

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): update to ASCC Scrutiny Committee

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Living our values every day




Accountable



Integrity



Empower



Respect



Excellence



Council motion 908 Prevention of VAWG

‘This council believes that women and girls deserve to live free from intimidation, violence and harassment. **This council condemns all violence against women and girls (VAWG)** and notes that it can take many forms, including physical, financial, and emotional’.

‘We ask the Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee to **investigate and produce a report for cabinet on any steps the county council can be taking to end VAWG in Gloucestershire...**’ with a specific focus on how we engage with agencies working in the fields of training for professionals and support, information and rehabilitation for survivors of violence and abuse.



What is VAWG

‘acts of **violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls**’ including, but not limited to the following crimes and behaviour ‘rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, ‘honour’-based abuse (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and ‘honour’ killings’), as well as offences committed online.

HM Government (2021) Tackling violence against women and girls strategy



The national & local picture

- Nationally, 1 in 5 women are victims of sexual assault (or attempted assault) in their lifetime (ONS)
- Over 27% of women had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 (ONS)
- In 21/22, 12,797 crimes recorded by Gloucestershire police were tagged as VAWG (a 44% increase from 20/21)
- 7670 domestic abuse crimes recorded by Gloucestershire Police in 21/22 (a 42% increase from 20/21: reflecting a continued upward trend).



Importance of a system wide approach

Gloucestershire
County Council
*(statutory duties
under Domestic
Abuse Act)*

Gloucestershire
Constabulary

Office of Police
and Crime
Commissioner

Domestic Abuse
Local Partnership
Board

Sexual Violence
Partnership
Board

Safer
Gloucestershire

District Councils

6 Community
Safety Partnerships

Health partners, schools, CJS, VCS etc

Good existing network of local service provision, including....

Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service

Safe Teenage Relationships Education and Empowerment Team (STREET)

Positive Relationships Gloucestershire – perpetrator service

Sexual Assault Referral centre

Safe Partnerships: target hardening & sanctuary schemes

Safe accommodation- Places of safety & Stroud refuge

Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)- health IDVAs, court IDVAs, young persons IDVA plus GP Development Workers

Stalking Clinic

Independent Sexual Violence Advisors service

Priority areas

Support for victims & survivors

- Providing high quality support services
- Building trust and confidence in the police
- Supporting victims through the criminal justice system
- Listening to the voice of victims

Focus on perpetrators

- Targeting high risk and repeat offenders – MATAC programme
- Education and disruption - ‘Positive Relationships Gloucestershire’ service



Creating safe spaces

- Focus on higher risk locations and night time economy
- Investment of Safer Streets Funding – mobile CCTV, improved lighting etc
- Working with local community safety partnerships
- The Flare app

Prevention, early intervention and education

- Changing societal and organisational attitudes and behaviours
- Working with young people and schools
- Training and awareness raising



GCC's work to achieve White Ribbon accreditation

Demonstrates Council's commitment to prevent and address male violence against women through:

- Having a positive and safe organisational culture
- Development of a three year action plan
- Network of Ambassadors and Champions
- VAWG training planned for elected members.

