Assessment

There are no risk issues to highlight to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Sustainability

There are no sustainability issues to highlight to the Health and Wellbeing Board

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Appendices	Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Hackney Strategy 2022-2025