

## Brighton & Hove City Council: Preventing and tackling VAWG, DA and SV Action Plan

To ensure clear and targeted delivery, we have embedded the action plan directly under each strategic priority within this strategy document. For each priority, we have outlined specific actions to be taken and their intended outcomes, providing a focused approach that aligns with our commitment to transparency and accountability. This structure allows partners and stakeholders to clearly understand the desired impact of each action, supporting a coordinated effort towards achieving our overarching goals.

### Priority one: A strengthened Community Coordinated Response

No	Action	Intended Outcome
1.1	Develop a revised governance and subgroup structure to deliver the VAWG, DA and SV Strategy, with quarterly reporting to the VAWG, DA and SV Oversight Board.	Establish a revised governance and subgroup structure to support the effective delivery of the Strategy, with quarterly progress reports provided to the VAWG, DA, and SV Oversight Board to ensure accountability and strategic alignment.
1.2	Disseminate Learning from Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR) to improve future service delivery and risk management	Share insights from Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR) across relevant services to enhance future service delivery and strengthen risk management practices, promoting a more informed and preventative approach to domestic abuse cases.
1.3	Institute mandatory VAWG, DA and SV Awareness training as part of induction for all Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) staff, ensuring that all employees are equipped to recognise, respond to,	Implement mandatory VAWG, DA, and SV Awareness training as part of the induction process for all Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) staff, equipping employees with the knowledge to recognise, respond to, and appropriately signpost disclosures of violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.

	and signpost disclosures of VAWG, DA and SV	
1.4	Expand action focused on improving safety in Public Spaces, with special focus on public transport, schools and libraries	Enhance safety measures in public spaces, prioritising public transport, schools, and libraries, to create secure environments where residents feel protected and supported, with targeted actions to prevent VAWG, DA and SV and respond to potential risks effectively.
1.5	Work with highways and planning to continually improve street lighting and ensure VAWG, DA and SV considerations are included in the City Plan, planning applications to build environment and public spaces.	Partner with highways and planning teams to enhance street lighting and incorporate VAWG, DA, and SV considerations into planning applications, ensuring that public spaces and the built environment are designed to prioritise safety and prevent violence.
1.6	Continue to support Operation Limelight Activity, aimed at raising awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practises	Maintain support for Operation Limelight activities to raise awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices, enhancing public knowledge and preventative efforts within the community.

## Priority two: Prioritising Prevention

No	Action	Intended Outcome
2.1	Develop links with young ambassadors and advisory groups to co-produce events and campaigns aimed at raising VAWG, DA and SV awareness among young people.	Improved engagement with young people in decision-making processes related to VAWG, DA AND SV campaigns and events.
2.2	Encourage venues in Brighton & Hove to adopt a	Promote the adoption of a VAWG, DA, and SV prevention commitment within Brighton & Hove's

	<p>commitment to VAWG, DA and SV prevention in the new Brighton &amp; Hove licensing policy.</p> <p>This will include action on spiking, VAWG, DA and SV training for staff around identifying and acting on inappropriate sexualised behaviour and offending with regular reviews being undertaken</p>	<p>licensing policy for local venues, including measures to address spiking, staff training on identifying and responding to inappropriate sexualised behaviour, and regular policy reviews to ensure ongoing compliance and effectiveness.</p>
2.3	<p>Explore joint working initiatives with the ICB (Integrated Care Board) and /Public Health team to prevent VAWG, DA and SV in maternity services, sexual health services and community services and GPs</p>	<p>Explore collaborative initiatives with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Public Health team to prevent VAWG, DA, and SV within maternity services, sexual health services, community services, and GP practices, fostering a coordinated approach to early intervention and support across healthcare settings.</p>
2.4	<p>Strengthen interventions for individuals with multiple disadvantages who are at greater risk of experiencing violence against women and girls VAWG, DA and SV by identifying gaps, reducing duplication of efforts, and fostering interagency collaboration.</p>	<p>Strengthened, coordinated interventions for clients with multiple compound needs through collaborative, innovative approaches and improved resource allocation. The approach aims to provide earlier and more effective support to prevent VAWG, DA, and SV among vulnerable groups by addressing gaps and reducing duplication across agencies.</p>
2.5	<p>Strengthen the offer to education sector to raise awareness of VAWG, DA and SV amongst young people, using a “whole school approach” and the work of the Harmful Sexual</p>	<p>Improved pathways to support for young people by integrating VAWG, DA and SV into school environment.</p> <p>Delivery of VAWG, DA and SV related education programmes, ensuring young people are</p>

	Practises Group. Include considerations of the adultification of young black girls and link VAWG, DA and SV awareness to anti-bullying work.	educated on the impact and prevention of VAWG, DA and SV.
2.6	Support the Family Hubs to share information on VAWG, DA and SV and provide a consistent process for disclosing information to protect those at risk of harm.	Increased safety for individuals at risk of VAWG, DA and SV through better information sharing and consistent processes for disclosure in Family Hubs.

### Priority Three: Support for Survivors

No	Action	Intended Outcome
3.1	Monitor the impact of key criminal justice system changes on VAWG, DA and SV including the early release of prisoners, the introduction of specialist Domestic Abuse (DA) courts in Sussex, developments from Operation Soteria (focusing on rape and sexual offences), and the ongoing work of the Stalking Clinic.	Local VAWG, DA and SV response is continually informed by the latest criminal justice developments and evaluation of service providers and partners are fully informed on criminal justice system trends and policy changes, allowing for more responsive and adaptive services.
3.2	Hold twice yearly workshops with individuals who have lived experience of VAWG, DA and SV to consult on key issues, gather feedback on local services, and ensure	Organise workshops with individuals who have lived experience of VAWG, DA, and SV to consult on key issues, collect feedback on local services, and incorporate diverse victim perspectives, ensuring that service

	that a wide range of victim experiences are represented.	improvements and strategies are responsive to the needs of those affected.
3.3	Develop a comprehensive VAWG , DA and SV Information Pack specifically for the Housing Team, providing victims with clear knowledge of their housing options and available support.	Victims/Survivors are better informed of their housing and safety options, allowing them to make informed decisions and access appropriate support.
3.4	Monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Stonewater Safehaven by the Sea Report	Establish a monitoring framework to oversee the implementation of recommendations from the "Safe Haven by the Sea" report, ensuring that actions are effectively executed and contribute to enhancing support services for domestic abuse survivors in Brighton & Hove
3.5	Collaborate with the Business Community to improve access to support for survivors  Including employees and members of the public.	Partner with the business community to improve access to support for survivors of VAWG, DA, and SV, ensuring that both employees and members of the public are aware of available resources and support services, and fostering safer workplaces and community spaces.
3.6	Review gaps in provision related to disability due to evidence from data which highlights high levels of victim survivors with disabilities and VAWG, DA and SV intersect	Conduct a review of service provision gaps for survivors with disabilities, using data insights that indicate high levels of VAWG, DA, and SV within this group. This review will inform targeted improvements to ensure accessible, inclusive support for survivors with disabilities, addressing the specific challenges where disability intersects with experiences of violence and abuse.
3.7	Ensure that VAWG, DA and SV is referenced and integrated into the Violence Reduction workplan to meet legal obligations and ensure VAWG, DA and SV is a core focus in broader violence reduction strategies	Integrate VAWG, DA, and SV into the Violence Reduction workplan, ensuring that these areas are prioritised and aligned with legal obligations. This will make VAWG, DA, and SV a core focus within broader violence reduction strategies, fostering a comprehensive and inclusive approach to community safety.

3,8	Continue to support the development of Reciprocal Housing Arrangements	Work with Housing and partners across Sussex to develop Reciprocal Housing Arrangements to support survivors to maintain tenancy status in line with Domestic Abuse Act 2021
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## Priority four: Building an accountable community and changing perpetrator behaviour

No	Action	Intended Outcome
4.1	Work with communities via forums and public events to change the culture and beliefs that underpin VAWG, DA and SV using education and awareness to shift attitudes	Improved understanding of VAWG, DA and SV within communities, with a shift in cultural norms and beliefs that contribute to VAWG, DA and SV
4.2	Support Sussex Police to offer behaviour change interventions at the Custody Suite, ensuring earlier stage interventions to address abusive behaviour	Perpetrators are offered an intervention to change behaviour at an earlier stage, reducing risk of future harm.
4.3	Work with Children's Services to collaborate and develop policies and processes in place for assessing and working with perpetrators of domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG, DA and SV when safeguarding children and the non-abusing parent.	Improved practitioner response to safeguarding risks and better understanding of abusive or neglectful parenting in VAWG, DA and SV contexts.  Dissemination of information to change the beliefs that underpin VAWG, DA and SV.
4.4	Scope and develop a Men in Sheds initiative locally at Jubilee Library to educate men on perpetrator behaviour and	More male victims of VAWG, DA AND SV can come forward to be supported.

	increase awareness of support services for male victims.	
4.5	Continue to fund behaviour change programmes including adults, young people, and LGBTQ+ perpetrators, ensuring long-term support for behaviour change.	Behaviour change programmes are accessible for all perpetrators, with a focus on sustainability and addressing diverse needs, including LGBTQ+ perpetrators.
4.6	Support the forthcoming Safer Streets programme	The Government has confirmed that the Safer Streets programme will be the funding for their delivery of their mission to halve VAWG, DA and SV in 10 years. Details to be announced but previous funding has linked to safety in public spaces and limiting perpetrator's ability to act in public spaces

