

27 July 2010	ITEM 5
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY (VAWG) 2010/11	
Report of: Councillor G Rice, Portfolio Holder for Crime and Disorder	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: No
Accountable Head of Service: Lucy Magill, Head of Public Protection	
Accountable Director: Bill Newman, Director of Sustainable Communities	
This report is a public report	
Purpose of Report: to offer up for overview and scrutiny the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2010/11.	

Comment [sj]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the date of the meeting (in font 16, not capitals)

Comment [sj]: Please leave this for completion by Democratic Services

Comment [sj]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the name of the Committee you are reporting to (in font 16, not capitals)

Comment [sj]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the title of your report (in font 16 and in capitals)

Comment [a j]: Please enter the name and job title of the person who will be presenting the report

Comment [sj]: Please enter details of any Wards and Communities affected by the report. If this section is not completed, the report will not be published.

Comment [sj]: Yes/No/Not Applicable – a 'Key Decision' is generally one affecting more than 2 wards or above 650,000

Comment [sj]: Please state the Head of Service's name and job title

Comment [sj]: Please state Director's name and job title

Comment [sj]: State whether your report is Public or Exempt. If Exempt (i.e. not to be given to the public or discussed in public)

Comment [sj]: Briefly set out the purpose of your report

Comment [sj]: Please provide a summary of the key points in your report

Comment [sj]: The recommendations should be set out in bold in the form of the decision that the decision maker should take

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (VAWG) 2010/11 provides an overarching strategic framework within which all the statutory and non-statutory agencies delivering responses to domestic violence and sexual violence can work together. It includes an Action Plan which will drive activity to achieve clear, demonstrable progress.

It draws on the findings of the national strategy, launched in November 2009, entitled Together We Can Tackle Violence Against Women And Girls, as they apply to the current and future needs of Thurrock residents.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 **The Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to endorse the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, 2010/11.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 In Thurrock much excellent work has been undertaken over twenty-five years to develop a range of services to meet the challenges of VAWG, which compares favourably with that seen anywhere else in the country. However, also as seen elsewhere, there is scope to improve further the linking-up of these services, including the engagement of relevant Council departments, to provide a seamless response to those affected by VAWG.
- 2.2 In the past the response to domestic violence has been separate from that addressing sexual violence, even though there are obvious linkages between them and the wider issues that are connected to these two agenda, such as drug and alcohol misuse and the safeguarding of children and young people.
- 2.3 The purpose of this Strategy is to provide this improved linking-up by adopting the themes identified in the national strategy and to use them to join-up activity and to drive it to achieve the local objectives in the supporting action plan. This plan will be refreshed on an annual basis. In so doing, Thurrock will be one of the first local authorities in the country to have in place a strategy that delivers this.
- 2.4 Whilst these include a number of new, or comparatively new, initiatives, the over-riding priority remains to make available the best possible service to those affected by VAWG, regardless of their socio-economic status, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:

- 3.1 This Strategy pulls together the considerable strengths of the services currently available to coordinate them to ensure the best possible service to those affected by domestic violence and sexual violence.
- 3.2 These statutory and non-statutory agencies are all members of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership, which supports the non-statutory agencies with funding drawn exclusively from central and regional government grants. This Strategy has no additional funding commitments for Thurrock Council. It does, however, identify some additional training for staff of all agencies.
- 3.3 The prime aims of the Strategy are to coordinate the work of the component agencies to achieve agreed priorities and then to set out a performance framework that drives this activity and then demonstrates the progress made.

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

- 4.1 This Strategy is the outcome of extensive consultation with senior representatives of all the main statutory and non-statutory agencies; the decision making bodies of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership, which incorporates member involvement; and regional government.

Comment [s]: You should briefly explain why the report is on the agenda - See para. 5.3 and 5.4 of the report writing guidelines.

Comment [s]: Other headings may be appropriate. The report should outline the reasoning that leads to its recommendations and **must** include:

1. a brief summary of options considered;
2. consultation outcomes
3. a risk assessment.
4. Whether the responsible cabinet members have been consulted/contributed to the report (NB professional and political advice must be clearly distinguished)

- See para.5.5 of the report writing guidelines.

Comment [j]: This should include any consultation with Ward Members and Shadow Portfolio Holders, as well as any public or statutory consultation

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

5.1 This Strategy has an impact on the following corporate priorities:

- To ensure a safe, clean and green environment.
- To provide and commission high quality and accessible services that meet, wherever possible, individual needs.
- To build pride, respect and responsibility in Thurrock's communities and its residents.

6. IMPLICATIONS

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

This Strategy has a direct bearing on S 17, Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, by seeking to drive down serious violence and sexual violence, as well as various other offences. It also helps address a number of Health Service objectives in driving up performance connected with women's health and well-being. It also impacts on the Safeguarding agenda, through responding to the needs of children and young people affected by VAWG.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 This Strategy provides a linking-up between those agencies addressing the whole of the VAWAG agenda for the first time. It seeks to build upon the successes already achieved and to harmonise service delivery to provide the best possible service to those affected by VAWAG.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:

- Together We Can Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls – A National Strategy 2009

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- None.

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Comment [a]: Please refer to Section 5.7 of the Report Writing Guidelines

Comment [sj]: This section should always be completed – if they are dealt with fully in another part of the report, they also need a brief cross reference here. The names and job titles of the officers providing the implications should be provided in full – see Guideline 6.1 and please note Democratic Services Deadlines and ensure that officers providing implications are given 5 clear working days to work on the report. Authors can write implications but they must be signed off by the appropriate officers

Comment [sj]: This should inform the recommendations in the report

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 8. If any Papers are to be placed in the Members room that relate to this report, you should also list them here

Comment [sj]: List the Appendices referred to in the Report

Comment [sj]: Insert the full contact details of the author of the report