

3 July 2012		ITEM 8
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
THURROCK VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) STRATEGY - MARCH 2012		
Report of: Barbara Foster, Head of Care & Targeted Outcomes		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Yes	
Accountable Head of Service: Barbara Foster, Head of Care & Targeted Outcomes		
Accountable Director: Jo Olsson, Director of People Services		
This report is Public		
Purpose of Report: To advise Members of the proposals for the local strategy to combat Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)		

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the national strategy to combat Violence Against Women and Girls. Professor Liz Kelly of London Metropolitan University is a national academic expert on this subject and was commissioned by Children's Social Care to draw up a local strategy which is available to Members here for consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 There is a proposed action plan which has been drawn up in response to Professor Kelly's recommendations and is attached here for Member consideration. Her fundamental definition and overriding principles have been extracted from the main report into a proposed statement of principles which Members may also wish to consider.
- 2.2 The Stay Safe Sub-Group of the Children and Young People's Partnership have proposed a launch during the November 16 day fortnight to combat Violence Against Women and Girls and Members are asked to support this.

3. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

3.1 Professor Kelly consulted widely with local people beginning with elected Members and also organised a consultation event prior to the final production of her report.

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

4.1 As can be seen Professor Kelly recommends that her report inform and stimulate all consideration and review of Council policies.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

Implications verified by: Michael Jones
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There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

5.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Lindsey Marks
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There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
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The content of Professor Kelly's report includes her comments on the oppressive nature of Violence against Women and girls and she draws out how some women may be particularly affected if they have other protected characteristics, such as being from an ethnic minority, being disabled or being lesbian or transgender.

5.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

This is innovative strategy which could lead to developments across wide areas of the Council's activities.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report has been presented to the Council's Strategy Board and this presentation to Overview and Scrutiny is the first formal opportunity for Elected Members to comment on progress so far and ambitions for the future.

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

Appendix 1 – Draft Statement of Principles

Appendix 2 - Draft Action Plan

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APPENDIX 1

THURROCK COUNCIL'S LOCAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Statement of Principles (DRAFT) (To be considered by the Victim-Survivor Group)

Definition of Violence Against Women Group =

The most recent Westminster government strategy defines VAWG as

... any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

The UN framing from which this is drawn notes further that:

... violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately... The term “women” is used to cover females of all ages, including girls under the age of 18... manifested in a continuum of multiple, interrelated and sometimes recurring forms... physical, sexual and psychological/emotional violence and economic abuse and exploitation, experienced in a range of settings, from private to public, and in today’s globalized world, transcending national boundaries.

- Acceptance that a gender analysis is relevant not just to women but also to men – both because men are the majority of perpetrators and we need to understand why and that the meaning of being a victim is different for men and boys.
- Strategic work in Thurrock to be based on the UN definition of VAWG and an understanding of ‘disproportionally’.
- Adoption of a set of core definitions of forms of VAWG across Thurrock.
- The principle of non-discrimination to be accepted alongside ensuring all relevant officials agencies and staff understand their responsibilities under the Single Equality Act.

- (Core principles of response established, including respect for women's choices of who to approach for support and that interventions with victim-survivors should be rooted in empowerment.)
- Recognition of the long term consequences of child sexual abuse and the importance of providing support to children and young people.
- Ensure all agencies begin from recognition of their part in protecting women from violence.

APPENDIX 2

Foundations		Actions	Suggested Lead	Time
1	Table discussions with strategic bodies, elected members, and within agencies on the connections between forms of VAWG, possibly using case studies supplied by local specialised women’s services, which should be included in these sessions.	Strategy to be discussed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DMT ○ Stay Safe Sub-group of CYPP ○ HWB ○ Executive of CYPP ○ With Lead Member, Children ○ With Lead Member Cleaner, Greener ○ With Lead Member, Adults ○ Whole Council ○ Leadership Group and Services 	Barbara Foster Barbara Foster Barbara Foster Barbara Foster Barbara Foster Les Billingham Lead Members All	Completed Completed Completed Completed To do – End July To do – End July To be decided To be decided
2	Establish a consultative group with victim-survivors in which their experiential knowledge and needs area resource for reflecting on policy and practice.	Victim – survivor group – Terms of Reference to be agreed	Jim Nicolson SERICC Munro Principal Social Worker	End July
3	Agree the overall definition of VAWG noted above and promote across Thurrock.	Definition to be promoted in a Statement of Principles to be considered by the Victim-Survivor Group and always used, ie <i>(fill in)</i>	Victim Survivor Group, Jim Nicolson, Munro Principal Social Worker	September
4	Acceptance that a gender analysis is relevant not just to women but also to men – both because men are the majority of perpetrators and we need to understand why and that the meaning of being a victim is different for men and boys.	Definition to be promoted in a Statement of Principles to be considered by the Victim-Survivor Group and always used, ie <i>(fill in)</i>	Victim Survivor Group, Jim Nicolson, Munro Principal Social Worker	September

5	Include VAWG in the borough profile in the Community Strategy. This will provide a strategic steer for all local partnerships to ensure that VAWG is stitched into strategies and workplans.	To be considered	Steve Cox, Assistance Chief Executive	End July
From Principles to Practice: Applying the 6Ps in Thurrock		Actions	Suggested Lead	
6	Strategic work in Thurrock to be based on the UN definition of VAWG and an understanding of ‘disproportionality’.	Definition to be promoted in a Statement of Principles to be considered by the Victim-Survivor Group and always used, ie <i>(fill in)</i>		
7	Adoption of a set of core definitions of forms of VAWG across Thurrock.	Definition to be promoted in a Statement of Principles to be considered by the Victim-Survivor Group and always used, ie <i>(fill in)</i>		
8	The principle of non-discrimination to be accepted alongside ensuring all relevant officials agencies and staff understand their responsibilities under the Single Equality Act.	Definition to be promoted in a Statement of Principles to be considered by the Victim-Survivor Group and always used, ie <i>(fill in)</i> and cross-reference with Single Equality Act Action Plan	Victim-Survivor Group and Samson DeAlyn	
9	Core principles of response established, including respect for women’s choices of who to approach for support and that interventions with victim-survivors should be rooted in empowerment.	Victim-Survivor Group		
10	A survivor/service user consultative group established which should meet quarterly and give feedback on both new proposed policies and current service provision.	Victim-Survivor Group		

11	A working group on how to build confidence and strategies for agencies and communities to communicate the unacceptability of violence to perpetrators.	Victim-Survivor Group and CYPP and LSCB	Munro Principal Social Worker	
Policy		Actions		Suggested Lead
12	Adoption of the strategy and accompanying action plan by the council and all relevant partnerships.	Victim-Survivor Group and CYPP and LSCB	Full Council	
13	Leadership to direct implementation across elected members and senior management.	Member Training Programme and Managers' Conference	Tasmin Shawkat, Kelly Sandiford	
14	Appropriate con-ordination and review mechanisms established within one month, with a six month and 12 month audit of progress.	Agreement to create a monitoring and evaluation process, overseen by the Munro Child and Family Principal Social Worker.	All	
15	Co-ordination bodies to extend partnerships to include specialist VAWG services and feedback from the survivor/service user consultation group.		Munro Child & Family Principal Social Worker	
Prevention		Actions		Suggested Lead
16	Explore how the recommendations by EVAW can be adapted to Thurrock.	Build a base line of existing provision and map any deficits, including e-safety	Carmel Littleton, Headteachers' briefing meeting, Tracey Larman	
17	Leadership in all agencies to champion gender equality and a culture of respect and care for others.	Build a base line of existing provision and map any deficits, including e-safety	Tasmin Shawkat, Kelly Sandiford	
18	Plan to use Home Office awareness campaigns locally – including the current focus on abuse in teenage relationships and sexual consent.	Build a base line of existing provision and map any deficits, including e-safety	Carmel Littleton, Headteachers' briefing meeting, Tracey Larman,	

			Health colleagues, Yvonne Anarfi, Police?, Kevin Malone	
19	Develop initiatives to address lone worker safety – e.g. women’s self defence.	Training to include how staff can manage adversarial situations and whether there is a specialist training for women	HR – is it Jaqui Cahlane as the Single Equality Action Plan lead	
20	Work with young people who display harmful sexual behaviour to be developed.	Full service offer to be specified.	CAMHS – Jo Paul YOS – James Ward	
21	Adapt national government initiatives on forced marriage and honour based violence (e.g. preventative media campaign aimed at teachers) to build local awareness raising, including within Traveller community.	Agreed at LSCB	LSCB – DI Dave Peplow, Adult Services, Graham Carey	
22	Community engagement to enable neighbourhoods and other communities to build awareness and actions aimed to prevent VAWG.	Incorporated into existing plans.	Natalie Warren, Police, Community Safety, Fatima from TRUST	
23	VAWG integrated into policies in a ‘whole-school’ approach, including in Pupil Referral Units, out of school programmes and interventions such as mentoring projects. Online safety including grooming for sexual exploitation and exposure to pornography to be included.	Build a base line of existing provision and map any deficits, including e-safety	Carmel Littleton, Tracey Larman	
24	Greater emphasis on sexual harassment and sexual/sexist bullying in schools.	Build a base line of existing provision and map any deficits, including e-safety	Carmen Littleton, Tracey Larman	

25	Encourage schools, referral units, further and higher education to develop policies on safety for women and girls and engage pupils and students to create innovative prevention work.	Build a base line of existing provision and map any deficits, including e-safety	Carmen Littleton, Tracey Larman	
26	Addressing sexualisation prioritised in recognition of how gendered stereotypes in sexualised popular culture limit 'space for action' for both young women and young men, which produces a 'conductive context' for VAWG.	Include looked after children	LSCB – DI Dave Peplow, Adult Services, Graham Carey, Community Safety	
Provision		Actions	Suggested Lead	
27	Political commitment to maintain the VAWG specialised services in Thurrock.	Include looked after children	Whole Council	
28	Conduct a local needs assessment that uses more than recorded crime data, and includes a 'knowledge sweep' – a consultation with practitioners and communities about forms of VAWG where little is known.	Victim-Survivor group to co-ordinate.	LSCB, Adult Services, Community Safety, SERICC, Munro Child & Family Principal S.W	
29	A training plan for the universal workforce and production of basic briefing documents on all forms of VAWG available on council website.	To be incorporated into existing CP Training.	Stay Safe and LSCB	
30	Recognise practice based evidence as part of the local knowledge base.	Include the Victim-Survivor group.	LSCB	
31	Convene a small working group that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposals for core data requirements across agencies; • Produce a definition of 'adult at risk' with respect to VAWG 	This to be across People's Services	Rhodri Rowlands, Les Billingham Munro Child and Family Principal Social Worker	
32	Begin a phased process of extending routine	Munro Social Worker to co-		

	enquiry – across settings and including current and historic sexual violence.	ordinate.		
33	Ensure VAWG specialised services are integrated in work with families with multiple needs.	Audit open cases against this	Neale Laurie, Barbara Foster, Chris Wade, Tracey Larman	
34	Develop community based alternatives to custody for women offenders/risk of offending.	Audit existing provision and report to both LSCB and Adults Safeguarding Board.	Probation, especially integrated offender management	
35	Assessments in substance misuse services that ask about DV broadened to all forms of VAWG.	Audit existing provision and report to both LSCB and Adults Safeguarding Board.	Health especially hospitals, CDAS, Oasis, Jim Nicolson	
36	Equality Impact Assessments by DAAT teams to ensure that drug and alcohol services meet the specific needs of women and girls, in particular those of women and girls who have experienced VAWG.	Audit existing provision and report to both LSCB and Adults Safeguarding Board.	Jim Nicolson	
37	Facilitate roundtables on what the principle of ‘woman protection can be the best form of child protection’ might mean for local policy and practice.	Munro Social Worker to absorb into timetable.	Nadine Cook, Victim-Survivor group, Jim Nicolson and/or SERICC	
38	Recognition of the long term consequences of child sexual abuse and the importance of providing support to children and young people.	Add to Statement of Principles	LSCB, Adult Services, Graham Cary, Community Safety	
39	Develop and fund local support for non-abusing parents where a partner/family member or friend has sexually abused a child. ‘Stay Safe’ to	Audit existing provision and report to both LSCB and Adult Safeguarding Board.	Police, victim Support, YOS – James Ward	

	address VAWG as a key priority, including that to support mothers can be the most effective way to support children.			
40	Strategies and action plans developed to address sexual exploitation of children and young people.	In hand.	LSCB, Dave Peplow	
41	Given the proximity of military bases to Thurrock, consultation should be undertaken as part of developing the Veterans Charter and Community Covenant on how to address VAWG. This should explore the necessary support needs and interventions of both victim-survivors and perpetrators who have been in the armed forces.	Munro Child and Family Social Worker to lead on auditing existing provision.	Steve Cox and other partners to the Veterans Charter	
42	Facilitate consultation with specialised service providers and victim-survivors to develop outcome measures that include empowerment, which can form the basis against which to commission provision.	To be agreed by Victim-Survivor group and LSCB and Adult Safeguarding Board.	Rhodri Rowlands, Les Billingham, Jim Nicolson and/or SERICC	
Protection		Actions		Suggested Lead
43	Ensure all agencies begin from recognition of their part in protecting women from violence.	Add to Principles.	LSCB and Adult Safeguarding Board	
44	An audit of current processes for protection orders to ensure they can be gained swiftly through the courts.	Munro Child and Family Social Worker to lead.	Children's Legal Service and IDVA Service, Michelle Cunningham, Jim Nicolson	
45	Women's safety to be integrated into planning on the environment, transport and the Olympics.	Current		
46	Thurrock Council to develop a Women's Safety	For HR consideration		

	Policy for its employees.			
47	Information on how to apply for protection orders widely available.	Munro Child and Family Social Worker to lead on audit.		
48	Develop guidance on information sharing which takes privacy rights and the consent of victims into account.	Munro Child and Family Social Worker to lead on developing publicity.	Communications Team.	
49	Community engagement to include enhancing the support friends and family can give to victim-survivors, through consultation meetings and provision of basic information.	Include in the Council's new Family & Friends policy	Roland Minto, Community Safety	
50	Faith based organisations to be required to commit to the principles of this strategy, and demonstrate how they deliver women's safety and empowerment, before they can be considered part of responses to VAWG.	Discussion in local faith forums.		
51	Self-defence training for women and girls to be introduced, or enhanced where it exists.	Include looked after children and all liability and insurance aspects	Community Safety, Wendy Allen to consider	
Prosecution		Actions		Suggested Lead
52	Thurrock to advocate for VAWG to be identified as a key priority in the five-year police and crime plan for Essex.		Police	
53	Force budget to ensure that the 'small set of minimum entitlements' for victim-survivors of VAWG includes local specialised women's services.		Council	
54	An agreement needs to be made with Essex police to produce yearly data on reported VAWG offences, including reports, no criming rates and charging.		Police	

55	Thurrock to request new Police Commissioner monitor and report yearly on police responses to all forms of VAWG, including no-criming rates for rape.		Police	
56	Commitment to maintaining IDVA and ISVA services in Thurrock.		Police	