Safer Brent Partnership

A strategy to tackle Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG)

2015 – 2017
1. Introduction

The Safer Brent Partnership has agreed six strategic priorities for 2015-17. These are:

- Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls
- Tackling criminality in Gangs
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing Reoffending
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Preventing Radicalisation

This strategy outlines the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) strategy to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG), and supersedes the 2013-14 VAWG strategy.

One of the overriding purposes of this strategy is to ensure that the issues relating to VAWG retain a strong and visible focus for the agencies and partners who form the SBP. It is therefore envisioned that this strategy will indicate a strong and meaningful commitment to the London Borough of Brent to provide both clear policy direction across the key agencies, and to support a co-ordinated response to VAWG in the borough.

Much work has been developed, implemented and conducted in the borough aimed at addressing all forms of VAWG, and from this a great deal of efficient practice has been identified. What is now necessary is to develop these work streams together and further develop our integrated response to VAWG. The development is ongoing and a review of the VAWG strategy and action plan will take place annually supported by the evidence base produced through the SBP annual strategic assessment.

1.1. Background

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) stated that violence against women is both a consequence and a cause of discrimination against women. Under international directives upheld by the United Nations all governments are required to demonstrate their intentions and progress towards eliminating gender based violence.

In recent years, tackling violence against women has become a significant priority on the political agenda and it is now a key government priority. HM Government published “Call to End Violence against Women and Girls” (Nov 2010) which together with the GLA strategy “The Way Forward- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, 2009-11” provides the framework for a greater emphasis on tackling all forms of VAWG. These strategies draw upon a number of recent reviews, including the Health Taskforce which examined the National Health Service response to VAWG; the Department for Children, Schools and Families VAWG Advisory Group findings of the role of schools in preventing VAWG as well as the Stern Review of the Criminal Justice System and its agencies response to rape complaints. Such reviews highlight the need for more of partnership approach in tackling the VAWG agenda.

Although this strategy will be focused primarily towards women and girls, it will ensure existing policies towards protection and redress are for all victims of domestic abuse or sexual violence. This includes men and boys.
2. Aims

**Strategic Aims:**

1. **Prevention**
   Aim: To change attitudes and prevent violence.
   How: Raising awareness through campaigns; safeguarding and educating children and young people; early identification, partnership intervention and training.

2. **Provision**
   Aim: To assist victims to move on and develop their lives.
   How: Provide effective provision of services, advice and support; emergency and acute services; refuge and safe accommodation.

3. **Protection**
   Aim: To provide an effective criminal justice system.
   How: Effective investigation; prosecution; victim support and protection; perpetrator interventions.

3. Objectives

**Strategic Objectives:**

1. Raise public awareness about Violence against Women and Girls, providing guidance and support where necessary.

2. Change attitudes and behaviours that may foster domestic abuse, especially among young people.

3. Deliver services that are appropriate for Brent’s diverse community.

4. Ensure perpetrators are held to account and brought to justice.

5. Protect survivors.

6. Support perpetrators to change their abusive behaviour, as an individual or within a family unit where appropriate.

7. Work together with all agencies and improve multi agency working and information sharing.
4. Governance

The Safer Brent Partnership and related sub groups will oversee the delivery of this strategy.

Key performance indicators and targets will be set within action plans ensuring effective monitoring through the Safer Brent Partnership, SBP Performance board and the VAWG Delivery Group.

We will seek to develop this strategy in partnership with service user groups via consultation, with the aim to gain qualitative feedback on the impact of the strategy within the borough.

5. Context

In November 2010, the Home Office published its cross-government strategy for tackling violence against women and girls (‘Call to end violence against women and girls’). The Home Office said the four key areas of focus of the strategy were; the prevention of violence, the provision of support, working in partnership, and ensuring perpetrators are brought to justice. Shortly after, the Home Office published an accompanying action plan, which has been updated every year since.

Some of the recent policies the Home Office has implemented include; the introduction of a new definition of domestic violence, publishing new guidance for reviewing domestic homicides, and the rolling out of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (commonly known as Clare’s law) throughout England and Wales in March 2014.

5.1. Definition

In March 2013, following consultation, the Home Office introduced a new official definition of domestic violence to be used across government. The definition was expanded to include young people aged 16 - 17 and coercive or controlling behaviour.
The government’s new definition of domestic abuse is:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality”

This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Controlling behaviour is defined as: “a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour”.

Coercive behaviour is defined as: “an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim”.

The above definition, which is not a legal definition, also includes ‘honour’ based violence (HBV), female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage (FM), and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

It is important to recognise that domestic abuse is largely characterised by inter-personal violence (IPV) and is defined by the Home Office as:

“Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between two adults who are or have been either intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. This includes issues of concern to black and minority (BME) communities such as so-called ‘honour killings’”.

5.2. National Overview

Last year, around 1.2 million women suffered domestic abuse, over 400,000 women were sexually assaulted, 70,000 women were raped and thousands more were stalked. These crimes are often hidden away behind closed doors, with the victim suffering in silence.

We know that more than 2 women are killed per week by abusive partners, with annual average figures showing more than 112 women to be killed per year.

Fewer than 1 in 4 people who suffer abuse at the hands of their partner, and only around 1 in 10 women who experience serious sexual assault, report to the police. More than 30% of women will experience domestic abuse in their life time, often with years of emotional abuse.

The estimated total cost of domestic violence to society in monetary terms is £23 billion per annum. This figure includes an estimated £3.1 billion as the cost to the tax payer and £1.3 billion as the cost to employers and human suffering cost of £17 billion. More specifically,
high risk domestic abuse makes up nearly £2.4 billion of this.

5.3. Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)

In November 2013, the Home Secretary announced that following the successful conclusion of a 1 year pilot in the West Mercia, Wiltshire and Greater Manchester police force areas, Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) would be rolled out across England and Wales from March 2014. This fulfilled one of the Home Office’s commitments from the ‘Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls 2010’ action plan.

Domestic violence protection orders are a new power that fills a gap in providing protection to victims by enabling the police and magistrates to put in place protection in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence incident.

The scheme includes an initial temporary Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN), authorised by a senior police officer and issued to the perpetrator by the police. This is then followed by a DVPO imposed at the magistrates’ court. With DVPOs, a perpetrator can be banned with immediate effect of serving the order, from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim from 14 to 28 days, allowing the victim time to consider their options and get the support they need.

Before the scheme, there was a gap in protection. If the police could not charge the perpetrator for lack of evidence, protection to a victim through bail conditions could not be imposed. Furthermore, recent changes to legal aid have reduced access to civil injunctions; however the process of granting injunctions can also take time.

5.4. Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)

In November 2013, the Home Secretary announced that the domestic violence disclosure scheme (also known as Clare’s Law) would also be rolled out across England and Wales from March 2014. Considerations to disclose information will be decided through the ‘Right to Ask’, or the ‘Right to Know’.

- Right to Ask:

Under the scheme an individual can ask police to check whether a new or existing partner has a violent past. This is the ‘right to ask’. If records show that an individual may be at risk of domestic violence or abuse from a partner, the police will consider disclosing the information. A disclosure can be made if it is legal, proportionate and necessary to do so.

- Right to Know:

This enables an agency to apply for a disclosure if the agency believes that an individual is at risk of domestic violence or abuse from their partner. Again, the police can release information if it is lawful, necessary and proportionate to do so.
6. Equalities

Although the focus of this strategy is on supporting women and girls, there is a requirement to address the needs of men and boys who may be affected by these serious violence crimes as we know there is an annual male victim rate of 700,000 nationally. It is important to ensure appropriate service responses are in place to support male victims, as gender may be an additional barrier to seeking help. A further barrier for accessing support can also be inherent for those people in a same sex relationship. Support responses therefore need to accommodate such victim needs. The local authority commissioned support service now accommodates such needs outlined above as the local authority identified a gap in male support services. Hestia, the new commissioned service since December 2014, supports all victims of domestic abuse, including men. Previous services did not offer this specialist service to men.

Brent is the second most ethnically diverse borough in London, with around 130 languages spoken amongst a population of over 311,000. Brent therefore has a large proportion of residents who may experience additional barriers to seeking help including those from black, Asian, minority, ethnic and refugee (BAMER) communities, disabled victims, elderly victims, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, those with no recourse to public funds, those with complex needs and/or substance users and young people. The community safety team take its responsibilities to provide services which are appropriate to all Brent’s diverse communities extremely seriously and seeks to due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations when developing and reviewing policies, strategies and services.

We will seek to ensure that services are able to meet individuals’ needs in a sensitive and consistent manner. This will be carried out in line with relevant legislation.

7. Drivers

Legislative change signals training and awareness and can drive culture change to better protect women and children. VAWG is a serious human rights issue and can never be justified with reference to any cultural practices. Domestic Abuse cannot be justified within any community or cultural setting and will not be tolerated in Brent, or anywhere in the UK. Legislative change further aims to hold perpetrators to account and effectively lead to a reduction in domestic homicides.

7.1. European Legislation:

Violence against women is recognised as a human rights issue. The main articles from the European convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act (1998) that apply are:

- Article 2 - The right to life
- Article 3 - The prohibition against torture
- Article 8 - The right to private and family life

The UK ratifies and upholds the principles of other European Conventions demonstrating the importance of the issue of VAWG.

- Convention on Eliminating Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or
Punishment.
• Convention on the Rights of the Child; and
• Convention against Trans-national Organised Crime, including the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

The UK signed the “Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women” on the 8th June 2012, which is in the process of ratification.

7.2. National, Regional and Local

This strategy draws on and is consistent with national, regional and local strategies and plans.

National:

• Every Child Matters and the Children Act (2004).
• Together We Can End Violence against Women and Girls, HO (2009).
• Mainstreaming the commissioning of local services to address VAWG, HM Government (2009).
• Responding to violence against women and children the Role of the NHS (March, 2010).
• Call to end Violence against Women and Girls. HO (2010).
• Equality Act (2010).
• Working together to Safeguard Children (2013).

Regional:

• The London Safeguarding Procedures (2008).
• Met Police Domestic Violence Policy (2009).

Local:

• Safer Brent Partnership Strategy 2014-2017
• Brent Housing Strategy 2009-2014
• Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2012-2015
• Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014
8. The Violence against Women and Girls Agenda

VAWG policy brings together various forms of abuse under one umbrella.

8.1. Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a widespread problem. SafeLives (previously CAADA), a national charity organisation, estimated that a minimum of 120,000 victims every year are at risk of being seriously harmed or killed by domestic abuse. SafeLives also highlight that 70% of high risk victims have children. This illustrates the prevalence of theoretically affected children, and the need for multi-agency working, guided by the safeguarding children framework, when addressing domestic abuse.

SafeLives introduced a new way of working to support such high risk victims and their families via Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), transforming the lives of some of the most vulnerable victims of domestic abuse in the UK today. A MARAC is a voluntary meeting where information on the highest risk cases in any given area is shared between local agencies. By bringing all agencies involved in a case together to share information, a co-ordinated safety plan can be put together more quickly and effectively. SafeLives state that for every £1 spent on MARACs, at least £6 of public money can be saved annually.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) are professional advisors that work alongside high risk victims alongside the MARAC process to assess their level of risk, discuss suitable options and develop safety plans. They also translate the victims’ voice and wishes into the MARAC. Brent Community Safety currently commissions four IDVAs based within Wembley Police station. The borough also has two Young Persons’ specialist IDVAs within Children Social Care, funded through Brent Social Care. Specialist BAME IDVAs are also based within the borough via the Asian Women’s Resource Centre and the Eastern European Project.

Data for 2013-2014 shows that commissioned IDVAs based within the Police station received 656 referrals. Data for 2014-2015 data shows an increase of referrals by 12.5% to 737 referrals received. This reflects not only an increase in reported offences, but also for Quarter 4 a new way of working, where the IDVA service screen all referrals to ensure the more victim’s are offered support (see figure 1.0).

![IDVA referrals 2014-2015](image)

*Figure 1.0: Referrals into the IDVA service 2014-2015.*
8.2. Sexual Violence

It is the government’s ambition that every report of sexual violence will be treated seriously from the point of disclosure; that every victim be treated with dignity and that every investigation and prosecution be conducted thoroughly and professionally.

Aggregated data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (covering 2009-2012) show that on average 2.5% of females and 0.4% of males said that they had been a victim of perpetrated or attempted sexual offence in the previous 12 months.

Around one in twenty females (aged 16 to 59) reported being a victim of a most serious sexual offence since the age of 16. Extending this to include other sexual offences such as sexual threats, unwanted touching or indecent exposure, this increased to one in five females reporting being a victim since the age of 16.

Police national recorded crime figures showed an increase of 17% in all sexual offences for the year ending December 2013 compared with the previous year, this is the highest level recorded since 2004/05. Evidence suggests some of this increase is likely to be a result of Operation Yewtree, connected to the Jimmy Savile inquiry, initiated in October 2012, with an increased number of historical abuse cases being reported.

Data for Brent indicates that 374 reports of sexual violence were reported to the Police in 2013-2014. Since April 2014 to January 2015, there have been 366 reports of sexual violence to Brent Police. This data is in line with a national increase in reported sexual offences, as the local data evidences. Around 90 per cent of victims of the most serious sexual offences in the previous year knew the perpetrator, compared with less than half for other sexual offences.

Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) are professional advisors who work with victims of recent and historic serious sexual crimes offering victims the support they need. The main role of an ISVA includes making sure that victims of sexual abuse have the best advice on counselling services, the process involved in reporting a crime to the police, and advice on taking their case through the criminal justice process, should they choose to do so. Brent currently has one ISVA based within the community via a partner agency, as well as accessibility to the ISVA’s within St Mary’s Hospital ‘Haven Project’. Since April 2014, there have been 26 cases referred to our local ISVA project.

8.3. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

A nationwide inquiry by the Office of the Children’s Commissioner has found that 2,409 children and young people were confirmed victims of child sexual exploitation in gangs or groups in the 14 month period from August 2010 to October 2011. The inquiry also identified that between April 2010 and March 2011 there were 16,500 children in England who were at high risk of child sexual exploitation.

Brent data for 2011-2014 highlight 20.3% of all victims of sexual offence to be under 18 yrs. CSE specific data April 2013-April 2015 shows 45 CSE cases brought to the attention of the Police.

Synergies between CSE and the VAWG agenda are evident, and key to highlighting further intelligence and prevention measures. Moving forward, governance of the Brent CSE agenda was agreed to be a joint agenda owned by the SBP board and LSCB board. Since this time, Community Safety has been identifying the correct source of information for obtaining a clear picture on the prevalence of CSE in Brent. This has created a matrix.
of data and intelligence, drawn in from a range of sources, including children’s social care, education, community safety, health, YOT and the Police. CSE Hotspot areas are also currently being identified, based on locations of sexual violence offence, CSE related crimes, CSE perpetrator addresses and Brent gang hotspot areas.

Joint action across the strategy groups will ensure synergism eventuates, with an intelligence led approach, informing our prevention and action.

8.4. Stalking

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 created two new offences of stalking by inserting new sections 2A and 4A into the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. On 25th November 2012 the two new criminal offences of “stalking” and “stalking involving fear of violence or alarm or distress” came into force in England and Wales.

Stalking and harassment prosecutions between April 2013 and March 2014 rose to 10,535, up 20% on the previous year. The Crown Prosecution Service says more than 743 of these cases were brought under new legislation and may not have previously come to court.

The definition of stalking used in the British Crime Survey 2010/11 is “two or more incidents (causing distress, fear or alarm) of obscene or threatening unwanted letters or phone calls, waiting or loitering around home or workplace, following or watching, or interfering with or damaging personal property by any person, including a partner or family member.”

Apart from the frequent legal prerequisite of fear, and the possibility of injury due to assault, research has shown that victims suffer a wide range of consequences through being stalked. These include emotional, psychological, physical, occupational, social and lifestyle effects.

The statistics state that around 1 in 25 women aged 16-59 are a victim of stalking every year. After the age of 16, stalking affects around one in five women and one in ten men. The most common perpetrator in incidents of stalking is a partner or ex-partner. Data for Brent indicates that since April 2013 until Jan 2014 there have been 19 stalking incidents reported to Brent to Police.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisors are specifically trained to assess and safety plan for victims of stalking, as stalking is highlighted as a high risk indicator (SafeLives).

8.5. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The World Health Organisation states that FGM comprises all procedures involving ‘the partial or complete removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or any other non-therapeutic reason’:

FGM is recognised internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. It reflects inherent inequality between sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. FGM has no health benefits to girls or women.

Procedures are mostly carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and age 15, and occasionally on adult women. In Africa, more than three million girls have been estimated to be at risk of FGM annually.

The Female Genital Mutilation Act was introduced in 2003 and came into effect in March
2004. The Act makes it:

- Illegal to practise FGM in the UK.
- Illegal to take girls who are British nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM whether or not it is lawful in that country.
- Makes it illegal to aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad.
- Instils a penalty of up to 14 years in prison and/or a fine.

More than 125 million girls and women alive today have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa and Middle East where FGM is concentrated. The practice is most common in the western, eastern, and north-eastern regions of Africa, in some countries in Asia and the Middle East, and among migrants in the UK. The largest population groups from practising countries are from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia and Uganda. Brent has a significant population with origins from these countries. Since 2013 data suggests that there have been 2 incidents of FGM reported to Brent Police.

8.6. Honour Based Violence (HBV)

“Honour based violence” is a form of domestic abuse which is perpetrated in the name of so called 'honour'. HBV is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community.

Women may experience HBV if they are accused of not conforming to traditional or cultural expectations. They are then punished for bringing shame onto the family. Contraventions may include a woman having a boyfriend, rejecting a forced marriage, pregnancy outside of marriage, interfaith relationships, seeking divorce, inappropriate dress or make-up and even kissing in a public place.

Such crimes cut across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities. They transcend national and international boundaries. Males can also be victims, sometimes as a consequence of a relationship which is deemed to be inappropriate, if they are gay, have a disability or if they have assisted a victim. Data for Brent indicates that since 2013 there have been 25 recorded HBV incidents to Brent Police.

8.7. Forced Marriage (FM)

New offences in respect of Forced Marriage (FM) took effect on 16 June 2014. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 made it a criminal offence to force someone to marry. A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or do not have the capacity to) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. This can take the form of, Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Financial and Emotional abuse.

Forcing someone to marry could also include:

- Taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place).
- Marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they’re pressured to or not).
- Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is also a criminal offence.

The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act was enacted in 2007 and came into force on the 28th November 2008. A Forced Marriage Protection Order can be sought under the Act to protect those at risk, both children and adults. The civil remedy of obtaining a Forced
Marriage Protection Order through the family courts will continue to exist in conjunction with the new criminal offence, so victims can choose how they wish to be protected.

The Foreign Office recorded that most victims of forced marriage are aged between 13 and 30 years old. Most FM cases involve South Asian families. Since 2013 data suggests that there have been 10 incidents of Forced Marriage reported to Brent Police

8.8. Prostitution & Trafficking

There is much evidence to show that prostitution is harmful to women directly involved, women in general, to men who buy women in prostitution, to families and to the wider communities. People become involved in prostitution for a variety of reasons such as homelessness, child sexual abuse, mental ill health, trauma, previous sexual violence, drug and alcohol misuse, money pressures and poverty. We know from home office data that there are clear links to abuse relating to prostitution.

- As many as 85% women in prostitution report physical abuse in the family, with 45% reporting familial sexual abuse.
- In the UK as many as 60 women involved in prostitution have been murdered in the last 10 years.

We know that brothels show evidence of rape, human trafficking and drug smuggling. Nationally, there has been work to close brothels and assist vulnerable women from breaking the cycle of offending.

The true scale of trafficking in London remains unknown, and adding to this issue is the difficulty making the distinction between trafficking and organised immigration crime. The London picture appears to vary from the national one in that trafficking for sexual exploitation is seen to be more prevalent in London than forced labour.

NSCPP trafficking numbers reflect MPS data, with the volume originating from Romania, Nigeria and Albania. There are some Non-Governmental organisational (NGO) reports of increased numbers of Latin and South American sex workers, including Brazilian, in London. Such data is not corroborative with MPS data highlighting such groups not reporting to the Police. Traffickers tend to originate from the same origins as their victims. Different nationalities tend to have different methodologies for trafficking into London.

The MPS identify Brent as one of the key priority boroughs in London for trafficked victims. This is largely based on a number of risk indicators including borough demographics and since 2011 there has been a large influx into Brent from the countries outlined above, highlighting evidence for such theory.

In Brent there is joint work in operation between the council, Brent Police and external agencies to tackle the problem associated to the brothels and the vulnerable prostitutes. Brothel closures have been enforced, with the utilisation of the Brothel Closure Orders to administer this. From a holistic approach, Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) is commissioned through MOPAC to offer support to women in prostitution to exit the sex industry. In Brent, since April 2014, 100% of engaging prostitutes have completed their engagement with CRI.
9. Prevalence and Mapping

This section presents an overview about domestic abuse and more generally violence against women and girls in Brent.

It seeks to identify the potential scale of the problem and the demographics of those at most at risk of being victimised.

Considerable difficulties have been experienced in collecting accurate data on VAWG. The problems relate to the inconsistent approaches to data collection across partners, as well as the hidden and private nature of VAWG. National statistics highlight that on average a victim will endure 35 assaults before seeking help. The statistics available for Brent can therefore only partially contribute to providing an accurate picture of the extent of VAWG in the borough.

Understanding the issues appertaining to VAWG in Brent is a key concern for the partnership. Domestic Abuse mapping exercises for the borough are perpetual, to ensure current affairs are highlighted and reactive actions implemented.

9.1. Police Data

In the UK, unlike other counties such as the USA, there is no specific criminal offence of ‘Domestic Abuse’. As it stands in the UK it is very difficult to conduct long term comparisons around domestic abuse using Police data. This is largely due to a number of reasons relating to an increase in Police DA data, aside from the simple explanation of increased domestic abuse. Other possible explanations can be simply better use of Domestic Abuse flagging systems by the Police, and/or an increase reporting by victims.

The number of Domestic Incidents in Brent recorded by the Metropolitan Police has increased over the last 10 years. In the same period Domestic Offences have remained fairly constant at around 2000 offences per year, despite a reduction in overall crime rates nationally and locally (see Figure 1.0). A potential part explanation for this increasing discrepancy may be due to potential data discrepancies as outlined above.

![Figure 2.0: Number of Domestic Incidents and Offences (2005/06 – 2013/14).](image)
Although Domestic Abuse offences have remained fairly constant over the past 10 years, there has been an identifiable increase over the past 12 months (see figure 2.0). There were 2599 Metropolitan Police recorded Domestic Abuse Offences in Brent between the 01/02/2014 - 31/01/2015. This was a year on year rise in Domestic Abuse offences by 26.2%. This number of offences also includes violence with injury classified offences, which were a 20.9% increase from the previous year.

![Figure 3.0: Domestic offences and violence with injury data (Feb 2014-Jan 2015).](image)

In the 12 month period from 01/02/2014 - 31/01/2015 there were 5287 ‘Domestic Flagged’ Crime reports entered onto Brent Police Crime Reporting Information System (CRIS). The 5287 reports included crimes and non-crime domestics.

Due to there being no specific criminal offence of ‘Domestic Violence and Abuse’ the 70 different Crime Types flagged as domestic are extremely varied, ranging from Attempted Murder to thefts.

As would be expected the number of reports entered onto the CRIS database flagged as Domestic related increased in line with the number of offences by 23.3% on the previous year. The number of Domestic incidents also rose by 11.4% from 2339 to 2606 Incidents on the previous 12 months.

This long term upward trend in Domestic Offences in Brent is being experienced by London borough across the Metropolitan Police area.
9.2. Suspects and Victims

There were 7422 recorded victims and 2896 named suspects within the 5287 Flagged Crime reports in the period of 01/02/2014 - 31/01/2015. The disparity between the number of victims and suspects compared to reports is down to the non-crime domestics. Non crime domestics will record both (or all) parties as victim with no recorded suspect.

As identified in 2011-2014 data, for this most recent period ‘ex-boyfriend’ was the most common identified suspect (21.77%) for a female victim of all domestic abuse related crimes in Brent (see figure 4.0), verifying the most prevalent time of domestic abuse being at time of separation. The most common identified relationship for a female suspect and a male victim was ‘ex-girlfriend’ (4.71%), which again mirrors previous data from 2011-2014.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Victim-Suspect relationship</th>
<th>Number of Suspects</th>
<th>% of Total Suspects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ex-Boyfriend of victim</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>21.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyfriend of victim</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>17.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband of victim</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>16.28%</td>
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<td>Brother of victim</td>
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<td>5.91%</td>
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<td>Son of victim</td>
<td>163</td>
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<td>Ex-Girlfriend of victim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ex Husband of victim</td>
<td>111</td>
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<td>Girlfriend of victim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father of victim</td>
<td>79</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 4.0: Prevalence of victim/suspect relationship 01/02/2014 - 31/01/2015.*

The below figure (figure 5.0) breakdowns the ethnic group of the victims into gender to allow a comparison against the residential population of Brent. In this chart however the victims of non-crime domestic reports have been removed.

Following on from previous data, Police data for the latest 12 month period highlights that White and Black female victims remain the most overrepresented groups in Brent, and make up an even higher proportion of all victims at 57%. Noticeably White females are 15% overrepresented which is greater than the Black females which are 12% overrepresented. Asian females are again underrepresented (2%) along with male victims in all ethnic groups.

Regarding age, there is a clear overrepresentation of female victims in Brent from 20 through to 50 years old with the 20 -29 age range the most overrepresented by 17%. Male victims are noticeably underrepresented through all age ranges.
9.3. Repeat Victims

There were 7422 victims in total recorded on the domestic flagged reports (crime and non-crime), 254 of which were shown as victims on three or more reports. The 254 victims accounted for 954 (12.9%) of the 7422 total victims.

When non-crime domestic reports were removed there were 2617 victims of a domestic related criminal offence. Out of the 2617 there were 33 individuals who were recorded as a victim in three or more domestic crime reports. Combined, these 33 individuals accounted for 113 domestic reports which represents 4.3% of the total. The Female gender made up 28 (84.9%) of the 33 highest repeat victims in this 12 month period.

This highlights the prevalence of repeat victimisation and serial perpetrators. The use of ‘flagging’ is paramount in this situation so repeat high risk MARAC victims can be identified and referred back to MARAC, for further multi-agency support and options.

*Figure 5.0: Victim breakdown against gender and ethnicity compared to Brent resident population.*
9.4. Hotspot areas

Hotspot maps were created based on the venue of the domestic abuse related offence. Non Crime domestic are not captured as they are not geocoded to the Metropolitan Police Geographical Information System. The resulting map (figure 6.0) is based on a total of 2483 victims. The map shows the volume of domestic related incident calls to Brent Police and then broken down into Wards.

![Hotspot map of domestic abuse Police call reports](image)

**Figure 6.0: Hotspot map of domestic abuse Police call reports 01/02/2014 - 31/01/2015.**

The majority of the incident hotspots were in the South of the Borough in areas such as Harlesden, Stonebridge Estate, South Kilburn Estate, Church End Estate/Church Road, with the exception of Wembley central. Wembley Central is a ward in the north of the borough which has similar social issues to a number of the southern wards and is a long establish hot spot for street crimes.

9.5. Sexual Offences

*Figure 6.0* highlights the number of Sexual Offence victims in Brent between the 01/09/2011 to the 29/08/2014. The number of victims varies from month to month but the trend line suggests that the numbers of victims are increasing.
When the figures are broken down into children and adult victims in the chart below it highlights the differences between the two groups. During the stated time period adult victims have experienced an upward trend in victim numbers whilst child victims have seen a downward trend.

9.6. Local Projection

Published results for the Crime Survey for England and Wales of 2012/13 included a chapter on intimate personal violence and partner abuse. There were two distinct headline measures relating to domestic abuse in the self completion module:

- Experience of domestic abuse in the last 12 months.
- Experience of domestic abuse since the age of 16.

When the survey results are applied to the London Borough of Brent, for residents aged between 16-59 in the 2011 census, this equates to a suggested 11,659 victims of domestic abuse. Broken down this suggests there has been a total of 7,112 female victims and 4,547 male victims in the last 12 months within the Borough of Brent.

For the second headline measure the number of victims of domestic abuse rises significantly to a suggested 46,897 victims of domestic abuse, of which 30,052 female victims and 16,844 male victims in the last 12 months within the Borough of Brent.

This yearly projection of domestic abuse in Brent of 11,659 victims doubles the number of domestic incidents recorded by the police in a given year which would include repeat victims.
of offences. The actual figure is likely to be far higher than even the projected estimate, which only used the population of Brent aged between 16-59 in the 2011 census.

The overall impact of Domestic Abuse in Brent should also factor in the number of children that are affected. Studies indicate that in 75% to 90% of incidents of domestic abuse, children are in the same or the next room.

Local data (see Figure 2.0 and 3.0) suggests that there may have been some increase in the level of Domestic Abuse being reported, or simply, there may now be better methods of domestic abuse flagging within the Police. Unfortunately due to a number of factors, domestic abuse data analysis often produces discrepancies and incongruities. Such factors may arise in terms of methodological issues such as conceptual issues, analytical challenges, varying and inconsistent data collection, data quality, data sources, data management and prospective output. Furthermore, with this in mind, there is also need to highlight the factor that domestic abuse is largely under reported, deviating the true data picture further.

Although we cannot conclude the notion of a definite increase in the number of domestic abuse instances in Brent, due to the issues outlined above, we are able to provide some explanation in terms of contributory factors leading to domestic abuse. Such factors include unemployment, deprivation, socio-economic difficulties, substance misuse, mental health issues, increase in unacceptable attitudes in teenage relationships and a general lack of awareness regarding ‘healthy’ teenage relationships.

10. VAWG Communications Strategy

This VAWG Communications Strategy outlines how the Safer Brent Partnership can best utilise communications to raise awareness, promote its work and help deliver the Partnership’s overall VAWG Strategy and action plan.

Successfully addressing domestic abuse issues means employing effective methods to reach out to those affected, providing reassurance and signposting support, and helping to change attitudes that allow violence and abuse to continue.

10.1. Communications Objectives

The purpose of this Communications Strategy is to facilitate effective and constructive communication between the SBP, partners, stakeholders and members of the public to:

1. **Raise public awareness** - help raise awareness of domestic violence and violence against women and girls, signpost support services and help persuade those affected to come forward.

2. **Engage with communities** - to help change negative attitudes and misconceptions that may foster abuse.

3. **Raise the profile** – raise profile of this work amongst other council staff, agencies and front-line professionals to ensure work is joined up and complementary, responses improve and appropriate referrals increase.
4. **Reassure the public** – reassure that the SBP is tackling VAWG through promoting its work.

10.2. Resources

No specific budget has been allocated for communications activity from 2014/15 onwards. Council communications activity for VAWG will be led by the VAWG Project Officer and Deputy Head of Community Safety, working with an allocated officer from the Communications Team. It is anticipated that an overall Communications Lead for the SBP will be identified who will be responsible for coordinating communications activity across the partnership as a whole.

10.3. Communications Approaches

Each objective will be considered in turn:

**1. Raise public awareness**

To raise awareness of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls amongst those who live and work in Brent, signpost support services and help encourage those affected to come forward to seek help and/or report offences.

Outline of approach:

- Revise the council’s web pages on VAWG, to help readers identify issues and signpost them to relevant local and national support services specific to their needs. This should include updated specialist services targeted at specific groups e.g. LGBT, and BAMER communities, pages available in other languages and signposting to services where specialist support is available such as Language Line and BT Type. Web pages launch to be publicised via social media accounts.
- Work with providers to ensure updated leaflets and posters are produced, signposting to support services. For distribution at awareness-raising events, community events, GP surgeries, places of worship, libraries, community halls.
- Consult and engage with young people to aid production of a targeted leaflet and poster, aimed specifically at young people, for distribution in schools, youth clubs, the college and university.
- Consult and engage with BAMER groups to aid production of a targeted leaflet and poster, aimed specifically at BAMER groups of people, for distribution in the community, targeting faith centres, community halls, schools etc.
- Use Council Education Welfare Officers (EWO) to assist in distributing messages to schools’ safeguarding contacts around signposting, including access to rape crisis services; seek assistance from YSS in dissemination to youth clubs.
- Seek to dovetail work with providers awareness-raising sessions in schools, LGBT groups, faith groups, schools, colleges and youth clubs.
- Ensure ongoing links with the LSCB’s Sexual Exploitation Strategy, action plan and groups, certifying ongoing joint work.
- Ensure that work complements the safeguarding vulnerable adults strategy, action plan and campaign.
- Plan for a calendar of events across the year, including e.g. International Women’s Day and White Ribbon Day which are open to the public and publicised through the council’s events website pages, Twitter account and the MPS Brent Twitter account.
- Ensure that the contracted IDVA service provider is proactive in promoting its services and seeks self-referrals from domestic abuse victims.
- Work with providers to help train and raise awareness amongst health professionals of domestic abuse issues and where to signpost.
• Ensure that work dovetails with Exiting Street Prostitution project.
• Ensure work dovetails with, and promotes, Brent Domestic Violence Forum’s awareness-raising projects.

2. Engage with communities
To undertake activity to help change negative attitudes and misconceptions that may foster abuse and violence against women and girls, particularly among young people.

Outline of approach:
• Engage with work in schools/PRUs to challenge attitudes and promote healthy relationships.
• Ensure work in schools on tackling gangs includes references to sexual exploitation and domestic abuse within this context; disseminate messages through identified SPOCs.
• Work with ward working teams to ensure messages dovetail, particularly around FGM, and utilise their existing contacts where possible.
• Ensure links are made and work dovetails with the outcomes of Council FGM Scrutiny panel.
• Make links and explore options with Brent LSCB/CCG to promote messages around FGM, honour-based violence and forced marriage amongst medical professionals working with young people.
• Consider ways to use social media more effectively to reach young people.
• Explore ways to use and consult Brent Youth Parliament to help inform mechanisms for engaging with young people.
• Seek to engage with Brent Multi Faith Forum on ways to promote messages around forced marriage, FGM, honour-based violence and inter-family violence.
• Consider ways to support the national ‘This Is Abuse campaign’ around domestic and sexual abuse in teenage relationships.

3. Raise the profile
To improve quality, ease of access and speed of support to victims of domestic violence and violence against women and girls through improved identification of issues, signposting and referrals by agencies and frontline workers. To ensure work across partner agencies is joined-up, that messages are consistent and that resources are used as efficiently as possible.

Outline of approach:
• Review membership of multi agency forums including DV Forum and VAWGDG to ensure there is adequate and active representation from appropriate partners, continually analysing updating members where appropriate.
• Participate in Vulnerable Groups review to ensure appropriate referral routes are identified.
• Work in conjunction with Brent’s’ Learning Pool to ensure training briefings take place to highlight referral routes for internal council staff to IDVA support, ISVAs, rape crisis, DV perpetrators project
• Work to build contacts between service providers and other council departments, including e.g. Adult Safeguarding, Child Safeguarding, Substance Misuse, etc.
• Work with Education Team EWOs to raise awareness amongst schools’ safeguarding leads on how to spot signs of domestic abuse and VAWG and referral/support routes.
• Work with Council Public Health Team and CCG to explore ways to promote and increase appropriate referrals from medical practitioners, including regarding domestic
abuse, sexual assaults and FGM.

- Continue to disseminate Brent MARAC information pack to appropriate agencies.
- Continue to disseminate relevant messages and recommendations arising from Domestic Homicide Reviews where appropriate.
- Arrange and develop DHR training in conjunction with the LSCB, for all appropriate professionals involved with DHR’s.
- Review and update local information sharing protocols.
- Promote the AVA Complicated Matters Toolkit and with local practitioners.

4. Reassure the public
Provide reassurance to the public that domestic abuse and VAWG are considered priority issues for the SBP, and, consequently, encourage increased reporting and requests for support.

Outline of approach:
- Work with Communications Team to plan and promote a calendar of events.
- Work with Communications team to draft specific communications strategies for high-profile events such as White Ribbon Day; to include involvement from local media, web activity and Tweeting.
- Establish links with Brent MPS Communications Team as part of the wider SBP Communications Strategy, to ensure messages are consistent and coordinated.
- Work with Brent MPS to proactively promote enforcement and project activities undertaken, to raise the partnership’s profile with local media, on social media and websites.
- Work with IDVA providers to ensure increased support to those victims reporting to the Police.
- Work with IDVA providers to ensure increased engagement from victims, to increase prospect of victim Police complaints and perpetrator convictions.
- Publish Domestic Homicide Review reports on the Council’s website.
What Will We Do?


Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a key issue for Brent and requires a multi-agency approach to tackle it successfully. VAWG is not simply a synonym for domestic abuse, although domestic abuse is a key part of a successful VAWG strategy. VAWG incorporates domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, prostitution, female genital mutilation, honour-based violence, forced marriage and human trafficking. We aim to tackle these issues through a three-pronged approach of Prevention, Protection and Prosecution.

Our objectives:

1. Raise public awareness about Violence against Women and Girls, providing guidance and support where necessary.
2. Changing attitudes and behaviours that may foster domestic abuse, especially among young people.
3. Delivering services to a diverse community.
4. Ensure perpetrators are held to account and brought to justice.
5. Protect survivors.
6. Support perpetrators to change their abusive behaviour, as an individual or within a family unit where appropriate.
7. Work together with all agencies and improve multi agency working and information sharing.

Key Performance Indicators for 2013 – 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>13-14 Out-turn</th>
<th>RAG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Sanctioned Detection rate for DV perpetrators</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nr of high risk cases heard at MARAC</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of women who engaged with ADVANCE services after being referred</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of survivors who feel confident in knowing how to access help and support compared to intake</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of survivors who report feeling safer at the point of exiting Advance services compared with intake</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of survivors for whom their risk has been reduced since using ADVANCE services</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of women reported a cessation of physical abuse, emotional abuse, harassment and controlling behaviours</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Key Performance Indicators for 2015-2016:**

The fundamental goal of the services is to increase the safety of women and children affected by domestic abuse and to help them cope with and recover from their experience, achieving their full potential. From 2015-2016, providers shall provide services which will deliver Outcomes across four main Outcome domains as indicated in the Performance Indicators and Outcomes Table (PIT Table) below: Safety; Health and Wellbeing; Stability and Independence; and Children.

The providers will be monitored and measured in accordance with the Performance Indicators shown in the PIT Table below, and the provider’s performance achievements must be supported by the evidence of the type/content shown in the Evidence column of the PIT Table. The Baseline will be determined once the new IDVA provider has provided initial quarter performance data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Domain</th>
<th>Evidence to support/prove Outcomes and Performance Indicators</th>
<th>Performance Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline (To be determined)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Increased Safety</strong></td>
<td>Victim’s perception and RIC/DASH.</td>
<td>Increase % of women whose risk is reduced during and after using the Services.</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduction in reported DV offences/convictions.</td>
<td>Increase % of women who report feeling safer after using the Services compared with intake.</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Risk of harm.</td>
<td>Increase % of women subject to a MARAC process who report feeling safer as a result.</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sustainability of the reduction in risk through follow-up monitoring at 6 and 12 months post services exit.</td>
<td>Increase % of survivors who feel confident in knowing how and when to access help and support compared to intake.</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Changes to feelings of safety and afraid.</td>
<td>Increase % of survivors reporting a positive change in their support needs as a result of support from the Services compared with intake.</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of safety &amp; support plans completed.</td>
<td>Increase % of referrals being screened by an IDVA.</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woman’s risk has been reduced through an application for change of immigration status</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive changes in Service User’s support networks from intake.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Positive changes in survivors’ feelings of self-esteem and self-efficacy.
Patterns of behaviour changing.
Perpetrators reduced reoffending.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Domain</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>Outcome Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Improved Health &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>Improved coping strategies. Engagement with mental health; substance misuse; &amp; other health &amp; wellbeing services. Accessing specialist counselling or IAPT. Accessing primary &amp; secondary care services. Accessing sexual health services.</td>
<td>Increase % of women reporting an improved quality of life after using the Services. Increase % of women reporting positive health outcomes (improved mental &amp; emotional health) at exit. Increase % of women identifying physical health as a support need reporting improved physical health at exit. Increase % of women identifying sexual health as a support need reporting improved sexual health at exit. Increase % of women reporting enhanced sense of control/agency around sex and relationships at exit. Increase % of survivors reporting a positive</td>
<td>89% 91% 93% 94% 91% 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome Domain</td>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>Outcome Indicators</td>
<td>Baseline</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Improved Stability &amp;</td>
<td>Woman has accessed appropriate alternative housing.</td>
<td>Increase % of women reporting more stable accommodation after partnership interventions through using the services.</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>Woman has obtained a legislative injunction or other implement to allow them to remain in their residence.</td>
<td>Increase % of women reporting increased financial stability and independence after using the services.</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woman has received improved home security</td>
<td>Increase % of women reporting increased access to education and employment support after using the services.</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woman has been supported to maximise their income including receiving the correct benefit entitlement.</td>
<td>Increase % of women reporting a positive outcome around employment after accessing the services.</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woman has been supported in reducing her overall debts.</td>
<td>Increase % of women reporting positive outcomes in criminal and civil justice after accessing the services.</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woman has been supported to obtain paid work or to improve her employment status.</td>
<td>Increase % of women who report feeling safer as the result of a court outcome after accessing the services.</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woman has succeeded in obtaining an injunction, or restraining order.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Successful &amp; satisfactory child contact arrangements have been put in place.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Increase in the % of women who have been supported through the SDVC.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Domain</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Outcome Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Children’s rights to</td>
<td>An increase in the number of families identified with domestic violence needs within children and family Services. Children and young people have more settled and safe relationships with their</td>
<td>% of women reporting improved access to specialist support Services for survivors of domestic violence who have used children and family Services.</td>
<td>89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>safety &amp; family life are</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>sustained</td>
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</table>
parents/carers.

Children and young people have better family routines.

Women accessing parenting programmes and/or individual support.

Managers reporting an improvement in staff recognising domestic abuse, being able to apply relevant theories and interventions within assessment and practice and reflecting on these in supervision.

% of children and young people feeling more supported in relation to their experiences of domestic abuse after accessing the Services.

% of women feeling better supported around parenting as a result of accessing the Services.

% of social workers who have attended specialist domestic violence training from the Services reporting improved understanding and expertise.

### VAWG Strategy Objective's Approaches:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To raise public awareness about VAWG, to a diverse community, providing guidance and support</td>
<td>Revise and implement VAWG strategy. Lead: Karina Wane (LB Brent)</td>
<td>Strategy revised by April 2015 for input from VAWG Delivery Group and to be agreed by VAWGDG partners. Strategy to be implemented with monthly reports to the DV Forum.</td>
<td>A joined-up, developed partnership approach to VAWG to raise awareness and improve services available in Brent.</td>
<td>Amber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with Brent Education Welfare, partners and voluntary sector groups to implement the VAWG communication strategy, to improve access to information, signposting and referrals to appropriate services for survivors and perpetrators of VAWG. This will include: faith-based groups; LGBT groups; schools, colleges and university.</td>
<td>Revised communications strategy incorporated into the general VAWG strategy. Targeted identified faith groups, LGBT and schools, colleges and university identified and increased engagement from such groups. Awareness sessions to continue to be held once per quarter and to include: LGBT</td>
<td>Communications strategy in place. Improved communication of key VAWG services to all community groups. DA providers to show increased number of</td>
<td>Green</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Further Groups identified and updated. Developed engagement. Polish leaflet devised in conjunction with</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure equal and fair access to services for survivors with distinct needs based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexuality.</td>
<td>Continued DV awareness training for front line staff through Brent Council's website and learning pool.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead: Karina Wane/Mala Maru (LB Brent)</td>
<td>Information about the range of ways survivors and children can be protected is available to staff across the partnership and includes referral and process guidance.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Raised DA awareness to school aged children via the Education worker.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brent HR department to have developed a Policy regarding staff referral guidance for survivors.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>engaged victims from diverse community groups and young people.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased staff awareness and identification of DA.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the Police.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DV Providers reporting on more specific ethnic groups, rather than generalised ethnic origins.</td>
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<td>Comms section revised and is now part of the revised overall VAWG strategy for 2015.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LGBT Awareness Day joint event to raise awareness of LGBT victims Feb 2015.</td>
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<td>CAF training provided by Early Years for voluntary groups working around DV throughout the year.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Domestic Abuse awareness training scheduled for Brent’s Multi-Faith Forum Jan 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Domestic Abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work with NHS England to provide Domestic Abuse awareness training to medical professionals across the borough.</td>
<td>Domestic Abuse training available (provided by NHS England) for health professionals including GP’s, by March 2016.</td>
<td>GP’s and other health professionals are able to identify at-risk individuals and report appropriately.</td>
<td>Amber</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead: Mala Maru (LB Brent)</td>
<td>Source IRIS pilot funding by Sept 2015 for specialist IRIS IDVA’s working within primary care offering training and support (GP’s, hospitals etc.)</td>
<td>IRIS IDVA’s in place.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate and deliver awareness and development sessions on Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to Brent frontline support</td>
<td>Develop availability of MARAC awareness and development sessions by June 2015. Deliver up to 3 MARAC</td>
<td>Improved awareness of MARAC among Brent staff and partners</td>
<td>Amber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Delivered 2014.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| To change attitudes and behaviours that may foster domestic abuse, especially among young people | staff/coordinators and partners.  
Lead: Hestia (LB Brent) | awareness/development sessions per annum.  
Development sessions to be offered to all MARAC steering group members. | Sessions agreed, but to be scheduled for 2015 – 2016.  
Work in conjunction with partners to promote the White Ribbon Campaign and raise awareness of the power of men to challenge violence, making a stand against male violence.  
Lead: Mala Maru (LB Brent) | Draft agenda by October 2015  
Delivered by November 2015 | One White Ribbon Day per annum with 50 or more anticipated participants.  
Green  
Delivered November 2014  
Deliver by November 2015  
Work in conjunction with Equality & Diversity, and other partners, to promote International Women’s Day, raising the awareness of domestic abuse issues for women and girls.  
Lead: Mala Maru (LB Brent) | Draft agenda by February 2015  
Delivered by March 2015 | One International Women’s Day per annum with 50 or more anticipated participants.  
Green  
Delivered November 2014  
Deliver by November 2015  
Service to link the current work plan to gangs and CSE, is prioritised at Borough Gang Delivery Group and highlighted as a risk (where appropriate) at case management meetings (PMAP).  
Lead: Monica Roucou/ Karina Wane (LB Brent) | VAWG agenda item to be raised at Borough Gangs Delivery Group Borough Gang Delivery Group partners and PMAP referring into the MASE Panel where those at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation are being recognised.  
Built intelligence and data on CSE issues relating to the VAWG and gangs agenda.  
EGYV programme delivered in schools/PRU’s to include awareness training for sexual exploitation in gangs | VAWG agenda linked to Gangs and MASE agendas.  
Green  
VAWG is a continual agenda item for the quarterly BGDG.  
PMAP and other delivery providers brief the group quarterly.  
PMAP referring into the MASE panel. MASE referrals increasing. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continue to work with statutory, voluntary sector and community partners to campaign against Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage through the provision of workshops and events</th>
<th>Campaign and council training plan in place by April 2015. A coordinated response by partners to raise awareness around HBV, FM and FGM, and associated health risks. Frontline practitioners to have increased awareness of FGM, HBV and FM (including the criminalisation of FM in June 2014.)</th>
<th>Positive evaluations of the workshops by participants highlighting engagement and increased learning around HBV, FM and FGM.</th>
<th>Safer London Foundation (specialist sexual exploitation) worker starting Jan 2015 to develop the linked working further over next 12 months. CSE dataset developed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead: Mala Maru (LB Brent)</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Workshops completed throughout 2014. Workshop plan scheduled for 2015. Women’s International Day to be delivered incorporating FGM, HBV and FM March 2015. Brent MPS scheduled to have specialist FGM, HBV and FM training March 2015.</td>
<td>Work to ensure young people, frontline staff and community members are</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
aware of the definition change for domestic abuse, now incorporating those aged 16 and 17yrs.

Lead: Karina Wane (LB Brent)

across Brent.

Increased number of professionals and community members (potential victims and/or perpetrators) aware of the definition change; now extended to incorporate 16 and 17yr olds.

Police.

Police and DV providers aware of definition change and working to increase victim reports.

Domestic Abuse worker going into Brent schools to raise awareness to young people regarding the definition change.

To ensure perpetrators are held to account and brought to justice

Continue to develop and strengthen the co-ordinated approach to detection, arrest, conviction and effective sentencing of perpetrators for domestic violence.

Lead: Supt Tariq Sawar (Brent MPS)

Monthly outcome reports to Safer Brent Performance Board.

Quarterly outcome reports to SBP

Improved sanction detection rate for DV, target 35.3%

Improved coordinated approach to arrest, convict and effectively sentence perpetrators.

Amber

Sanction detection rate 2013-2014 outturn 44.9% (baseline 44.4%).

Jan 2015 baseline 35%

Brent MPS currently scheduled for further training on Clare’s Law and DVPO’s.

MARAC starting to incorporate actions for perpetrators. Development planned through
| **To protect survivors** | Develop a whole-family approach to working with the most vulnerable families suffering domestic abuse.  
Safeguarding issues highlighted and addressed appropriately.  
Perpetrators working with the Domestic Violence Intervention worker linked to the Integrated Offender Management, for pathways support/options, reducing risk further. | Reduction in offending  
Reduction in risk for all family members involved.  
Survivors reporting that their risk has been reduced since being part of the family support programme | **MARAC steering group.**  
Green  
Children’s Social Care funding specialist IDVA’s.  
MOPAC funding DVIP programme.  
Scheduled child protection training available throughout the year for all Brent practitioners.  
Troubled Families team within CSC to work with the whole family holistically.  
DV perpetrators currently on the IOM cohort. |
| Work in conjunction with the West London Rape Crisis Steering Group to deliver rape crisis provision in Brent  
Lead: Mala Maru (LB Brent) | Quarterly outcome reports to VAWGDG  
ISVA service receiving Brent referrals. | Increase in the number of Brent residents able to access ISVA services. | **Green**  
Satellite centre moved to more accessible location for Brent residents.  
Brent ISVA service have reported a 6% |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Participate in the Borough’s review of vulnerable groups to identify referral pathways for young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and FGM.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lead:</strong> Karina Wane (LB Brent)</th>
<th><strong>Reports to Vulnerable Groups Group, LSCB Sexual Exploitation Sub Group and VAWGDG.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Community Safety proposed a lead for CSE, identifying where synergies between VAWG and CSE appear evident.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Identification of referral pathways and increase in referrals for CSE and FGM.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Green</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Reporting to appropriate groups.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>CSE lead named Action Plans devised as a partnership.</strong></th>
<th>36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Continue to refer high risk cases to the Multi–Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in line with SafeLives (previously CAADA) guidance to ensure all high risk victims of DV are referred to the Brent MARAC.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lead:</strong> DI Lily Benbow (Brent MPS)</td>
<td><strong>Quarterly outcome reports to VAWGDG/.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>All partners aware of how to refer to MARAC.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Repeat MARAC rate in line with CAADA guide lines, with a repeat rate of 24-40%. Monitor repeat cases.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>MARAC repeat cases effectively flagged and monitored.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Increase in the variety of partners referring to MARAC/DV Partners for MARAC.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>MARAC repeat rate in line with CAADA guidelines.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Green</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>High-risk cases are being brought to the MARAC and are increasing.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>2013-2014 MARAC repeat rate in line with CAADA guidelines.</strong></td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Develop the MARAC in Brent to ensure developed services to victims who are referred to the MARAC process.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lead:</strong> Karina Wane (LB Brent)</td>
<td><strong>MARAC steering group in place to ensure quality assurance and continual MARAC development and engagement from partners.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>More MARAC actions to incorporate perpetrators actions.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Developed services to victims referred to the MARAC.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Amber</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>MARAC steering group development discussed and agreed with MPS and Hestia. Other partners to be informed, first</strong></td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Status</td>
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<td>Support women engaged in street level prostitution to exit.</td>
<td>Project funded by MOPAC from 2014/15. Support interventions and structured treatments in place and offered to decrease number of sex workers. Monthly outcome reports to SBJAB. Reduction in sex working sites. Develop project to include off street prostitution incorporating trafficked sex workers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead: Ed Field (CRI)</td>
<td>Women engaging in street level prostitution supported to exit.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>100% of those identified have been offered support. 100% of those in structured treatment have been retained in treatment so far.</td>
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<td>Continue to develop and strengthen the protection and support for victims of domestic violence and abuse.</td>
<td>Increased use of Clare’s Law and Domestic Violence Protection Order’s to aid protection for victims. Appropriate bail conditions are applied to perpetrators bailed for DV related offences. New IDVA referral pathways in place and increase number of Police DA referrals/victims being screened/supported by IDVA’s. More efficient throughput of IDVA cases.</td>
<td>Amber</td>
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<td>Lead: Supt Tariq Sawar (Brent MPS)/ Karina Wane (LB Brent)</td>
<td>More victims of domestic abuse are effectively being supported. More high risk victims being identified. IDVA case loads reduced.</td>
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<td>Brent MPS currently scheduled for further training on Clare’s Law and DVPO’s. This training to be given to custody officers.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Developed IDVA</td>
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<td>Support perpetrators to change their abusive behaviour, as an individual or within a family unit where appropriate</td>
<td>Male victims being supported by an IDVA. Use of the new ASB Legislation introduced Oct 2014 to aid perpetrators eviction where required. Robust equalities data to be captured, building better data intelligence for the BAMER communities experiencing domestic abuse. Domestic abuse victims reporting diverse equalities data to the CTS.</td>
<td>Perpetrators changing their abusive behaviour. Reduced reoffending.</td>
<td>referral pathway in place Jan 2015. LA IDVA commissioned service now offers support to male victims. Commissioned IDVA service reporting more reflective equalities data for the Brent.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Support perpetrators to change their abusive behaviour, as an individual or within a family unit where appropriate</strong></td>
<td>Ensure that those highest-risk DA perpetrators are supported to reduce risk and aid change. Lead: Jenny Riley (DVIP)</td>
<td>Identified perpetrators linked to the Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) to ensure work is completed with male perpetrators of domestic abuse, through the Troubled Families programme. Identified perpetrators working with the Domestic Violence Intervention worker linked to the Integrated Offender Management, for pathways support/options, reducing risk further.</td>
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<td>Perpetrators changing their abusive behaviour. Reduced reoffending.</td>
<td>Perpetrators are being referred and 5 have accessed the DVIP programme up to Dec 2014. DV perpetrators currently on the IOM cohort. DVIP worker linking in with the IOM projects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>To work together with all agencies and improve multi agency working</td>
<td>Develop and Review the process for Domestic Homicide Review Panels. Lead: Mala Maru (LB Brent)</td>
<td>DHR process being used according to Home Office guidance issued in 2011. Domestic Homicide Review Panel set up to be used.</td>
<td>DHR process effective and in place.</td>
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<td>DHR Panel established. Improved process</td>
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<td>and information sharing</td>
<td>DHR reports delivered as required. DHR training for all professionals involved.</td>
<td>based on previous experience. DHR training agreed to be completed before April 2015, in conjunction with the LSCB.</td>
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<td>Brent VAWG delivery Group and DV Forum to share information on updates, needs, gaps and challenges (including examples of good practice). Lead: Chair, VAWGDG/ Brent DV Forum.</td>
<td>Quarterly meetings to take place with engaged membership from partners. Data shared from DA providers into a central data hub held by the LA in the CST.</td>
<td>Improved multi-agency working and sharing of information within the VAWG delivery group. Green Groups actively signposting and sharing information on needs, gaps and challenges.</td>
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**Dedicated Officer Support**

VAWG Community Safety Project Officer

**Funding**

- Exit Street Prostitution Project (MOPAC) £90,000 per annum
- Provision of IDVA services £308,000 per annum
- Violence Intervention Programme worker (MOPAC) £50,000 per annum
- Perpetrators included in IOM (MOPAC) Access to £100,000 per annum (Coordinator post £50,000, Housing SPOC £40,000, spot commissioning £10,000)
### 12. Appendix A: Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>BAMER</td>
<td>BLACK, ASIAN MINORITY, ETHNIC &amp; REFUGEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAADA</td>
<td>COORDINATED ACTION AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE CEDWA CONVENTION of the ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPSG</td>
<td>CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY GROUP</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSEGG</td>
<td>CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN GANGS AND GROUPS DHR DOMESTIC HOMOCIDE REVIEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGM</td>
<td>FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION</td>
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<td>HBV</td>
<td>HONOUR BASED ABUSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>FM</td>
<td>FORCED MARRIAGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDVA</td>
<td>INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISOR</td>
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<td>ISVA</td>
<td>INDEPENDENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE ADVISOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSEXUAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARAC</td>
<td>MULTI AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE MOPAC MAYORS OFFICE for POLICING and CRIME</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAWG</td>
<td>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN and GIRLS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
13. Appendix B: Domestic Abuse Support Services

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE - 0808 2000 247 (24 Hour National Number)

HESTIA - 020 8965 0391
(Independent Domestic Violence Advocates)

POLICE COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT - 020 8733 3742

BRENT VICTIM SUPPORT - 020 8965 1141

ASIAN WOMENS RESOURCE CENTRE - 020 8961 6549

WEST LONDON RAPE CRISIS SERVICE - 020 7610 4678
(Women & Girls Network)

FORCED MARRIAGE UNIT - 020 7008 0151

BROKEN RAINBOW - 0845 260 4460
(Lesbian, Gay, Bi Sexual & Transexual)

SOLACE WOMEN’S AID - 0808 802 5565

IRANIAN AND KURDISH WOMENS RIGHTS ORGANISATION - 020 7920 6463
(IKRWO)

MENS ADVICE LINE - 0808 801 0327
14. Appendix C: Legislation

In recent years a legislative framework has been created which places the protection of victims of violence at the heart of both criminal and civil law, and seeks to hold perpetrators of violence accountable for their abuse.

• **Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985** made the practice of Female Genital Mutilation illegal in this country.

• **The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003** restated and extended the provisions of the 1985 Act providing extra territorial effect.

• **Protection from Harassment Act 1997** – created the offences of harassment and putting someone in fear of violence and gave greater protection to victims such offences through the creation of restraining orders. This was amended by Section 12 of the **Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004** which extended the 1997 Act to enable courts to impose restraining orders on those convicted of any offence. This will be possible if the court considers it to be necessary to protect a person from harassment by the perpetrator. In 2012 the Government added two specific criminal offences of stalking into the PHA 1997 following widespread concern that the 1997 Act was not dealing adequately with this problem.

• **Sexual Offences Act 2003** - Widened the definition of some offences (e.g bringing non consensual penile penetration of the mouth within the definition of rape), created new offences for behaviour that was not previously specifically covered by an offence (e.g paying for sex with a child), extended the age covered by certain offences against children from 16 – 18 (e.g. familial sex offences), and give additional protection to vulnerable adults. This legislation introduced for the first time, a statutory definition of consent, requiring that someone “agress by choice (to sexual activity), and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice. It also strengthened arrangements for monitoring of sexual offenders.

• **Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004** - strengthened Non-Molestation Orders, by making the breach of an order a criminal offence and enabled the extension of restraining orders under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

• **The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014** - makes it a criminal offence to force someone to marry. This law is aimed at protecting the victims of forced marriage and preventing them from taking place. The Forced Marriage Civil Protection Order also came into force in 2007.

• **Policing and Crime Act 2009** – introduces a range of measures to help tackle prostitution. This includes making it an offence to pay for sex with someone who has been subject to exploitative conduct or deception. In addition, the Act has introduced key measures: removing the requirement to prove kerb-crawlers: and powers to allow police to close down brothels associated with certain prostitution and pornography related offences.

• **Coroners and Justice Act 2009** - Section 71 relates to trafficking and makes it an offence to hold someone in slavery or servitude.

• **Gender Equality Duty, EHRC 2009**