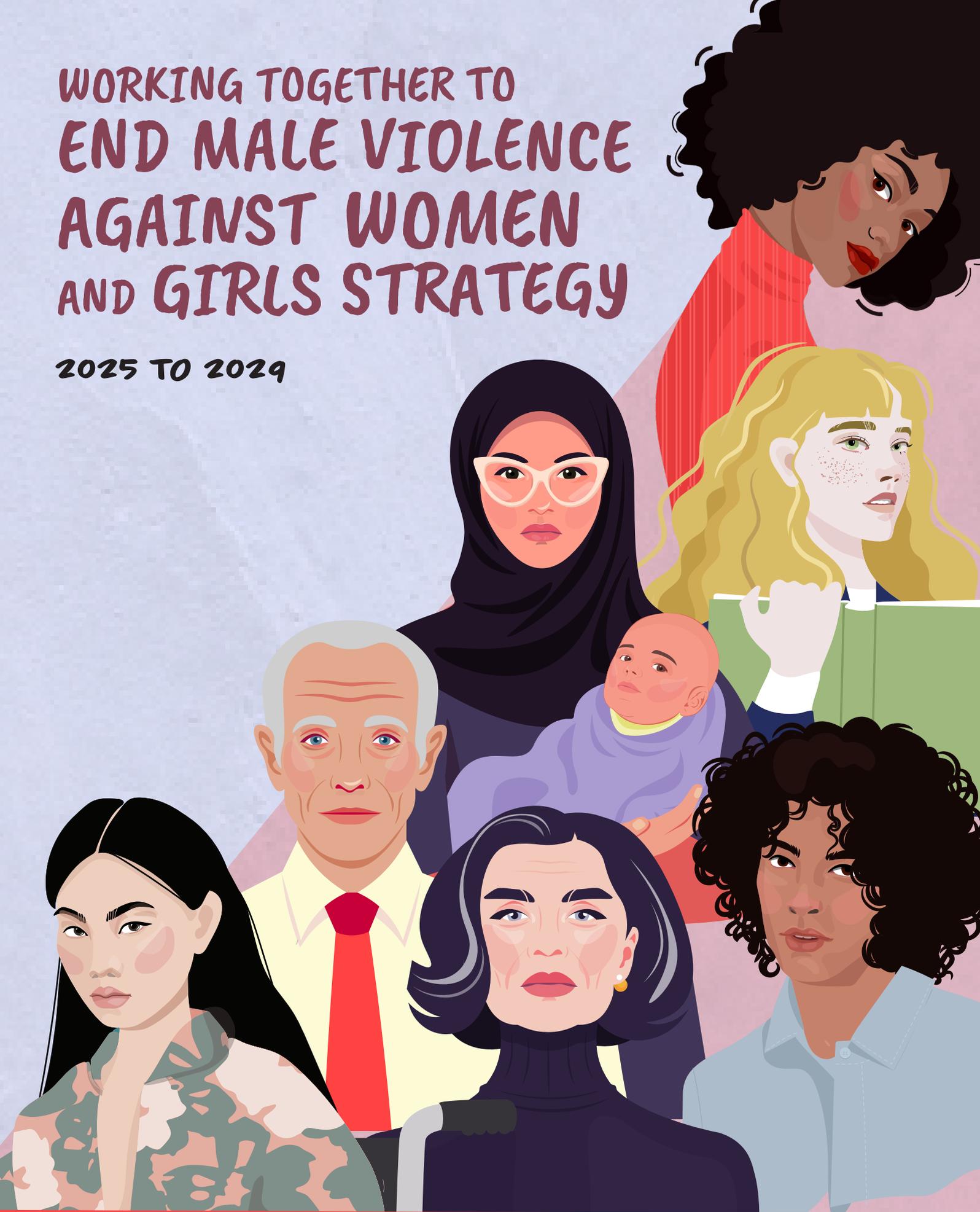


WORKING TOGETHER TO END MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY

2025 TO 2029



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION	4
OUR VISION	7
WHERE WE ARE NOW	8
OUR PRINCIPLES	14
WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR	18
WHAT WE AIM TO DO	21
HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS	23
APPENDIX 1 – CONSULTATION	26
APPENDIX 2 – THE VAWG STRANDS	28
APPENDIX 3 – POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL	29
APPENDIX 4 – DEFINITIONS	30



FOREWORD

The right to feel safe is a cornerstone of human dignity. Yet for countless women and girls, this fundamental right is routinely denied, simply because of their gender.

Gender-based violence, including rape, sexual assault, domestic abuse, and harassment, affects between one-quarter and one-third of women over the course of their lives. Yet alarmingly, only 15% of serious sexual offences and 21% of partner abuse incidents are ever reported to the police, which underscores the pervasive culture of silence and fear that surrounds women from coming forward for help.

The tragic murders of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa in 2021, alongside revelations from the 'Everyone's Invited' platform exposing widespread sexual abuse in UK schools, ignited a national reckoning around women's safety. This coupled with the harrowing statistic that one in four women will experience domestic abuse triggered a surge in public and political attention to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), and a resounding denunciation of the misogyny embedded in our society.

To end this senseless violence and abuse demands bold, systemic action. Therefore, I am proud to unveil the Royal Borough of Greenwich's new 'Working Together to End Male Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy', which I consider has the power to be transformative for women and girls across our borough.

Tackling VAWG has been a strategic priority for the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Safer Greenwich Partnership for many years, and the new strategy will build upon the extensive work that is already being delivered in the borough by; amplifying support for survivors, holding perpetrators accountable, and challenging the harmful attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence.

This strategy is the product of deep collaboration. It brings together all partners engaged in tackling VAWG and reflects borough-wide engagement with our communities. Real change is powered by collective insight, shared commitment, and the courage to confront uncomfortable truths. The true measure of our success will be the tangible improvements in the lives of women and girls in Greenwich.

I am resolute in my determination to drive change for the thousands of women and girls who, at this very moment, live in fear and face the threat of violence. We must be their advocates, and we must act with urgency. I firmly believe this strategy marks a pivotal step in our collective journey to eradicate violence against women and girls once and for all.



Councillor Rachel Taggart-Ryan,
Cabinet Member for Community
Safety and Enforcement

INTRODUCTION

In Greenwich, we are committed to ending violence in all its forms, and this strategy focuses on ending male violence against women and girls (VAWG).

This strategy unapologetically addresses the problem as male violence. We know this language is challenging, but the evidence is clear: the majority of people who commit violence across the UK and within Greenwich are men and boys, and this violence disproportionately affects women and girls.

93% OF PERPETRATORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE NATIONALLY ARE MEN, WHILE 84% OF VICTIMS ARE WOMEN.

90% OF PEOPLE REFERRED TO GREENWICH'S DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE ARE WOMEN.

THERE ARE OVER ONE MILLION CRIMES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE UK REPORTED EVERY YEAR.

VAWG HAS AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL ECONOMIC COST OF £66 BILLION TO THE UK.

Traditional social ideas of masculinity and femininity create an environment where men are seen as dominant over women. These stereotypes enable discrimination, harm and violence against women and girls – and focus on blaming potential victims rather than perpetrators. Male entitlement and toxic masculinity do not

benefit anyone in society and can harm the psychological wellbeing of men and boys, as well as threatening the physical safety of women and girls. The resulting attitudes and behaviours can be enabled or intensified by social media and the online environment.

“Many women also blame themselves for their own abuse. I think that educating women on the signs of an abusive relationship, how abuse works and how to safely leave an abusive relationship, as well as providing them with support to do so is very important.”

– Ben, Greenwich Resident

“Social services also made me feel I had to answer as to why this had happened again with a second partner like I was to blame rather than acknowledging that there is a serious problem with abusive men in this society.”

– Mary, Greenwich resident

¹ [refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-facts/#:~:text=Fact%3A%2093%25%20of%20defendants%20in,health%2C%20but%20also%20our%20economy.](https://www.refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-facts/#:~:text=Fact%3A%2093%25%20of%20defendants%20in,health%2C%20but%20also%20our%20economy.)

² RBG MARAC data

³ [news.npcc.police.uk/releases/call-to-action-as-violence-against-women-and-girls-epidemic-deepens-1](https://www.news.npcc.police.uk/releases/call-to-action-as-violence-against-women-and-girls-epidemic-deepens-1)



It is therefore crucial that we focus on eradicating these attitudes and intervening as early as possible in a young person's life to prevent them from developing. We will focus on teaching young boys and girls about the root causes of these issues, and the importance of healthy relationships based on mutual respect and consent. This education also needs to extend beyond schools, colleges and educational settings, with positive role models and coaches from families and communities being just as important as teachers.

We do not accept that VAWG is inevitable or that women hold the burden of responsibility for their own safety from men. Ensuring the safety, freedom and empowerment of women and girls is at the heart of this strategy: however, this is a call to action for all men to accept this responsibility and do what they can to support women and girls and prevent violence against them.

The approach we are taking to address male violence against women and girls has been promoted by the United Nations and is strongly backed by the data. By placing the Royal Borough of Greenwich among one of the first London boroughs to name the problem for what it is, we want to:

- focus on preventing violence at the source, rather than on the behaviours of victims
- make it clear that preventing and eradicating VAWG is everybody's business
- work with male allies to promote a change in conversation and culture towards male accountability
- continue to empower and safeguard women and children at all costs, recognising the experiences, needs and strength of survivors of abuse
- lead with integrity, putting our values and principles at the forefront.

Of course, we recognise that the majority of men are not sexist or violent. However, misogyny and violence against women and girls is rooted in and enabled by existing social norms and systems, the media and cultural attitudes. Men and boys have a significant role to play in shifting these attitudes.

We want to empower residents, particularly young men and boys, to:

- step up as active allies and champions in tackling sexism

- recognise and safely challenge problematic attitudes and behaviours
- have difficult conversations with peers and communities while reflecting on their own behaviours
- act as educators, role models and coaches
- promote positive, pro-social attitudes towards masculinity – celebrating diversity and individual experience rather than reinforcing outdated stereotypes.

We will continue to do everything we can to support all survivors of abuse and violence, offer them accessible and inclusive support, and bring perpetrators to justice. But enforcement alone will not end violence against women and girls – systemic change is required. We will take a preventative rather than reactive approach and promote a cross-cutting cultural change aimed at tackling the root causes of sexism and creating a real and lasting safer community for everyone in Greenwich.

Within this strategy, we recognise that men and people of all genders can be victims of domestic abuse, and the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Safer Greenwich Partnerships therefore ensure that all survivors will receive the same level of support, which will be tailored as necessary to their individual requirements; due to the disproportionate level of risk facing women, this strategy focusses on women and girls.

This ambitious strategy cannot succeed without a system-wide approach. Our Working Together to End Male Violence strategy builds on our existing partnerships and workstreams under the umbrella of the Safety Greenwich Partnership, and has been shaped by the communities that experience this discrimination and violence and carry out important work to address it; this includes residents and community groups, emergency services and partners in the health, education and voluntary sectors. We will continue to collaborate with these key community partners throughout the life of this strategy and beyond. We thank all those who contributed to the consultation for this strategy for their invaluable engagement, commitment and insight.

More information on how we developed and consulted on the strategy can be found in Appendix 1, and definitions for terms used in this strategy are in Appendix 2.

OUR VISION

We plan to build on the excellent work that has already taken place in Greenwich to become a leading authority in educating and protecting against gender-based violence. We are dedicated to creating a safer community for everyone and will take a holistic approach to do so, because one organisation or borough cannot tackle this cross-cutting issue alone.

OUR VISION FOR GREENWICH AT THE END OF THIS FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY IS THAT:

- **women and girls feel safe and are safe**
- **men and boys are allies and champions in ensuring women and girls' safety, and are unafraid to challenge inappropriate and harmful behaviour**
- **residents of all genders, ages and communities are educated about gender-based issues, healthy relationships and the drivers of male-perpetrated violence, and are empowered to educate and safely challenge others' attitudes and behaviours**
- **everyone can access the support and services they need, and no one finds this more difficult due to any of their individual characteristics or experiences**
- **our partnership working across the borough works well to systematically safeguard residents, especially women and children, from fear, harm and violence**
- **sexist and abusive behaviour is not tolerated in any situation, and perpetrators of harm and violence are prosecuted effectively.**



WHERE WE ARE NOW

We can only end male violence if we work with our partners locally and across London; these include health partners, schools and colleges, the police, prisons, community and voluntary sector partners, and many others. Our role is to coordinate these organisations working across the borough, and we align with the below strategies and initiatives.

The UN Declaration of the Elimination of Violence against Women

The Government's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021

The Mayor of London's VAWG Strategy 2022

6 pledges in Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) VAWG Strategy

Objectives in Serious Violence Strategy – part of the Safer Greenwich Partnership

Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan

Action plans for women's public safety and men's psychological safety

The scale of the problem

Across the UK, 1 in 5 women are victims of sexual assault (or attempted assault) in their lifetime – this means that women make up 95% of all victims of sexual assault⁴. Also, over 27% of women have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 (14% of men) and 20% of women aged 16 to 74 have experienced stalking since the age of 16 (10% of men).

Local data

In 2024/25, 767 referrals were made to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), a forum which manages the highest-risk domestic abuse cases. This is a slight decrease from 780 in 2023/24.

Over 90% of cases involved a female victim, and 407 cases involved children, of which a total of 837 children were affected by high-risk domestic abuse.

For the year 2024/25, there were 3,496 Domestic Offences in Greenwich reported to the Police in comparison with 4,000 reported in 2023/24, which is a 13% decrease on the number of offences reported. This is higher than the London-wide average of 2,952 offences, meaning Greenwich has the ninth highest rate of domestic offences across the London boroughs – this has dropped from fifth in 2023/24.

Over the past four years (ending 2024-25), 86% of MARAC cases are with an intimate partner, compared to 14% comprising familial abuse. Recent data suggest that the most prevalent risk factors within any referral are substance misuse (either in the victim or perpetrator), perpetrators having a criminal history outside of domestic abuse, and mental health concerns disclosed by the victim. Physical abuse is the most prevalent abuse type ranging between 70-75% of all cases, followed by threats and intimidation to property, and controlling or coercive behaviour.

Demography

Year on year Greenwich MARAC cases vary when comparing victim-survivor ethnicity to our Census 2021 population by ethnicity. Out of over 3,000 referrals between 2021-22 and 2024-25, 60% of victims were White (mostly White British), 16% Black or Black British, and 9% Asian or Asian British; 5% of a Mixed or Multiple Ethnic background.

The data indicates that, despite a modest reduction in high-risk domestic abuse referrals and recorded offences, domestic abuse remains a significant issue, predominantly affecting women and children and driven by risk factors including substance misuse, criminal history, and mental health concerns.

MARAC Referrals - Rate per 1,000 Population

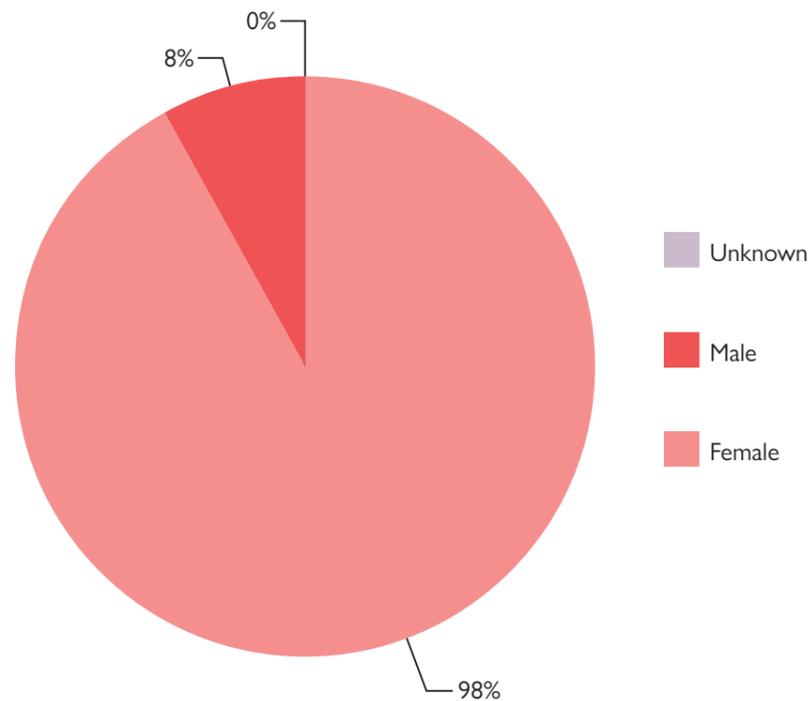


⁴ ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/sexualoffencesprevalenceandtrendsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020

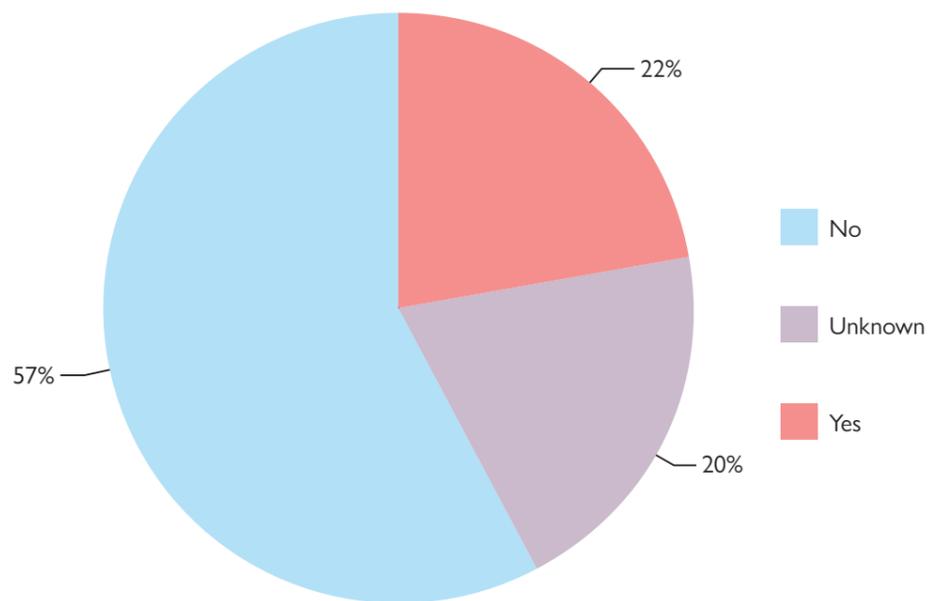
⁵ Census 2021 Greenwich ethnicity breakdown: 55.7% White, 21.0% Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, 13.2% Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, 6.0% Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, and 4.2% from Other ethnic groups.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

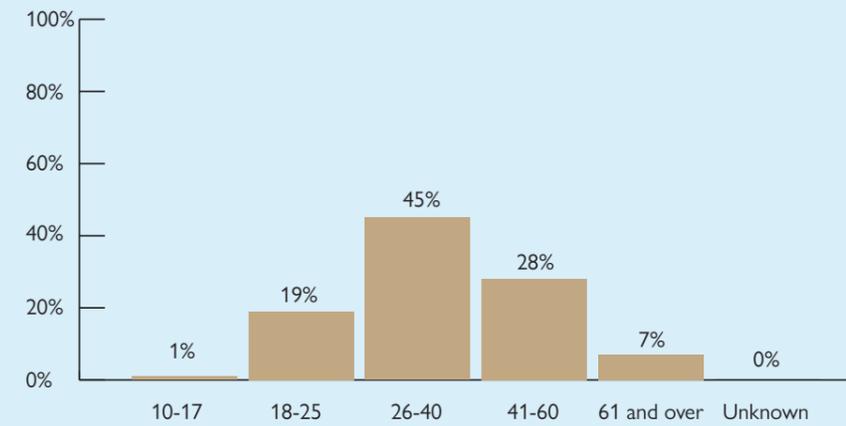
Victim gender



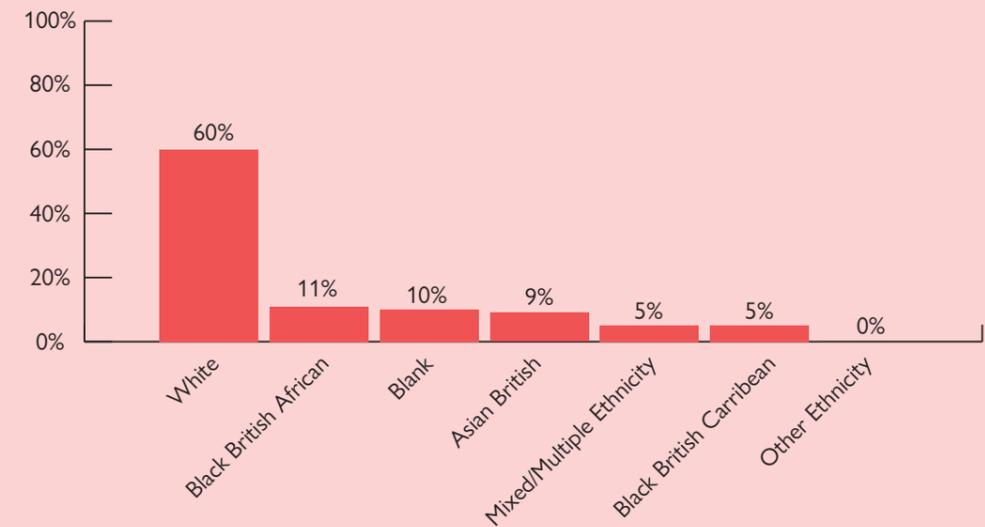
Victim disability



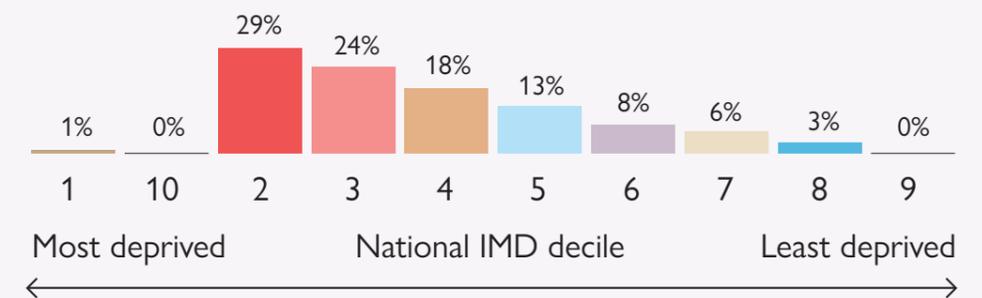
Victim age bands



Victim ethnicity



Victim deprivation - National Deciles (IMD 2019) with a known postcode



Information on other VAWG offences (crimes between 2023–2024)⁶

1. Top 10 most prevalent offences among female victims

Between 2023 and 2024, the top 10 offences with the highest proportion of female victims, calculated as a percentage of all offences where at least one female victim was recorded, reveal significant patterns in gendered violence. The most reported offence was hate offences related to domestic incidents, which accounted for 9.7% of all female victims.

Assault without injury, both in general and specifically common assault and battery, was also prominent, comprising a combined 11.9% of all female victims. Other commonly reported offences included other types of theft (5.2%), actual bodily harm (4.4%), and

harassment-related crimes such as sending malicious communications (3.1%) and general harassment (2.8%). The high proportion of non-injury assaults may reflect frequent incidents of physical intimidation or threats that, while not causing physical harm, still have serious psychological impacts. The data also suggests a growing prevalence of online abuse and stalking, as more women are targeted through digital platforms and social media. These patterns may be influenced by increased awareness and reporting, but nonetheless point to enduring and widespread issues of violence and abuse against women, both online and in everyday life.

2. Top 10 offences in Greenwich where women or girls represent all victims of crimes for which men can be victimised e.g. Sexual assault on a female child under 13 would be excluded:

Offence
Attempted - harassment - pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking
Harassment - breach of conditions of injunction against harassment
Possessing prohibited images of children
Breach of stalking order/interim stalking order
Publishing or distributing written material (acts intended to stir up religious hatred/sexual hatred)
Upskirting
Sending or showing flashing images with intent to harm
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 - allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead
Attempted - harassment - stalking involving serious alarm/distress
Threatening offence involving a weapon or substances, committed in private

3. Top 10 offences in Greenwich where women and girls represent most victims of crimes for which males can also be victimised e.g. Sexual assault on a female child under 13 would be excluded:

Offence	% of female victims	% of male victims
Harassment - stalking involving fear of violence	89%	10%
Distraction burglary - residential (Home)	88%	13%
Criminal Law Act 1977 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Violence for securing entry	88%	13%
Rape incident	87%	13%
Harassment - breach of a restraining order	86%	10%
Breach of non-molestation order	85%	15%
Poisoning	85%	15%
Sharing intimate photograph or film to cause alarm distress or humiliation or for sexual gratification	84%	16%
Engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate / family relationship	83%	16%
Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation	83%	17%

Technology-based violence or technical abuse

Known by a variety of terms, a key area of concern is violence and harm that is committed, amplified or facilitated through the use of digital technology. This mainly occurs online (such as cyberbullying, online stalking and threats, the release of private information known as doxxing, image-based abuse such as deepfake videos and revenge pornography) but can also take place offline (for example, the use of a GPS tracker to stalk someone).

The United Nations identified a number of new risks and challenges online and on social media as a result of rapid technological change – specifically growing backlash against women’s rights, the rapid rise of artificial intelligence, and the expansion of the manosphere (an ecosystem of misogynistic content that is spreading into mainstream culture, shaping public attitudes towards women, and fuelling violence)⁷. In the UK, a 2023 Open University study showed that 15% of women have experienced online violence, and this figure intensifies

for young women (25% of 16–24-year-olds) and non-heterosexual women (35% of LGBTQ+ women)⁸.

Online violence refers to harmful, abusive, or threatening behaviour that occurs through digital platforms such as social media, messaging apps, forums, or gaming environments. It can include harassment, stalking and the non-consensual sharing of private information or images.

What sits outside of this strategy

Other offences may be closely associated with certain areas of VAWG but are not explicitly covered in this strategy. These include child sexual exploitation, trafficking for sexual exploitation, modern slavery and exploitation by gangs. Addressing these crimes is an important part of the work of the Safer Greenwich Partnership (SGP). We recognise that victims of VAWG may be affected by other offences and we will apply the same approach to supporting survivors and bringing perpetrators to justice across all offences. The wider SGP also works to address areas such as serious violence and exploitation, extremism and terrorism, and hate crime.

⁶ Source: SafeStats

⁷ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/a-79-500-sg-report-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-2024-infographic-and-recommendations-en.pdf>

⁸ <https://research.open.ac.uk/news/ou-research-reveals-shocking-level-online-violence-experienced-women-and-girls-across-uk>

OUR PRINCIPLES

This strategy sets out our intention to proactively address the underlying societal and systemic issues that lead to violence against women and girls. We have agreed a set of operating principles that will guide our work and that of our partners, and will sit at the heart of our service design and delivery.

- **GENDER-BASED AND INTERSECTIONAL**
- **TARGETED AND PREVENTATIVE**
- **TRAUMA-INFORMED**
- **LISTENING, LEARNING AND ADVOCATING**
- **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

GENDER-BASED AND INTERSECTIONAL

Women are overwhelmingly affected by gender-based violence. Other aspects of an individual's identity can bring unique, and in some cases more serious or frequent, experiences of discrimination and gender-based violence. For example, Safe Lives report that disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse as non-disabled women, and similarly the Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that transgender people are over twice as likely as cisgender people to experience intimate partner violence.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich respects the right of individuals to self-determination, and recognises that transgender women and non-binary people are at elevated risk of domestic abuse. We will apply the same principles and provide the same level of support to these individuals, including specialist support where needed.

Responding to this requires an intersectional and inclusive approach, recognising that these individual characteristics, experiences and vulnerabilities may require unique

and tailored types of support. We will tailor our interventions to the diverse needs of our population in order to recognise and remove the barriers and gaps that exist.

We will:

- **recognise that each individual's identity, experiences and needs will be unique and require tailored services**
- **ensure services are accessible, inclusive and meet the needs of all the communities they serve**
- **utilise a gender-based and intersectional approach, taking proactive steps to reach those with increased barriers to access or levels of vulnerability.**

Targeted and preventative

We want to focus on preventative work as opposed to reactive response. We will engage with men and boys to encourage reflection and cultural change before violence occurs – known as primary prevention. We want to empower men with the awareness and tools to understand the impact of misogyny and the importance of healthy relationships, and to engage them as allies in violence prevention.

We will target the individuals and groups identified as being at higher risk of committing harm, based on evidence and intelligence. This includes, but is not limited to:

- young men and boys who are exposed to or normalise violence, misogyny, or controlling behaviours
- individuals involved in serious youth violence, gang affiliation, or peer networks where harmful masculinities are reinforced
- men with a history of domestic abuse, sexual violence, or stalking related behaviours
- individuals at risk of radicalisation into extremist, misogynistic, or incel related ideologies
- those who display early indicators of coercive, sexually aggressive, or disrespectful behaviour (for example, in education or online settings).

We will use local and national data, intelligence, and research to inform these interventions, ensuring that prevention and disruption activity targets the root causes and early risk factors of male violence.

This will not affect our work to support victims and pursue prosecutions for perpetrators, and we will robustly enforce against instances of VAWG while carrying out rehabilitative work where appropriate. However, the overriding goal of this strategy is to tackle violence against women and girls at its root, and the principle of prevention is vital to this.

We will:

- **prevent and stop perpetrators' harmful behaviours, predominately carried out by men and boys**
- **ensure decisions are informed by robust needs and a robust evidence base, needs analysis and impact measurement.**



TRAUMA-INFORMED

Experience of gender-based harm and violence could lead to serious trauma, which may prevent people from reporting an incident, and from seeking the necessary level of support. This is especially important for children whose development and growth can be significantly affected by trauma related to domestic and sexual violence. We are therefore committed to being trauma-informed in our work. We will achieve this through staff training and good support pathways.

Men and boys' experience of harmful gender norms and violence can also be traumatic. We need to acknowledge the toxic environment that stereotypes and misogyny create for people of all genders in order to break the cycle and allow men to; develop healthy relationships based on respect and consent, hold compassionate and constructive conversations with each other, and become change-makers and ambassadors for the end of male violence against women and girls. We are developing an action plan to address this specific area of work.

We will:

- **make certain that victims' and survivors' needs are understood and consistently met across all sectors, including providing comprehensive training to professionals**
- **recognise the needs of children within domestic abusive situations and ensure they receive the support they need.**

to engage with certain communities and groups. Some beliefs held within communities and groups may perpetuate problematic attitudes or practices that cannot be resolved solely through intervention by us. These issues often stem from intergenerational social or faith-based norms, deep-rooted narratives, or internal group dynamics that resist external challenge. This includes deep rooted practices that contribute to the perpetuation of violence against women and girls. These include: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): The partial or total removal of female genitalia for non-medical reasons. This procedure is often performed on young girls and justified through cultural or traditional beliefs, despite its severe physical and psychological consequences. Honour-Based Abuse (HBA): Acts of abuse, ranging from threats and physical harm to coercive control, committed to preserve or restore the perceived "honour" of a family or community. Victims are often punished for behaviour deemed to bring shame, such as rejecting forced marriage or expressing autonomy.

- **Forced marriage:** The practice of compelling individuals, often young women or girls, to marry against their will. This coercion may involve emotional pressure, threats, or physical force, and is frequently orchestrated by family members or community figures.
- **Harmful cultural norms:** Certain traditions and societal expectations that normalise or excuse violence against women and girls. These norms are often rooted in gender inequality and serve to reinforce discriminatory roles and behaviours.

Addressing them requires critical examination and open discussion within the communities themselves, allowing members to confront and reassess the underlying assumptions shaping behaviour. Our involvement can support this process but that runs alongside internal accountability, reflection, and dialogue that leads to sustainable positive cultural change.

We will seek to make connections with these groups to ensure that services meet their needs and are accessible to all. We will also continually review, learn, and adapt from academic studies across London, the UK and other countries, as well as domestic abuse related death reviews and the work of specialist organisations, to ensure our policies and practices remain up-to-date and at the forefront of the evolving dynamics of VAWG.

LISTENING, LEARNING AND ADVOCATING

Residents with lived experience and understanding are our borough's biggest strength. We will empower individuals and communities to harness their strengths to act as allies and ambassadors in leading positive behaviour change. This work starts with hearing from people about their priorities and concerns. We have consulted extensively during the creation of this strategy and will continue to engage with residents as the strategy is put into action.

The diverse population of Greenwich is a key aspect of this strength, and sometimes we as a council struggle

We will:

- **engage with and learn from all people and organisations working to tackle VAWG in Greenwich, and act on this learning**
- **continuously learn from and respond to evidence, adapting practice as new challenges emerge**
- **constantly review and learn from best practice and new learning, and adapt our approach and delivery to meet this best practice.**

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

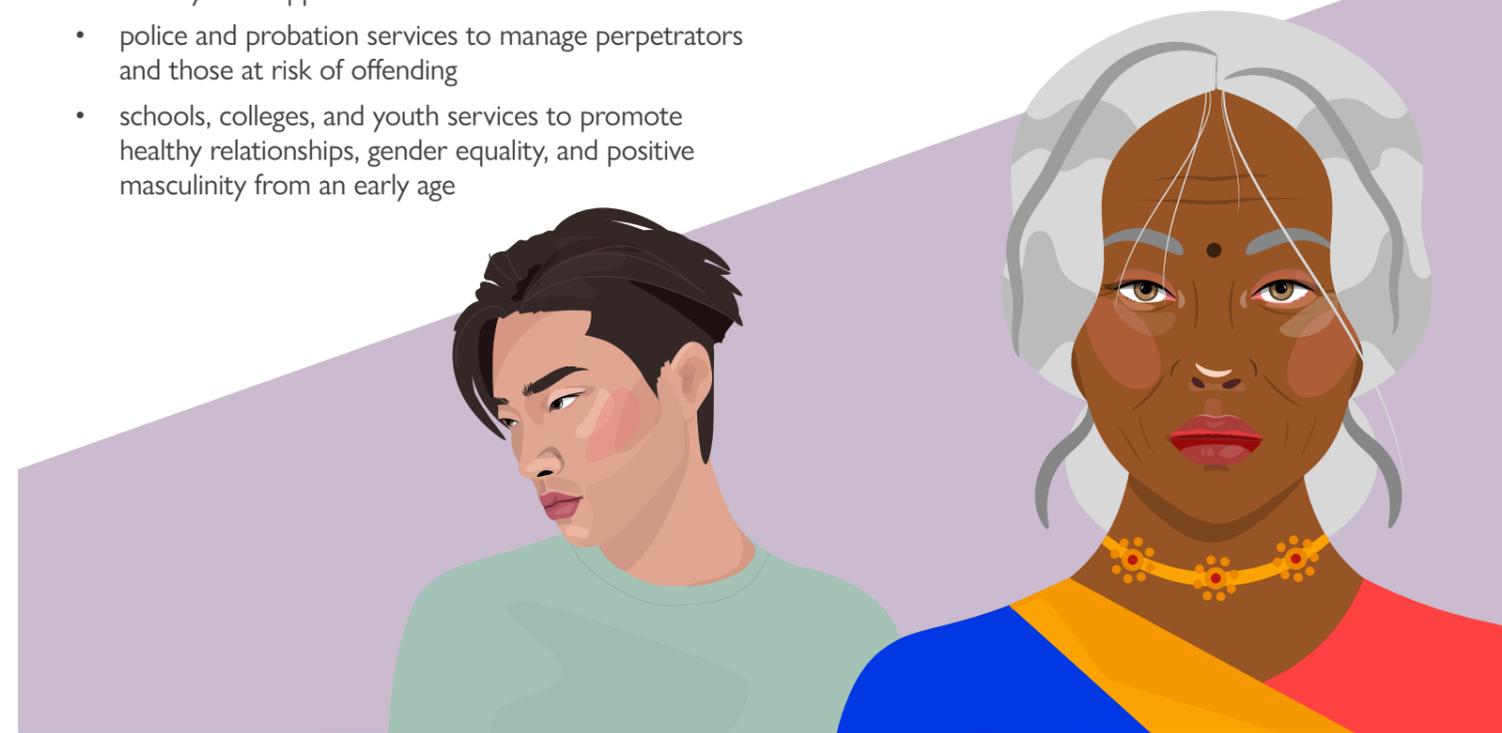
This strategy is ambitious and aims to tackle the root causes of violence. Structural changes need system-wide solutions, and the challenges ahead mean that no one organisation can address or solve all the issues. This makes close collaboration and shared strategic objectives essential. We will therefore continue to work with our partners at a local, regional and national level, deepening these partnerships across the borough. This will include:

- in-house partners such as Children's Services, Youth Justice Service (YJS), Early Help, Adult Social Care, Housing and Tenancy Services, and Public Health to identify and support individuals and families at risk
- police and probation services to manage perpetrators and those at risk of offending
- schools, colleges, and youth services to promote healthy relationships, gender equality, and positive masculinity from an early age

- health and mental health services to address trauma, substance misuse, and other underlying vulnerabilities linked to offending
- community, faith, and voluntary sector organisations to build trusted relationships and deliver culturally competent support
- specialist perpetrator and behaviour change programmes to challenge and shift harmful attitudes and behaviours
- data and intelligence partnerships, including the Community Safety Data Hub, MOPAC and the Violence Reduction Unit, to ensure interventions are informed by the latest evidence and local insight
- commissioned services such as the HER Centre, GDVA and Little Fish.

We will:

- **work together and share information to prevent all types of VAWG from happening, escalating or reoccurring**
- **work together to address the societal drivers of VAWG, combating misogyny and addressing gender inequality**
- **make VAWG everyone's business throughout the council, partner organisations and the community**



WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

The Royal Borough of Greenwich and its partners already carry out a range of positive work to educate and train communities and professionals, more effectively prosecute perpetrators of VAWG, and deliver comprehensive and accessible services for all who need them.

Tackling intimate partner violence and advocacy

The Royal Borough of Greenwich have and continue to:

- manage high-risk domestic abuses cases through the borough's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC)
- commission a number of independent advocacy programmes for domestic violence (including specific programmes for health professionals and children), and a local helpline and website, the Greenwich Domestic Violence and Abuse Services (GDVA)
- provide 30 refuge spaces in the borough for women and children who have experienced intimate partner violence, or are at risk, to have a safe place to stay – as well as floating support for lower-risk cases
- commission support with education, empowerment and counselling for victims of intimate partner violence and their children
- pursue enforcement action against perpetrators, and setting up the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Group which encourages behaviour change through collaborative and therapeutic interventions.

Public safety and partnerships

The Royal Borough of Greenwich:

- are the first and so far only local authority to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) making inappropriate sexual or gender-based abuse in public spaces into a fineable offence
- carry out public safety audits and improvements, including the installation of CCTV and the creation of Safehaven Superhubs in five locations across the borough to provide places of safety, as part of the Women's Safety Plan

- collaborate closely between the council's Safer Communities Teams, Community Safety Enforcement Officers, and VAWG Officers in the Metropolitan Police to raise awareness of women's public safety and VAWG issues in communities
- lead a range of community initiatives: joint walkabouts and patrols with developers and housing providers; work with the British Transport Police and business to promote public safety initiatives, attendance at community events and targeted sessions with specific groups (including domestic abuse survivors, the Nepalese community, and sex workers), and work with Charlton Athletic Community Trust to hold girls' only sessions including professional advice on sexual health.

Outreach and prevention programmes

The Royal Borough of Greenwich:

- run a number of outreach and education programmes in primary and secondary schools to address negative and misogynistic attitudes
- commission the charity BelEve to deliver the BEAM (Beautiful, Empowered and Me) project in primary schools to ease young girls' transition into secondary school by providing resources and tools to promote increased confidence, resilience, awareness, and positive self-image.

THE EMBRACE PROJECT

The Little Fish Theatre Company delivered the Embrace Project. This was targeted at groups of young men aged 13 to 19 identified by schools as showing concerning attitudes or behaviour towards women and girls. It also worked in Pupil Referral Units and youth offending services. This project aimed to increase understanding around sexism and misogyny, the necessity of challenging this, the importance of consent and healthy relationships, and how men can take responsibility for their behaviour.

Little Fish used drama-based activities and discussions to develop participants' capacity to navigate relationships and understand consent. It provided training and resources to schools and educators to improve sex and relationships education.

Over 300 young men across Greenwich and two partner boroughs, Southwark and Wandsworth, were reached in groups of 10-12. Teachers ensured a balanced group dynamic, and participants were empowered by being positioned as peer leaders.

Responses from participants in the project evaluation demonstrate strong engagement with and understanding of the issues:

How should we address male-on-male violence while maintaining a focus on ending male violence against women and girls?

"Acknowledge the shared root causes. Both male-on-male violence and VAWG stem from harmful ideas of masculinity dominance, aggression, control, and emotional suppression. Addressing toxic masculinity helps reduce all forms of male violence without shifting focus away from women and girls."

What role should men and boys play in preventing male violence in all its forms?

"Recognise and challenge internalised ideas that justify aggression or control. Take responsibility if they have contributed to harm and commit to change."

"Men can be agents of change in multiple ways. They can speak up, be role models and challenge sexism. They can work on preventing and combating "harmful masculinities". Men are the best placed to call on other men to be active in the fight against gender-based violence, and to set an example for future generations."

What more can be done to challenge and change cultural attitudes that enable male violence?

"Challenging gender stereotypes in textbooks, media, and children's toys. Encouraging boys and young men to express emotions without shame."



The Royal Borough of Greenwich:

- has maintained a White Ribbon accreditation, which reflects our ongoing commitment to ending male violence against women and girls and to act as leaders in this area
- holds annual community-based campaigns and events to support the UN's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and White Ribbon Day
- delivers regular training to professionals across the Safer Greenwich Partnership to equip them

to identify, assess, and respond to VAWG and domestic abuse cases – regular sessions include training on specialised topics and changes in legislation

- holds internal VAWG symposiums to highlight the importance of preventing violence to managers and staff across the council, to make it the business of every service and individual to be aware of VAWG and know how to recognise, respond and refer victims to support.

ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER STRATEGIES

Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)

We as a local authority, alongside our NHS partners, have signed up to MOPAC's six pledges for a public health approach to tackling VAWG:

1. Recognise all forms of VAWG in everything we do
2. Embed action to end perpetration of VAWG
3. Work together to actively tackle VAWG
4. Strengthen workplace safety
5. Promote a collaborative learning environment
6. Ensure an anti-misogynistic environment

The council's Serious Violence Strategy

Greenwich's statutory Serious Violence Strategy incorporates a number of objectives under two key VAWG strands – domestic abuse and sexual violence. These focus on preventing young people from being drawn into violence or exploitation, either as victims or perpetrators, support those already involved, building trust in communities and high-risk locations, and ensuring services meet victims' needs. Especially where certain communities are disproportionately affected or where specialist services are required. These objectives are encompassed within our plans to end male violence against women and girls throughout this strategy.

WHAT WE AIM TO DO

Building on the excellent and wide-reaching work outlined in the previous section, we have developed a set of seven key strategic priorities for 2025 to 2029. These priorities, and the actions we will take to meet them, are:

1. Supporting victims and survivors

We will:

- provide accessible, trauma-informed support and safeguarding services for women and girls affected by male violence, ensuring they feel safe and supported regardless of their individual circumstances
- regularly train professionals to be equipped and confident in recognising the possible signs of violence and trauma and referring victims or those at risk to appropriate services
- embed gender-informed practice across frontline services (e.g. housing, enforcement, health, youth justice, and children's services), ensuring staff recognise and respond to the gendered dynamics of violence
- improve service accessibility for marginalised and harder-to-reach communities
- develop a Male Psychological Safety and Wellbeing Action Plan.

2. Allyship and community engagement

We will:

- encourage men and boys to actively participate as allies in ending male violence against women and girls
- engage communities in dialogue and initiatives that promote gender equality and respect
- work in partnership with key institutions, such as employers, sports clubs, night-time economy venues, and community organisations, to create environments where misogyny and harassment are not tolerated.

3. Male accountability and behaviour change

We will:

- hold men accountable for their actions and promote positive behaviour change through education and intervention programmes
- challenge and change societal norms that condone or minimise violence against women and girls
- address the underlying causes of male-perpetrated violence, such as harmful gender norms and societal attitudes, and engage men and boys as allies in challenging and changing these norms.

4. Prevention and education

We will:

- implement educational programmes and change campaigns in schools, workplaces, and communities to raise awareness about male violence, the importance of consent, positive role models, and healthy relationships, and the support and services available in the borough
- work with stakeholders to develop preventive strategies that address the root causes of male violence, including misogyny and toxic masculinity
- strengthen early intervention pathways for boys and young men displaying early warning signs of harmful or controlling behaviour
- promote healthy relationship and consent education as part of a broader public health and social norms approach, rather than as a standalone programme
- raise awareness of technological abuse among staff, partners and residents and adapt to technological developments to prevent these from being used in harmful ways by perpetrators.

5. Using our legal powers

We will:

- work with partners to ensure robust application of laws that protect women and girls from male violence, through enforcement, prosecution and behavioural interventions
- advocate for policy changes that strengthen protections against male violence and hold perpetrators accountable.

6. Public spaces safety

We will:

- enhance safety measures in public spaces, and evaluate and adapt existing Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) to be more effective in preventing harassment and violence
- complete an audit of the street lighting upgrade programme and signage in public spaces to address feelings of safety, and reflect the findings in ongoing work under the Women and Girls' Public Safety Plan.

7. Intersectionality and inclusivity

We will:

- develop interventions that consider the intersectional experiences of women and girls, ensuring an inclusive approach that recognises diverse needs and vulnerabilities
- implement assessment tools that encourage practitioners to uphold intersectionality in their work
- use data and insight to understand where harmful attitudes and behaviours are most prevalent, and to design targeted interventions for those settings or populations
- provide comprehensive and tailored support services for all victims of violence, including men, boys and children, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility.



HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS

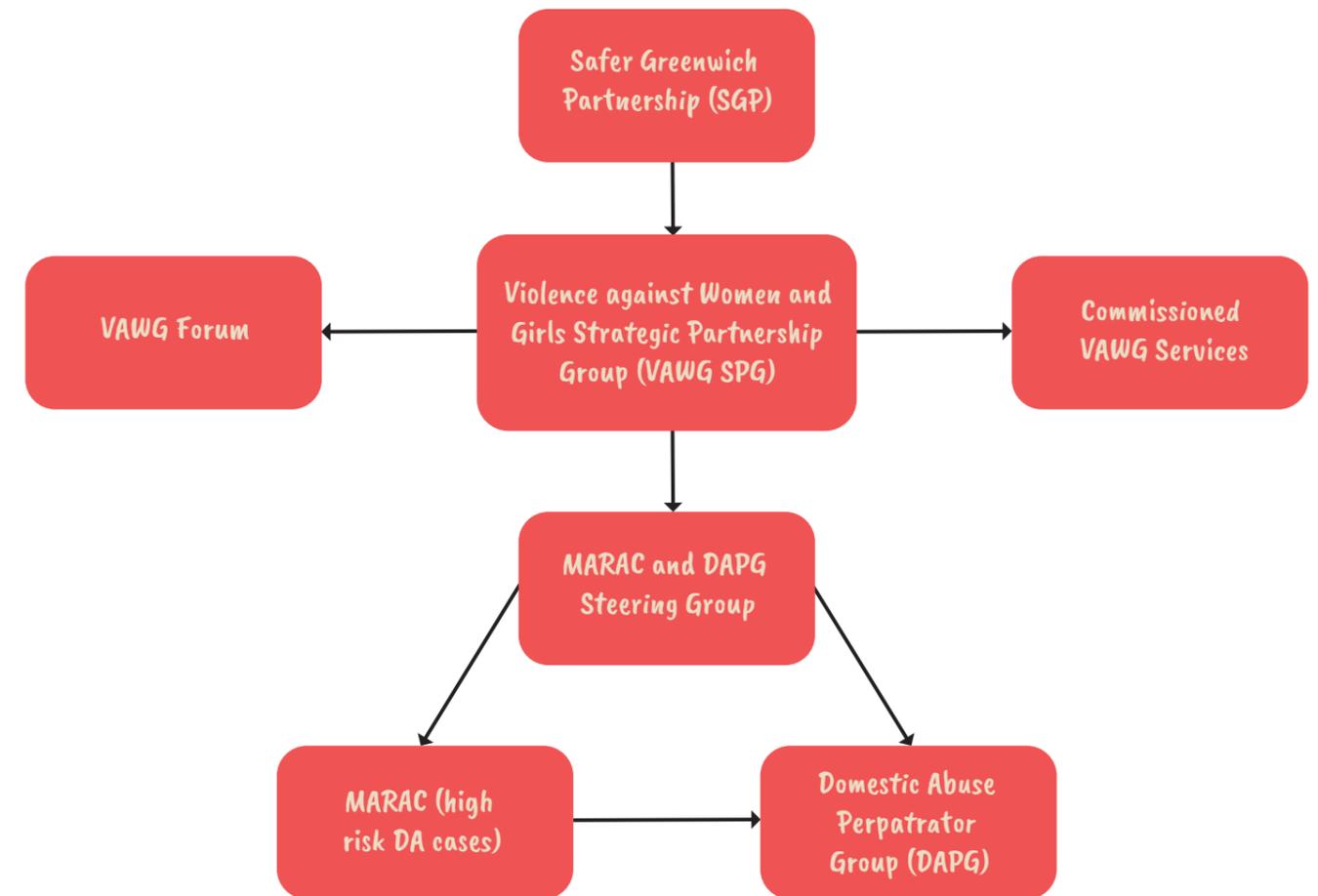
We have set up a robust monitoring and evaluation framework which will allow us to assess the effectiveness of interventions and strategies, and ensure accountability by regularly reviewing and reporting on progress against strategic objectives.

Progress will be recorded and monitored through a series of defined actions overseen by the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategic Partnership Group (SPG). Quarterly progress reports will be submitted to the Safer Greenwich Partnership (SGP) to ensure oversight, accountability, and alignment with the borough's wider community safety priorities.

This governance structure will:

- track delivery of key actions within this strategy and its associated action plans
- ensure that learning, data, and emerging trends inform ongoing service development and commissioning

- provide a mechanism for partners to challenge, support, and drive progress towards the shared goal of ending male violence
- include the proportionate and coordinated use of the council's regulatory, licensing and enforcement powers, civil orders and Public Spaces Protection Orders, alongside close partnership working with the police, probation and other statutory agencies to prevent harm, disrupt offending behaviour and protect women and girls.



SAFER GREENWICH PARTNERSHIP

The Safer Greenwich Partnership (SGP) is the overarching lead partnership for monitoring the implementation of the VAWG strategy. The SGP is a statutory multi-agency body and contains representatives from the council, Metropolitan Police, National Probation Service, London Fire Brigade and NHS South East London Integrated Care Board.

VAWG STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROUP

The VAWG Strategic Partnership Group (VAWG SPG) is a quarterly forum that initiates and coordinates work across VAWG issues. It will be the key partnership group responsible for implementing the delivery of the strategy's aims and objectives and reporting back to the SGP on performance.

It also monitors progress of the VAWG section of the Community Safety Plan, shares information from pan-London forums, and monitors crime and other data to inform service development. It is responsible for ensuring borough-wide alignment with the Greenwich Safeguarding Adults Board, Children's Safeguarding Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Combatting Drugs Partnership.

SUB-GROUPS

The VAWG SPG oversees a number of relevant sub-groups. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and the Domestic Abuse Perpetrators' Group (DAPG) provide operational responses to high-risk cases of intimate partner violence, ensuring victims and their children are offered support and interventions that reduce their risk of harm and monitoring high-risk and repeat offenders with appropriate outreach and intervention. These are also overseen by a steering group that monitors their effectiveness.

Finally, the monthly VAWG Forum ensures collaboration and best practice sharing between local services who provide support for victims of VAWG. The forum includes both statutory and third sector services, and each meeting is themed around a particular VAWG issue.



APPENDIX 1 – CONSULTATION RESULTS

Consultation was undertaken with community groups, local partnership groups and schools using AHA Slides (an interactive presentation software) and the wider public through a Commonplace (CP) survey. The findings are as follows:

This analysis brings together two datasets:

- AHA Slide Survey (n≈2,000 responses across 10 structured questions)
- Commonplace Consultation (n=187 responses, with free-text reflections and place-based mapping)

Theme 1. Male accountability and the role of men and boys (AHA Q2, Q6; CP free-text)

Respondents stressed that men and boys must be active allies, challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours rather than leaving the responsibility to women.

- AHA: Calls for positive communication and role modelling. Men should “call out misogyny” and not excuse it as “banter.”
- Commonplace: Men were described as both part of the problem and essential to the solution. Education from an early age was a repeated demand.

Lived experience quotes:

- “Men need to be part of the solution, not just seen as the problem — education from an early age is key.”
- “We need men who will call out their friends, not stay silent.”

Theme 2. Victim support and access to services (AHA Q3, Q4, Q9; CP free-text)

Survivors need practical, sustained, and culturally competent support to rebuild their lives.

- AHA: Benefits to victims included breaking the cycle of harm and supporting children’s wellbeing. Tailored support was flagged for Black and Asian women, LGBTQ+ communities, and children in abusive households.
- Commonplace: Housing insecurity, lack of affordable legal aid, and language barriers were widely mentioned.

Lived experience quotes:

- “Without affordable housing, women cannot safely leave abusive relationships.”
- “When English is not your first language, it feels impossible to get help or explain your situation

Theme 3. Public space, workplace and home safety (AHA Q7; CP mapping + free-text)

Women and girls highlighted unsafe environments in streets, transport, and workplaces.

- AHA: Suggested improvements included better lighting, CCTV, and urban design sensitive to women’s safety.
- Commonplace: Specific locations were flagged as unsafe. Respondents described walking home in fear and feeling intimidated on public transport.

Lived experience quotes:

- “I feel unsafe walking home after late shifts because the streets are poorly lit and deserted.”
- “I avoid certain bus stops because the men hanging around always shout things at me.”

Theme 4. Everyday harassment and intimidation (CP-driven)

Harassment in daily life was one of the strongest signals from Commonplace, covering catcalling, verbal abuse, staring, and intimidation.

- Commonplace: These behaviours were described as constant and normalised, shaping how women move through public space.
- AHA: This theme was less visible, underscoring the importance of lived experience evidence.

Lived experience quotes:

- “It happens so often that I don’t even report it anymore — it feels like no one takes it seriously.”
- “Walking past groups of men who shout things at me is terrifying, even in daylight.”

Theme 5. Children and young people (AHA Q4, Q5; CP free-text)

Children were seen as both vulnerable victims and central to prevention efforts.

- AHA: Recognition of children in abusive households and calls to address men’s mental health as part of breaking cycles of harm.

- Commonplace: Strong calls for school-based education on consent, respect, and equality.

Lived experience quotes:

- “I grew up in a house with domestic violence. Support for children like me is just as important.”
- “Schools must teach boys about respect before it’s too late.”

Theme 6. Culture change, prevention and education (AHA Q5, Q8; CP free-text)

Long-term prevention requires shifting social norms through education and awareness.

- AHA: Emphasised the need to distinguish power/control dynamics in male-to-female violence. Advocated education and awareness campaigns.
- Commonplace: High frequency of calls for education in schools, peer-led interventions, and campaigns against harassment.

Lived experience quotes:

- “Education in schools must tackle harmful gender stereotypes before they become ingrained.”
- “Too much of this behaviour is dismissed as ‘normal’ — that culture has to change.”

Theme 7. Partnerships and community coordination (AHA Q9; CP free-text)

Preventing VAWG requires multi-agency working and involvement of trusted community voices.

- AHA: Suggested joint action between housing, police, and local services.
- Commonplace: Strong emphasis on faith and community organisations as trusted messengers.

Lived experience quotes:

- “Community groups and faith organisations can reach people the council cannot — partnership is essential.”
- “Women are more likely to confide in local groups they trust than in official services.”

Theme 8. Equalities and intersectionality (AHA Q4; CP free-text)

Responses highlighted the specific needs of marginalised groups.

- AHA: Identified Black and Asian women, LGBTQ+ communities, and children as needing tailored support.
- Commonplace: Emphasised barriers for non-English speakers, migrant women, and disabled survivors.

Lived experience quotes:

- “If you don’t speak English, the system feels closed to you.”
- “Disabled women face unique risks, but services aren’t designed for us.”

Theme 9. Accountability, data and governance (AHA Q10; CP free-text)

Respondents wanted visible evidence of progress, not just rhetoric.

- AHA: Suggested outcomes included reductions in high-risk cases and publishing success stories alongside victim narratives.
- Commonplace: Strong demand for regular reporting, clear targets, and transparency to rebuild trust.

Lived experience quotes:

- “Publishing regular reports with measurable outcomes will build trust and show the strategy is working.”
- “We need to see results, not just words.”

Conclusion

This analysis shows a strong and consistent call for male accountability, victim support, safer environments, cultural change, community partnerships, and transparent accountability.

The Commonplace consultation adds crucial lived experience detail, reminding us that everyday harassment, fear in public spaces, and barriers to reporting remain core realities for many women and girls. Direct voices from respondents bring urgency and authenticity to the strategy. Their insights should shape not just the narrative but the practical implementation of measures to end male violence against women and girls.

Suggested next steps

1. Embed male accountability through education, male ambassador programmes, and public campaigns.
2. Expand victim support with more housing, legal aid, trauma-informed and culturally competent services.
3. Improve public safety via lighting, CCTV, and transport measures, plus stronger workplace protections.
4. Address everyday harassment with campaigns, visible enforcement, and reporting mechanisms.
5. Prioritise children and young people in prevention and support strategies.
6. Shift cultural norms through school-based education, awareness campaigns, and tackling online harms.
7. Strengthen partnerships between the council, police, health, schools, and community groups.
8. Ensure intersectional provision for BAME women, LGBTQ+ survivors, disabled women, and migrants.
9. Make accountability visible with clear metrics, progress reports, and independent scrutiny.

APPENDIX 2 – THE VAWG STRANDS

Types of Abuse	Definitions
Domestic Abuse	Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, threatening behaviour, Violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members.
Sexual Abuse (including rape)	Sexual abuse involves any sexual activity that occurs without consent. This includes harassment involving unwelcomed sexual advances such as verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It also includes sexual activity carried out forcibly or under threat of injury against a person's will or with a person who is beneath a certain age or incapable of valid consent.
Forced Marriage	Where one or both parties do not or cannot consent to the marriage and involves duress. Examples of duress include: threats, physical abuse, emotional and financial pressure.
"Honour" Based Abuse	Abuse that has been committed to protect or defend the so-called "honour" of the family and/or community. It can take many forms such as physical assault, threats to kill, forced marriage, deprivation of independence.
Stalking	Stalking is a pattern of repeated harassment/unwanted attention, causing fear, alarm or distress to the victim.
Female Genital Mutilation	Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) describes all procedures involving the complete or partial removal or alteration of female external genitalia, for non-medical reasons.
Sexual Exploitation and Prostitution (including trafficking)	When someone is coerced or forced into selling sex or performing sexual acts. Abuse can also include sharing pornographic images and the use of technology.
Women's Public Safety	Harassment and other forms of threatening, intimidating and violent behaviour against women in public spaces, including unwelcome sexual remarks and gestures which evoke feelings of fear and insecurity in women and girls.

APPENDIX 3 – POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

The Power and Control wheel is an important tool in helping us understand and recognise domestic abuse. Created in 1984 in Duluth, Minnesota, from women's stories of violence, terror and survival, staff documented the most common abusive behaviours or tactics that were used against these women.

The eight tactics chosen for the wheel were those that were most universally experienced by abused women.

Perpetrators use the tactics to gain power and control over the victim. Tactics are used in isolation or together. They use physical and/or sexual violence or the threat of physical and/or sexual violence to maintain power and control.



APPENDIX 4 – DEFINITIONS

Allyship	Active support for the rights of a group from those who do not belong to the group. In the context of this strategy, support and action from men and boys in the area of VAWG prevention.
Domestic abuse	Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, economic and emotional aspects.
Intersectionality	The different facets of an individual's identity means that everyone faces unique experiences of discrimination and VAWG. This concept of intersectionality highlights that victims may require different types of support depending on additional barriers that may make them more vulnerable to abuse or find it more difficult to access support. This could be due to characteristics such as one's race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexuality, immigration status, socio-economic background, age, faith, ability, or a combination of these.
Global majority	A collective term for people of African, Asian, indigenous, Latin American and mixed-heritage backgrounds, representing around 85% of the world's population.
LGBTQ+	Represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual and other individuals and groups. Cisgender means someone whose gender identity is the same as they were assigned at birth (as opposed to transgender people).
Misogyny	Misogyny is the hatred of, contempt for, or prejudice against women and/or girls. It can manifest as disrespectful and inappropriate behaviours such as social exclusion, sexual harassment, objectification and belittling of women. Misogynistic attitudes perceive women as subordinates to men and limit women's power and freedom. Consequently, these harmful behaviours contribute to an environment that enables violence against women and girls.

Technology-based violence or technical abuse	Violence and harm that is committed, amplified or facilitated through the use of digital technology. This mainly occurs online (such as cyberbullying, online stalking and threats, the release of private information known as doxxing, image-based abuse such as deepfake videos and revenge pornography) but can also take place offline (for example, use of a GPS tracker to stalk someone).
Toxic masculinity	The social environment and pressure for men and boys to adhere to traditional male gender roles that consequently stigmatise and limit the emotions boys and men may comfortably express while elevating other emotions, attitudes and behaviours such as anger, violence and misogyny.
Trauma informed	Trauma is defined as an emotional wound, resulting from a shocking event or multiple and repeated life threatening and/or extremely frightening experiences that may cause lasting negative effects. Taking a trauma-informed approach means ensuring that professionals are equipped to recognise the signs of trauma and handle cases with sensitivity, using correct procedures that safeguard victims, their children and communities, and encourage behaviour change of perpetrators.
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)	The term 'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG) is often referred to as gender-based violence. It describes violence, abusive behaviours and crimes specifically targeted at or disproportionately affecting women and girls. The perpetrators are overwhelmingly male and often known to their victims. VAWG encompasses a range of crimes including domestic abuse, sexual abuse and rape, stalking, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriages, 'honour'-based abuse, sexual exploitation and prostitution, and technological abuse. Often, a person can be a victim of multiple elements of VAWG, and each individual's experience of gender-based violence will be unique.

