

# **EQUALITIES, COMMUNITY SAFETY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ADDENDUM 1**

**2.00PM, FRIDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2023**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD,  
HOVE, BN3 3BQ - HTH/CC**

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# ADDENDUM 1

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# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Equalities, Community Safety, and Human Rights Committee

## Agenda Item 15 (b)

**Subject: Public Questions**

**Date of meeting: 13 October 2023**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by a member of the public.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public:

**(1) Naomi Bos – VAWG Strategy Stakeholder Consultation**

Very pleased to see the draft VAWG strategy is on the agenda. Item 3.1 states the draft strategy has been put together "incorporating the learning from stakeholder consultations as well as the feedback from more recent consultative events". Please can you let me know specifically which stakeholders were consulted, and when and where the consultative events were held?

**(2) Nicola Bengel – VAWG Forum**

Could the committee explain why at a time of increasing issues around Violence Against Women and Girls in Brighton & Hove the city-wide VAWG forum hosted by BHCC hasn't met since April 2023? Despite continual enquiries, no further VAWG forum meetings have been scheduled. Are there plans to restart this very soon?



# **Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023- 2026**

**Brighton and Hove City Council**

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**Foreword. To follow**

# 1. Introduction

This strategy sets out Brighton & Hove City Council's approach and commitment to tackling Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). This strategy is for anyone experiencing VAWG.

## Definition

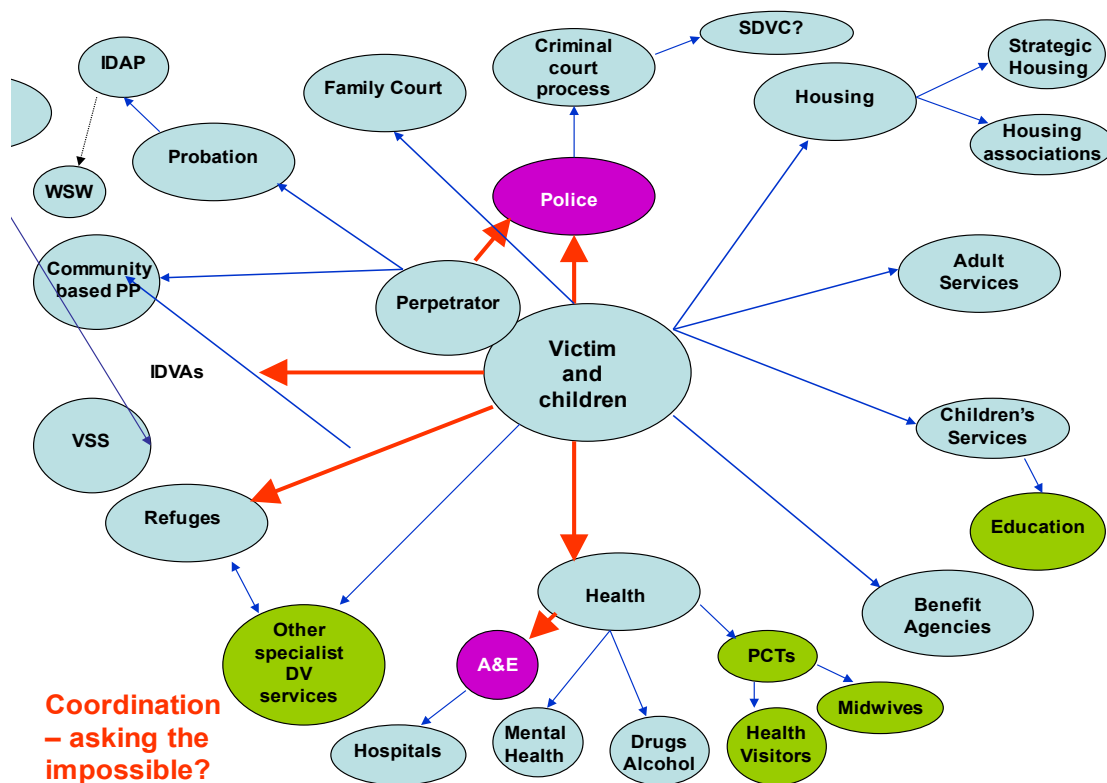
**Violence against Women and Girls is defined as:**

**“Any act of gender – based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life” (United Nations (UN Declaration (1993) definition).**

The impact of VAWG is significant and long lasting both to the individual and wider society, raising fears about safety in private and public and spaces. We know that VAWG affects people from all communities, and we are committed to developing a strong, integrated, coordinated community response to VAWG where everyone including family, friends, residents, communities, faith-based organisations, the community sector, the statutory agencies, the voluntary, and the business community will work in partnership to tackle VAWG. This model recognises that no single agency can tackle VAWG effectively and that all agencies and every individual has a role to play in tackling VAWG. Together, we will make the Brighton and Hove a safer place to live, work, and visit.

### **Our Aim:**

We will work together to end and to reduce the harm caused by VAWG to enable all people to live safely in Brighton and Hove.



**Diagram 1: The agencies/services within a coordinated community response**

This diagram represents all the agencies where a survivor might disclose abuse. The purple circles are often the first point of crisis; however, the other agencies may take disclosures at an earlier stage of abuse. The aim of this model is to develop interventions and responses across communities, institutions, and wider society so that individuals affected by VAWG are supported appropriately.

## 2. What Constitutes VAWG

VAWG is the term that describes the range of abusive and violent behaviours that can be experienced by all genders but predominantly and disproportionately impact upon women and girls, which include:

- **Coercive and controlling behaviour**
- **Crimes committed in the name of “honour”**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Female genital mutilation/cutting**
- **Forced marriage**
- **Harassment**
- **Sexual violence/rape**
- **Stalking**
- **Trafficking for sexual exploitation**

VAWG takes many forms which include physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. These abuses may differ in how they are experienced, but they are almost always rooted in misuse of power and the desire to control the subject of the abuse. Forms of coercive and controlling behaviour including financial control/online abuse and stalking, which are often the precursor to more violent forms of VAWG in the future and often feature in Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR). Digitally enabled abuse is the use of technology to stalk and harass and it is recognised that this form of VAWG is frequently perpetrated by intimate partners as well as strangers against those affected.

VAWG can be experienced by anyone, regardless of age, class, disability, gender identity, race, religion, or sexuality. However, we also know that an individual's experience of VAWG intersects with other experiences linked to protected characteristics. This can introduce additional risks which can make it harder for people to seek support. We recognise that VAWG takes many forms and intergenerational abuse/parental alienation are forms of VAWG that can be overlooked and often require a range of phased and ongoing support which may require a multi-agency response.

## 2.1 What Causes VAWG

VAWG is in part due to the roles of women and men in society. To prevent and tackle VAWG, we need to work together to challenge the attitudes, myths that excuse, minimise and/or normalise VAWG. We will do this by ensuring VAWG is everyone's business and holding abusers to account.

Recent research by The Council of Europe (COE) "What Causes Gender Based Violence report 2021" <https://www.coe.int> has reiterated that the main cause of VAWG is the perpetrator and has identified four additional factors as the underlying causes. The COE has identified that it is the interplay of these factors that cause VAWG.

**Cultural:** Views and beliefs that legitimise abuse and dominance and superiority. Other cultural factors include gender stereotypes and prejudice, normative expectations of femininity and masculinity. Perceived norms around sexuality also contribute to the number of homeless LGBTQ+ young people, and the prevalence of hate crimes against them.

**Legal:** Until recently, the law in some countries differentiated between public and private spaces. The Istanbul Convention <https://www.coe.int> ensures the right for everyone, particularly women, to live free from violence in both the public and private spheres.

**Economic:** The lack of economic resources generally makes women and LGBTQ+ people vulnerable to violence. It creates patterns of violence and poverty.

**Political:** The under- representation of women and LGBTQ+ people in power and politics means they have fewer opportunities to shape the discussion or to affect changes in policy, or to adopt measures to combat gender-based violence and support equality.

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## 2.2. The Cost of VAWG

There is limited research into the cost of VAWG. However, in 2019, the Home Office published “The economic and social costs of domestic abuse”. This research estimated the overall cost of DA to the nation in 2016/17 stood at £66 billion a year with a cost of £34,015 per individual victim/survivor across all services. The research highlights that by far the biggest proportion is the estimated physical and emotional costs associated with the harms borne by the victims themselves following their abuse, and that lost output also represents a significant element of these costs.

The research included the cost of several forms of VAWG. The methodology framework for estimating the cost of crime into three distinct areas;

- Anticipation: expenditure on protective and preventative measures
- Consequence: physical and emotional harms, lost output, health, property damage and victim service
- Research: police and other justice costs

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- Research: police and other justice costs

There are significant costs to the Health sector with VAWG related violence with injury costed at £3,170 per case. This is particularly relevant as a recent report by the National Domestic Abuse Commissioner “A Patchwork of Provision; How to meet the needs of victims and survivors across England and Wales”

<https://domesticabusecommissioneruk> which identified Health (44%) as the first agency that survivors disclose DA to followed by Police (43%), Social Services (16%), Legal staff (16%), Domestic Abuse Worker (15%), Helpline (12%), Work (11%), Academic (7%), Council Housing Department (4%), Housing Association (3%), Religious Leaders (3%), Other Support (2%), Job Centre (2%), Shops (1%).

### **3. Strategic and Legislative Context**

In July 2021, the government published Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy <https://www.gov.uk>. This strategy placed a strong focus on safety in public spaces and an equally strong focus on improving the criminal justice response to VAWG due to the downward trend in conviction rates. In November 2021, the Government declared domestic and sexual abuse and violence and the wider forms of VAWG to be an “urgent national priority “. The national framework for delivery was published in December 2021 highlights that VAWG must be a strategic priority for all Police forces and by extension Community Safety Partnerships. This means all forms of VAWG have been added to the strategic policing requirement.

#### **3.1. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk> set out the legal definition of domestic abuse (see appendix 1) with the significant change that children are classified as victims in their own right rather than witnesses.

The Act also introduced a range of new duties for criminal justice agencies and local authorities. The Act introduced new duties on tier 1 authorities in relation to the provision of support for survivors and their children in safe accommodation.

#### **3.2. The Regional Approach**

BHCC in partnership with East and West Sussex County Councils commissioned the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner to develop the Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse Support in Safety Accommodation Strategy 2021- 2024 <https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk> which acknowledges the aims of the Pan Sussex Framework for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse, 2020-2024, <https://www.safeineastsussex.org.uk>. BHCC has agreed to its principles and is an equal partner in the Pan – Sussex Domestic Abuse Board.

#### **3.3. The Local Approach**

This VAWG strategy aligns with the key aims of Brighton & Hove’s Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2023-2026 <https://www.democracy.brighton-hove.gov.uk> with its central aims of:

- Taking early action to prevent crime and disorder
- Tackling the issues which have the biggest impact on people
- reducing fear of crime and meeting the needs of victims.

This strategy also aligns with the principles of BHCC Anti Racism Strategy 2023-2028 <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk> and Brighton & Hove City Council's (BHCC) firm commitment to Trans Inclusion and will align with the forthcoming Gender Strategy.

### **3.4. Other relevant legislation**

Coercive and controlling behaviour became a crime in 2015 under section 76 of the Serious Crimes Act. Numbers of offences recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove have increased from 40 recorded in 2016/17 to a peak of 273 in 2019/20 and dropping back to 187 in 2021/22.

Other relevant legislation to note is the Stalking Protection Act 2019 which introduced Stalking Protection orders. Sussex has been very successful with the approach to tackling stalking gaining high levels of Stalking Protection orders as well as intervention for perpetrators at the Stalking Clinic.

The End-to-End Rape Review 2021 <https://www.gov.uk> conducted by the government is of significance because it looked at the whole criminal justice response to rape and highlighted the low levels of charging and prosecution for rape offences.

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 which came into force on 27 February 2023 raised the legal minimum age for marriage and civil partnerships to 18 years. It is now an offence to cause a child to marry, with a sentence up to 7 years. It is illegal and criminal to exploit vulnerable young people to marry irrespective of whether it is "forced" or not.

The other key piece of legislation related to Non – fatal strangulation which was made a specific offence in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and came into force on 7 June 2023. Abusers who strangle their partners will face up to 5 years in jail. This offence will also apply to British nationals abroad for offences committed overseas.

### **3.5. Istanbul Convention**

In November 2021, the Home Office published its progress report "Implementation of the Council Of Europe Convention on Combating Violence Against Woman and Girls and Domestic Violence ( Istanbul Convention) 2021 <https://homeoffice.gov.uk> highlighting progress towards meeting the four key principles of the convention which are Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Coordinated Policies via an overview of its work towards achieving these principles. Recent legislative and policy decisions including the DA Act 2021 and national VAWG Strategy contributed towards the United Kingdom achievement of being the 37<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the Istanbul Convention on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022.

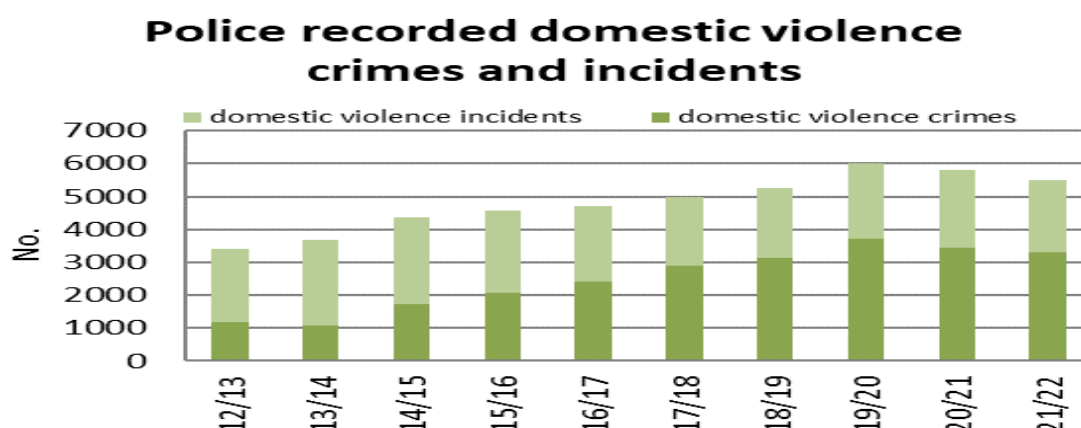


## 4. The local picture: what we know about VAWG in Brighton & Hove

This section provides information in relation to what we know about the local prevalence of VAWG in Brighton & Hove during the 10 year period 2012/13 to 2021/22.

The available data tells us that domestic abuse is the most prevalent form of VAWG. We know and that incidents of domestic and sexual abuse and violence and the wider forms of VAWG occur in private and public spaces. Many incidents remain hidden, and many survivors never report incidents or reach out for support. For others harassment and online abuse is a daily occurrence that is rarely reported. Therefore, the true extent of all forms of VAWG is unknown and is likely to be significantly higher than the available data indicates.

### 4.1. Domestic Abuse



Police data confirms that DA is a prolific crime with 12% of all recorded crime in 2021/22 had a DA Flag. In 2021/22 there were a total of 5,487 domestic violence incidents and crimes recorded by the police, of which 3,299 were crimes. Numbers had been rising steadily up to 2019/20, but dropped during the following 2 years, coinciding with the Covid-19 pandemic. 74% of DA offences in 2021/22 had a female victim and 88% of perpetrators during April to September 2021 were male.

**Table 2: Police recorded domestic abuse/violence crimes and incidents 2012- 2022.**

## 4.2. Sexual Violence and Abuse

Police data highlights that during 2021/22, the police recorded 1,239 sexual offences in Brighton and Hove, of which 1,077 were serious sexual offences including 397 rape offences. The data considered for BHCC Community Safety Strategy has concluded that sexual offences often occur in the context of the night-time economy. In terms of sexual offences, the City along with the rest of Sussex is in the bottom 10 nationally for cases going through the court system. In line with the National Policing Plan and College of Policing. Sussex Police have introduced a new systemic approach to improving this target and recent data shows that higher levels of cases into court for in 2023/24.

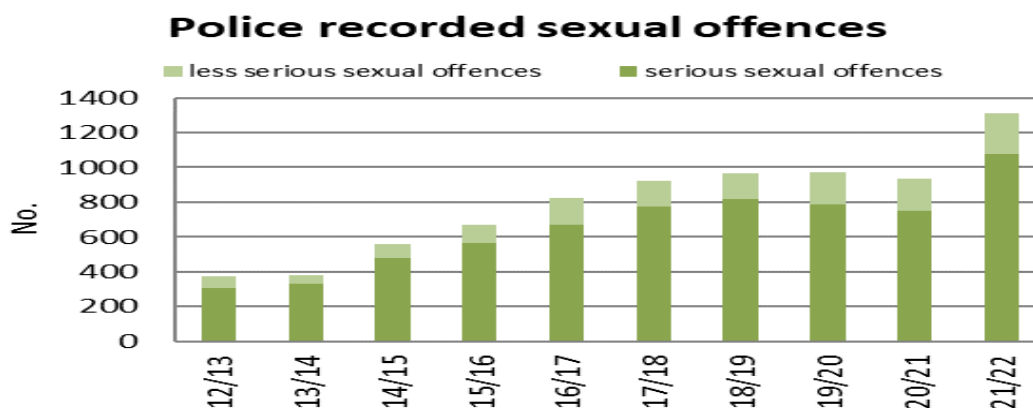


Table 2: Police recorded sexual offences 2012 -2022

## 4.3 Stalking

Police data shows there were 463 crimes and incidents of stalking in Brighton & Hove recorded by the police in 2021/22. Numbers were on a rising trend and reached a peak of 549 in 2020/21 but dropped back in the last year. In 83% of crimes and incidents in 2021/22 the victim was female; 17% male.

## 4.4. Harmful Practices: Honour Based Violence; Female Genital Mutilation; Forced Marriage

Police data, since 2018/19 there have been between seven and 11 police recorded crimes and incidents of honour-based violence per year recorded by the police. There were 9 in 2021/22, with all of the victims in this year being female. There were 2 crimes and incidents of forced marriage in 2018/19, and none recorded in the years since then. There have been no police-recorded crimes of incidents of female genital mutilation (FGM) recorded in the city to date.

#### **4.5. MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference).**

A weekly MARAC is held which brings together key agencies to develop risk reduction support plans for those who have been assessed as being of high risk of harm. During 2022/23, some 719 cases were heard at MARAC. The repeat rate for Brighton and Hove MARAC is (51%) which is significantly higher compared with 34% across the rest of Sussex. Of these, a significant number of repeat cases were victims/survivors identified as having Multiple Compound Needs.

#### **4.6 Homelessness**

During 2021/22 Brighton & Hove City Council assessed applications for 102 households for homelessness under this duty where the main reason for the loss of a settled home related to domestic abuse. Of these applications 48 (47%) were accepted as homeless. This compares with 23 out of 79 (47%) applications being accepted in 2019/20.

## 5. The learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews

**In 2011, the requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) became a statutory duty.**

**DHRs review the circumstances and partnership response prior to and after the domestic abuse murder. These reviews shine a light on how the partnership responds to domestic abuse and enable local partnerships to learn lessons for the future to improve their response. BHCC have undertaken 5 reviews since 2011.**

**At the time of writing this strategy, a government consultation of the DHR process is underway and includes consideration of firmer guidance for DHRs to be undertaken in cases of death by suicide where there has been a significant history of domestic abuse.**

### 5.1 The themes Identified in DHRS nationally.

An audit of DHRs nationally was undertaken in 2021 [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) which involved consideration of 124 DHRs. Of these, a further sample of 50 DHRS identified 10 key themes contained which include the need for greater agency contact with victims and recognition that the perpetrator can control the victims contact with agencies, information sharing and training for staff.

### 5.2 Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews

During 2021, Brighton & Hove Adult Safeguarding Board (SAB) commissioned a thematic review into the deaths of three women who it was determined had multiple compound needs. These women shared their experience of multiple forms of VAWG as well as issues around homelessness, substance misuse, offending and physical and mental health issues. All the women were repeat cases to MARACs across Sussex. The recommendations arising from the review are being implemented including changing the operating protocol for the local MARAC to improve joint working with other MARACs.

### **5.3. Learning from BHCC Survey on Violence against women in public spaces**

In addition, we undertook a survey about violence against women in public spaces which ran from 10/01/2022 to 20/02/2022 to understand concerns about VAWG in our city. From the 614 responses, the following issues were highlighted:

The most prevalent form of VAWG experienced was sexual harassment with 45% stating they had experience this and 21% stating they had witnessed another person being sexual harassed. Whilst perceptions of safety in the city highlighted that 65% felt safe in the day with 77% stating they felt unsafe at night.

Respondents also had concerns when out in public with:

- 44% stating they were worried and 21% being very worried whilst out walking
- There was a mixed response to safety when using public transport. Overall, 59% of respondents confirmed it felt safe on the bus service with 39% reporting they were worried about safety when using the train and a further 33% stating they were not.
- Licensed premises were felt to be worrying by 36% and not worrying 32% with 24% neither worried or unworried.
- Clubs. 57% of respondents identified clubs as being worrying.

## **6. What We Are Doing to Tackle VAWG**

The overall aim of this strategy is to work together to end and to reduce the harm caused by VAWG to enable all people to live safely in Brighton and Hove.

Since April 2022, BHCC response to VAWG has been coordinated by a new VAWG Team which sits within the Safer Communities Service. The main workstreams of the Team are listed below:

### **6.1 Commissioning**

The Team is responsible for commissioning and monitoring contractual arrangements for specialist support services for all those experiencing Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and Stalking and Harassment and to support them to embed within a multi- agency framework. In addition to a refuge and IDVA services, BHCC joint commission wellbeing services with NHS Sussex and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for the Complex Trauma Pathway. Additional government funding to support the implementation of the DA Act with the new responsibilities to provide safe accommodation meant that in 2021/22, BHCC increased its investment in specialist services. These services were commissioned based on the recommendations for Brighton and Hove contained within the Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse and Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021- 2024. The remit of all these services is to support survivors' safety and support them to remain in safe accommodation. See appendix 3.

Brighton and Hove will continue to work with Pan Sussex partners to secure funding for future initiatives similar to the successful bid to the Home Office Safer Streets funding stream in recent years.

### **6.2 Supporting the implementation of Domestic Abuse Act 2021.**

In addition to the aims of this VAWG Strategy, the VAWG Team have been working with Housing Services and partners to respond to the Domestic Abuse Act by;

- Developing and Enhanced Domestic Abuse Housing Pathway
- Commissioning a range of new support services (page 19)
- Increasing the level of British Sign Language and Interpretation Services available to those affected by VAWG.
- Bespoke training for Housing staff to ensure there is a consistent an empathetic service approach to those affected by DA
- Provided internal consultancy on policies and procedure to Housing Services including the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- Ongoing work with providers and Housing to ensure referral pathways are aligned and visible to those who need the services.
- Developing work with Stonewater Transformation Manager to work with the Registered Provider (RP) sector

### **6.3 Managing High Risk at MARAC**

The Team manages and delivers the weekly MARAC to ensure those at the highest risk of harm benefit from multi agency support to reduce harm. Between April 2022 – March 2023, there were 719 cases conferenced with 1,034 children associated with the survivor. Some 35% of all referrals disclosed a disability.

### **6.4. Domestic Homicide Reviews**

The Team oversees local DHR's and at the time of writing there is one local which is pending Home Office DHR Panel consideration.

### **6.5. Safety in Public Spaces**

Work continues on tackling VAWG in Public Spaces which includes working with colleagues in transport and Brighton & Hove bus company with police to look at women's safety on public transport. Some work is underway to consider how well the Ask for Angela scheme is operating in local pubs and clubs, before they start. The ASB/VAWG Officer is developing guidance to use in colleges for 16-18yr olds re sexual harassment and safety in pubs/clubs with young adults who are starting to go out to pubs and clubs before unhealthy behaviours become embedded. In addition, work has been undertaken to update signage on the Beach and align VAWG prevention into safety planning for large scale public events.

### **6.6 Partnership Coordination**

The VAWG Team works in collaboration with the wider community and partnership in Brighton & Hove. to increase awareness of VAWG. Workstreams include: commissioning a range of multi-agency training /workforce development and are attendees of both the Adult and Childrens Bard Learning and Development Groups. From 2023, the Unit will coordinate VAWG Network seminars which focus on different aspects of VAWG. Further information is available from [vawg.unit@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:vawg.unit@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

#### **6.5.1. Task and Finish Workstreams**

A number of time limited task and finish groups are in development these include the Digitally Enabled Abuse Working Group with the aim to improve how we respond and support those affected by Digitally Enabled VAWG. Our experience at MARAC highlights this form of VAWG is growing and we wish to ensure our approach is robust. The other main workstreams are Harmful Practices, VAWG and Cuckooing and during the course of this draft strategy

work to improve the response to people with disabilities who are affected by VAWG in partnership with the Voices of Lived Experience Board.

- 6.5.2.** In addition, the Team supports the wider prevention work delivered via the Harmful Sexual Practices Task and Finish group which has developed an action plan which includes positive work to challenging attitudes to harmful sexual practices. The action plan recognises and responds to the voice of the child and young person which is of significance in understanding children who cause harm because of their lived experiences, and also in respect of the children and young people harmed. It should also recognise that at a structural level the nature, prevalence and impact of harmful sexual behaviour is shaped by intersecting inequalities, primarily of gender, class, race, disability and age – ref: the findings from research around the adultification of black girls - ref: 'Where are the Black girls in our CSA services, studies and statistics?' Jahnine Davis - Community Care
- 6.5.3.** Capacity Building. The VAWG Team is developing focussed work in partnership with Stonewater with survivors from minoritised backgrounds and those who experience multiple disadvantages as well a focus on improving systems and referral pathways across the Registered Provider Housing sector.
- 6.5.4.** The Council has committed to undertake White Ribbon UK Accreditation. The White Ribbon Campaign recognises the positive role that men play in preventing violence against women, based on the understanding that most men are not violent. It is therefore, a means for men to speak out against violence and abuse and to safely challenge the attitudes and behaviors' of a minority of men who use or condone violence against women, [www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk](http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk). As part of this work, an updated staff Domestic Abuse Policy is being finalised.
- 6.5.5.** BHCC is represented at a number of Pan Sussex forum by staff from the VAWG Team which include the Pan Sussex Domestic Abuse Board, the Pan Sussex Sexual Violence Board, the Pan Sussex Harmful Practice Group, the Pan Sussex Perpetrator Group.



## 7. Our Priorities and Approach

This is a partnership strategy and has been developed in consultation with stakeholders and residents, and with reference to the local and national strategic landscape. There have been a number of specific pieces of work that have been coordinated to provide the evidence base for this strategy. They have included:

- Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy Stakeholder Event 2019
- AVA Workshop 2019
- Safe accommodation needs assessment (2021). The needs assessment considered data from across Sussex to understand the support in safe accommodation needs for victims
- Public Survey to research how safe people feel in Brighton and Hove. 2022
- Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment Workshop 2022
- Housing Consultations x 3 in February and March 2023

**Our four key priorities for the next three years are:**

**Priority 1:** Develop an integrated, coordinated community response to all forms of VAWG irrespective if the incident occurs in private or public space.

**Priority 2:** Improve prevention of VAWG through working with all partners to develop improved prevention and early intervention approaches to tackling VAWG.

**Priority 3:** Ensure those affected by VAWG receive high quality trauma informed support

**Priority 4:** Hold perpetrators to account to reduce the harm they cause

## 9. Next Steps Delivery

Our overarching commitment is to ensure all survivors are supported to remain as safe as possible, to make perpetrators accountable for their actions and to have a coordinated system of support available to achieve this.

- Whilst data shows that partners in Brighton & Hove have taken important steps to reach all survivors of VAWG, we are aware that there is more to be done to be done.
- Sussex Police will continue to work to their local Police Plan to ensure offences in the city have an appropriate charge.
- BHCC will work with partners to develop a range of community engagement, including communications, capacity building initiatives to support the delivery of the strategy.
- BHCC will continue to listen to the needs of survivors in our city.
- The strategy will be delivered via a wide range of partners and implemented through our coordinated community response where everyone has a role in responding to VAWG.
- We will produce phased delivery plans in line with the vision of this strategy to ensure we are working towards the four aims of this strategy.
- Governance of this strategy will be delivered via the Domestic Abuse, VAWG Board which will report to the Community Safety Partnership. The MARAC Steering Group has been set up to ensure the MARAC has robust governance arrangement and the VAWG Team will coordinate themed Task and Finish working groups to deliver the aims of the strategy.

## **Appendix 1: Legal Definition of Domestic Abuse 2021.**

- (1) “Domestic abuse” for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—
  - (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
  - (b) the behaviour is abusive.
- (2) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—
  - (a) physical or sexual abuse.
  - (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
  - (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
  - (d) economic abuse (see subsection (4));
  - (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;
- 4) “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to—
  - (a) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
  - (b) obtain goods or services.
- 5) For the purposes of this Act A’s behavior may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).
- 6) References in this Act to being abusive towards another person are to be read in accordance with this section.
- (7) For the meaning of “personally connected”, see section 2.

### **Section 2: Definition of “personally connected”**

- (1) Two people are “personally connected” to each other if any of the following applies—
  - (a) they are, or have been, married to each other;
  - (b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
  - (c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
  - (d) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
  - (e) they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
  - (f) they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child (see subsection (2));
  - (g) they are relatives.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) (f) a person has a parental relationship in relation to a child if—
  - (a) the person is a parent of the child, or
  - (b) the person has parental responsibility for the child.

(3) In this section—  
“child” means a person under the age of 18 years;  
“civil partnership agreement” has the meaning given by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004;  
“parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989;  
“relative” has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996

### **Children as Victims of Domestic Abuse**

- (1) This section applies where behavior of a person (A) towards another person (B) is domestic abuse
- (2) Any reference in this Act to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who –
  - (a) Sees or hears, or experiences the effects of abuse, and
  - (b) Is related to A or B
- (3) A child is related to a person for the purposes of subsection (2) if –
  - (a) The person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility or, the child, or
  - (b) The child and the person are relatives
- (4) In this section-

“Child” means a person under the age of 18 years;  
“parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the “Children Act 1989” (see section 3 of that Act);  
“relative” has the same meaning given by section 63 (1) of the Family Law Act 1996

## Appendix 2. Glossary

<b>AE</b>	<b>Accident and Emergency</b>
<b>A/perp</b>	<b>Alleged perpetrator</b>
<b>ASB</b>	<b>Anti- Social Behavior</b>
<b>BHCC</b>	<b>Brighton and Hove City Council</b>
<b>BME</b>	<b>Black Minority Ethnic</b>
<b>CCR</b>	<b>Coordinated Community Response</b>
<b>COE</b>	<b>Council of Europe</b>
<b>CSA</b>	<b>Child Sexual Abuse</b>
<b>DA</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse</b>
<b>DARA</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment</b>
<b>DASH</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse, Stalking , Harassment, Honour Based Violence</b>
<b>DLUHC</b>	<b>Department of Leveling Up Housing and Communities</b>
<b>DVDS</b>	<b>Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme</b>
<b>DHR</b>	<b>Domestic Homicide Review</b>
<b>HBV</b>	<b>Honour Based Violence</b>
<b>HIDVA</b>	<b>Health Independent Domestic Violence Advocate</b>
<b>HP</b>	<b>Harmful Practices</b>
<b>ICB</b>	<b>Integrated Care Board</b>
<b>IDVA</b>	<b>Independent Domestic Violence Advocate</b>
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	<b>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Questioning</b>
<b>MARAC</b>	<b>Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference</b>
<b>MATAC</b>	<b>Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination</b>
<b>MOP</b>	<b>MARAC Operating Protocol</b>
<b>PP</b>	<b>Perpetrator Programme</b>
<b>SAB</b>	<b>Safeguarding Adults Board</b>
<b>SAR</b>	<b>Safeguarding Adults Review</b>
<b>SDVC</b>	<b>Specialist Domestic Violence Court</b>
<b>RISE</b>	<b>Refuge, Information, Support and Education</b>
<b>RP</b>	<b>Registered Providers</b>
<b>VAWG</b>	<b>Violence Against Women and Girls</b>
<b>VS</b>	<b>Victim Support</b>
<b>VSS</b>	<b>Victim Specialist Service</b>
<b>WSW</b>	<b>Woman’s Safety Worker</b>

**Appendix 3. Services commissioned via the New Burdens Funds to support implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act and the duty to support in safe accommodation.**

BHCC has for some years commissioned DA services the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has resulted in which has enabled the development of an enhanced DA Housing Pathway, which includes:

- **Floating Support Service**
- **Sanctuary Scheme**
- **Co located Housing IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate)**
- **British Sign Language and Interpretation**
- **Flexible Fund**
- **Multiple Compound Needs Worker – DA and VAWG**
- **Safe Accommodation Enhanced Housing Pathway – Children’s Community Programme**
- **Safe Accommodation Enhanced Housing Pathway – Pilot Programme for Young People using abuse/violence.**
- **Safe Accommodation Enhanced Housing Pathway – Young Peoples Caseworker**
- **Safe Accommodation Enhanced Housing Pathway – BME DA Capacity Building Service**
- **Safe Accommodation Enhanced Housing Pathway – LGBTQ+ DA Caseworker**