



**Cambridgeshire
& Peterborough**
Domestic Abuse & Sexual
Violence Partnership

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2017-2021

**Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

Partners in the Delivery of the VAWG Strategy 2017-2021

Cambridgeshire County Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Peterborough City Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Fenland District Council

Cambridge City Community Safety Partnership
Fenland Community Safety Partnership
Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership
South Cambs Community Safety Partnership
Safer Peterborough Partnership
East Cambs Community Safety Partnership

Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre
Peterborough Rape Crisis
Mountain Healthcare
The Elms Sexual Assault and Referral Centre
Cambridge Women's Aid
Refuge
Ormiston Families

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust

National Probation Service
Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire Probation Service (BeNCH)

Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner
Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Children's Safeguarding Board and Safeguarding Adults Board

What is Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)?

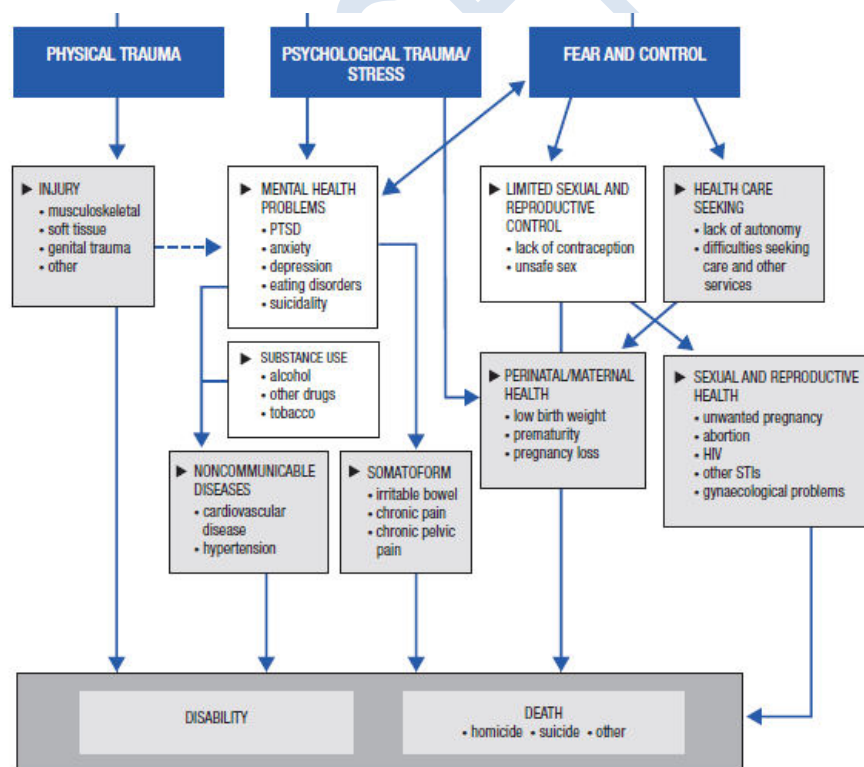
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)' is defined by the Home Office as:

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (United Nations, 2013 and Home Office, 2016).

The National VAWG agenda now also includes the following types of violence and abuse:

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Violence
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage (FM)
- Trafficking / Prostitution
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Stalking and Harassment
- Honour-Based Violence (HBV)

The negative impacts of VAWG are modelled below:



World Health Organisation (2013)

Although women and girls are disproportionately harmed by all VAWG crime types, locally we recognise that men and boys can also be victimised. All children, whether direct or indirect victims of VAWG, are harmed by its impact.

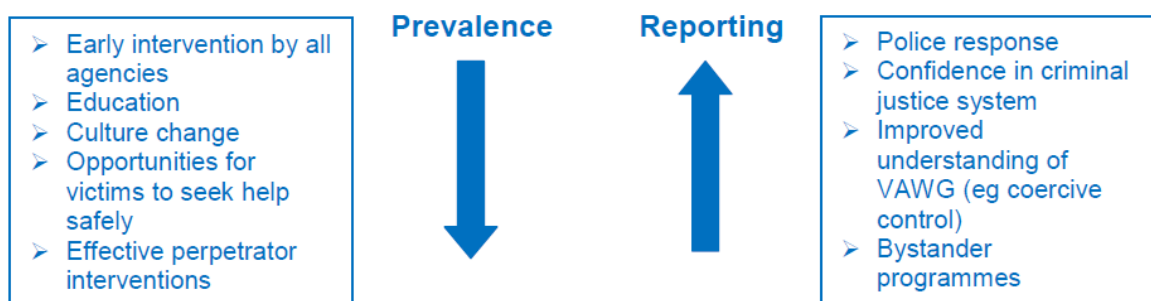
Legislative and policy framework

International and national responses to VAWG are legislated for under the Istanbul Convention (2011), which places a responsibility on signatories to 'combat and prevent' violence against women and girls. Subsequently, the Home Office has developed a new *National Statement of Expectations* (NSEs) as part of its 2016-2020 *End Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy* to inform local activities.

The NSEs are:

- **National Statement of Expectation 1** – the victim at the centre. Every victim, whether adult or child, is an individual with different experiences, reactions and needs. Local areas should ensure that services are flexible and responsive to the victim's experience and voice
- **National Statement of Expectation 2** – a clear focus on perpetrators. In order to keep victims safe, local areas should ensure that there are robust services in place which manage the risk posed by perpetrators and offer behavioural change opportunities for those willing and able to engage with them
- **National Statement of Expectation 3** – a strategic, system-wide approach to commissioning. Good commissioning always starts with understanding the issue and the problem you are trying to solve
- **National Statement of Expectation 4** – locally-led and safeguards individuals at every point. Commissioned services should make use of local initiatives and services already in place to utilise resource, share best practice and ensure that there are coordinated pathways of support
- **National Statement of Expectation 5** – raises local awareness of the issues and involves, engages and empowers communities to seek, design and deliver solutions to prevent VAWG. Commissioners should work with local partners to provide a multiplicity of reporting mechanisms to better enable victims to come forward and access the support they need

The aims of the national VAWG strategy (as modelled below), action plan and NSEs have been embedded in this strategy and our local action plan.



Cambridgeshire Constabulary's four priority areas, based on the national strategy for addressing serious crime are also reflected in this document. Relevant activities have, therefore, been grouped according to the following: **Protect, Prevent, Pursue, and Prepare**.

Our vision

The impacts of *Violence Against Women and Girls* (VAWG) cannot be ignored. The recent (2017) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough VAWG needs assessment has shown that:

- There were 12,300 police recorded incidents of domestic abuse in 2015/16, with 80% of victims being female. Investigating domestic abuse crimes is now the force's single largest workload¹
- There were 7,900 VAWG-related crimes recorded by the Constabulary in the same year, of which 1,260 were sexual offences. 87% of sexual violence victims were female²
- Around 20% of all reported incidents of domestic abuse feature a male victim³
- One in ten Year 10 girls report that they have been put under pressure to have sex or do sexual things with a previous or current boyfriend⁴
- Around 50% of children's social care caseloads across the county reflect some form of domestic / sexual abuse element⁵
- An estimated 80% of domestic abuse and sexual violence crimes are never reported⁶

Subsequently, our vision is **to reduce the harms associated with *Violence Against Women and Girls* and to prevent these crimes from occurring within our communities**. This strategy sets out how:

- We will **prevent** people from becoming perpetrators or victims of VAWG
- We will **protect** victims and their families, whether or not they choose to report crimes to the police
- We will **pursue** perpetrators through the criminal justice system and ensure that they face the consequences of their actions
- We will **prepare** and support victims to recover from the impacts of violence and abuse

To do this, we will deliver on a four-year, multi-agency VAWG strategy via an holistic action plan, which is cognisant of the national strategy, action plan, and National Statement of Expectations. We will also work to support the following local policies and plans:

- All relevant Community Safety Partnership Action Plans, 2017/18
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Plan, 2017
- Cambridgeshire Safeguarding Board Domestic Abuse Strategy and Guidance, 2017
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary Domestic Abuse Improvement Plan, 2016/17/18
- Cambridgeshire County Council Domestic Abuse Action Plan, 2017
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sexual Violence Needs Assessment, 2015.

¹ Cambridgeshire Constabulary (2017).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Cambridgeshire Health-Related Behaviours Survey (2016).

⁵ Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council (2016).

⁶ Crime Survey for England and Wales (2016).

This strategy, and the associated action plan, are evolutionary documents designed for use by partner agencies (we will produce an accessible public document for publication) and will be refreshed on an annual basis. However, our primary objectives for the duration of the strategy will be:

1. Protect / Prevent / Prepare - To jointly commission an accessible domestic abuse outreach service for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to ensure that all victims and agencies have the opportunity to request support from specialist services
2. Protect / Prevent / Prepare - To develop a countywide multi-agency domestic abuse unit to facilitate access to needs-led provision (CJS or community-based) for all victims, and partner agencies supporting these victims
3. Protect / Prevent / Prepare / Pursue - To enhance our awareness-raising activities by ensuring vulnerable groups such as BMER (especially those from Muslim and A8 communities), older people, those with disabilities, children and young people, and those from LGBTQ communities are aware of our local provision. We will also ensure that learning from our workforce development programmes is embedded, and that all partner agencies are able to respond appropriately to VAWG.

The attached action plan will reflect these priorities in the main, but will also capture other ongoing partnership, and partner agency activities, which are addressing issues arising from the VAWG needs assessment.

Where are we now?

Since the publication of the last countywide domestic abuse strategy (2014), multi-agency responses to VAWG across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have merged to form the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership. This partnership now operates as a delivery group reporting to the countywide Community Safety Strategic Board.

As the VAWG needs assessment has shown, the previous strategy was successful in its aims to address local gaps in:

- **Prevention** - including the development and roll-out of schools-based programmes, and the implementation of a comprehensive VAWG workforce development offer
- **Protecting** - increasing the volume of Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) provision, securing new SARC premises and commissioning Mountain Healthcare to deliver services from those premises, increasing the volume and coverage of domestic abuse outreach provision (for 2017/18 only) via the recent Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) award, developing responses at the Victim and Witness Hub, and establishing a daily Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), and weekly MARAC+ process
- **Pursuing** - increasing the incident to crime conversion rate, and increasing the volume of VAWG-related cases being heard in court
- **Preparing** - and supporting victims to recover from abuse by extending the Bobby Scheme to support victims of domestic abuse, commissioning a countywide sexual violence service, and developing specialist posts to support children accessing safeguarding provision in Peterborough.

These activities have recently culminated in the partnership receiving a total of £1.1 million in 'one-off' external grants (DCLG and Home Office) to improve our accommodation-based services, and community-based responses.

However, the VAWG needs assessment has also identified a number of pressures on current partnership activities and local need, which we will prioritise over the lifespan of this strategy. These are:

The majority of those affected by VAWG do not report their experiences to the police, and service mapping suggests that there are gaps in provision for specific groups and in different areas of the county – we will jointly commission an accessible domestic abuse outreach service for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to ensure that all victims and agencies have the opportunity to request support from specialist services

It is difficult to predict how many people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are victims of VAWG crime types in any given period. Subsequently, each organisation sees different parts of the picture. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has historically provided the best indication of prevalence, but the methodology employed by this research has recently proved to be flawed. What we do know is that around 80% of victims never report their experiences to criminal justice agencies, and that although the volume of VAWG incidents being reported has

risen over the past few years, the increase in demand for services is most acutely felt across specialist services, such as MARAC, IDVAs, ISVAs, Women's Aid, Refuge, and Rape Crisis. We also know that many victims will seek support from community and family networks, rather than approach statutory agencies for help. Therefore, the partnership will seek to make third-sector, specialist community-based information, guidance and support more accessible for all over the next four years.

Different types of abuse carry different levels of risk to individuals and their families – we will look to develop a countywide multi-agency domestic abuse unit to facilitate access to needs-led provision (CJS or community-based) for all victims, and partner agencies supporting these victims

The partnership recognises that the needs arising from differing types of abuse vary widely. Subsequently, much work has been undertaken locally to differentiate differing types of domestic abuse in practice, and we have successfully embedded a range of specialisms to address these needs. However, we need to ensure that all of those impacted by VAWG have access to relevant and responsive services, information, and support. Therefore, the partnership will seek to provide a range of outreach / community-based provision which will be better placed to address all levels of risk / need. This provision will be in addition to that already in place across the county, and we will look to develop an integrated approach to requests for service by establishing a multi-agency domestic abuse unit.

Some groups are more disadvantaged than others by abuse and violence - we will enhance our awareness-raising activities by targeting vulnerable groups such as BME (especially those from Muslim and A8 communities), older people, those with disabilities, children and young people, and those from LGBTQ communities. We will also ensure that learning from our workforce development programmes is embedded, and that all partner agencies are able to respond appropriately to VAWG

The VAWG needs assessment has shown that certain individuals, families, and communities are more vulnerable to abuse and violence than others. This will be addressed through partnership activities to develop community capacity and resilience, provide specialist interventions to minority groups, and by ensuring that the information and support we make available is appropriate and accessible. We will sensitively tailor support to take into account service users' individual characteristics such as sexual orientation, ethnicity, faith or disability, and how these affected their experiences, world views and decision-making.

Some of the more pressing need arising from the needs assessment (disaggregated by district and countywide areas) is reflected below:

	Countywide	City	East	Fen	Hunts	P'boro	South
Outreach (beyond 2018)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Domestic abuse unit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Awareness resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

High rates of DA				✓		✓	
High rates of SV		✓				✓	
Need for specialist IDVAS (Health, YPs, Ethnic)						✓	

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Our approach to tackling VAWG

Multiple Perspectives

In Cambridgeshire, we adopt a partnership approach to tackling VAWG. Subsequently, our responses should be considered from a number of different perspectives, including:

- The victims' perspective – which includes safeguarding and supporting the victim by providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge for them to decide on what is best for them (and their children if they have them). This offers long-term protection and recovery to the individual. Children who are witnesses to domestic abuse, sexual violence, and other VAWG crime-types are also seen as victims
- A criminal justice perspective, which focuses on pursuing offenders through the courts. This provides a sense of justice and protects other family members
- A rehabilitative perspective, which focuses on re-education for the perpetrator in order to prevent future abuse from occurring
- A family perspective which seeks to keep a family together where safe to do so, in order to provide a stable and safe environment for any children
- A health and wellbeing perspective, addressing any mental or physical health issues associated with violence and abuse to promote social justice.

An individual or family impacted by violence or abuse should not be considered under any one of these perspectives in isolation; multiple perspectives will be appropriate in approaching each case at different times. Recognising this is important to coordinating the response of the whole partnership. Considered together, these perspectives offer real strength to our partnership; and can ensure that responses consider a more complete picture of the lives of victims, perpetrators and children. Achieving our vision will require a coordinated effort between all organisations working with those affected by VAWG.

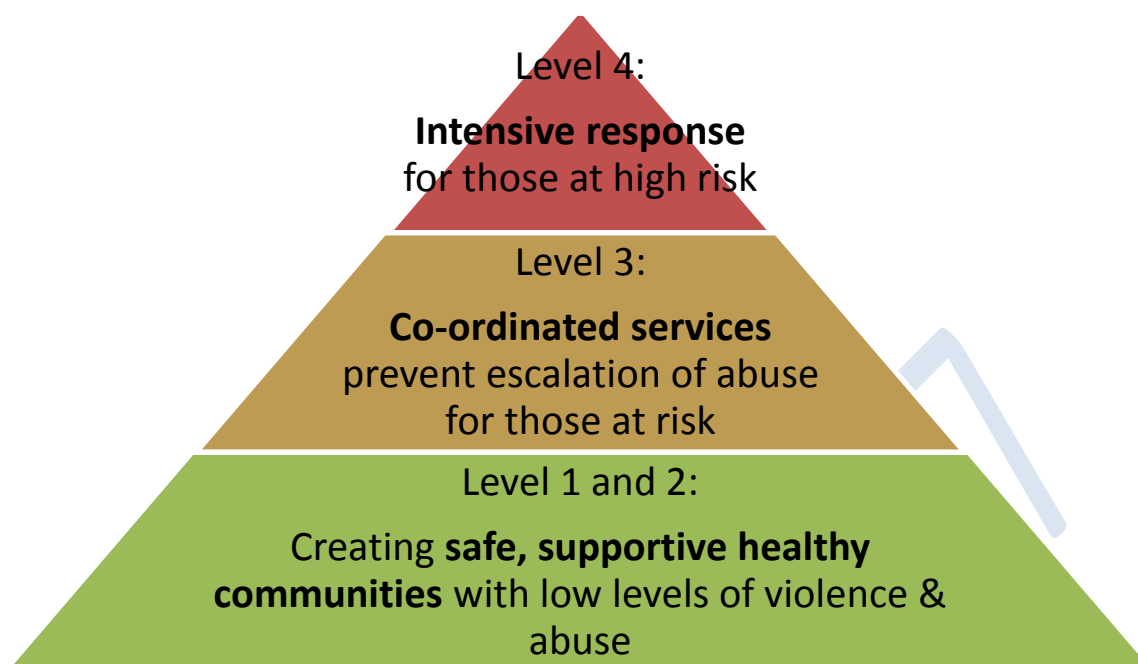
Levels of Response

Not every case of VAWG requires the same response – varying degrees and types of support are needed from different organisations depending on the circumstances of the individual victim, family or perpetrator. Prevention of abuse is also important – how we create strong and supportive communities where violence and abuse is seen as unacceptable to all.

Our different responses happen at four distinct levels, as demonstrated in the diagram below. This provides a 'Model of Staged Intervention' based on relevant NICE guidance (2014).

This model provides a framework for developing a common understanding of people's needs; and a shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different services and organisations.

Model of staged intervention



These levels are about prevention, lowering risk and managing demand on our more intensive services. The aim is to ensure that there are fewer people in the higher levels, receiving more targeted, intensive support. Early help as soon as need is identified is preferable to 'late help' when problems have escalated; but intensive safeguarding and support is always available to those that need it. We also must always ensure that a multi- agency framework is in place to support those vulnerable adults and children who are repeated victims of sexual violence and other VAWG crime-types. Getting this right requires us to build capacity in communities to support people to help themselves; as well as creating effective, coordinated pathways and referrals between organisations, which will be developed as part of the action plan for this strategy. The levels can be summarised as follows:

At level 1, we want to build **safe, supportive and healthy communities** with low rates of violence and abuse. In safe, supportive and healthy communities, communities have the capacity to support themselves, and the number of victims is reduced; with a wide range of agencies playing a part in empowering communities and delivering preventative work; there are high levels of confidence in policing; and communities are engaged with high numbers of witnesses prepared to come forward. Level 1 refers to support available within families and communities without the involvement of the public sector. This community action is supported by level 2 services, which work to build protective factors into communities – for example by educating people about what constitutes abuse; and educating children and young people about healthy relationships.

Where violence or abuse occurs, we want to ensure that **co-ordinated services** are available early on that prevent escalation of abuse for people at risk – both for the victims and any dependent children and ensure that people are aware of what is available within their own communities. Whether or not people choose to engage with these services, or report abuse to the police, services will respond proportionately and provide clear pathways to the victim that

will reduce risk according to their individual wishes: whether that is to leave the household; stay at home; or whether the offender is willing to engage with a rehabilitative approach. When the abuse has ended, support will be available to those that need it to promote recovery for them and their family.

For those cases with the highest level of risk, our organisations will provide an **intensive response** in a coordinated manner, to address the immediate risk and protect victims and families urgently, stepping back once the immediate situation is resolved but ensuring that victims and families have immediate access to further support if needed.

To facilitate the above, we will ensure that all partner agencies and commissioned services are meeting relevant expectations with regards to VAWG issues, including the training of relevant staff, screening for VAWG in practice, recording those issues identified, and responding in accordance with the national Home Office strategy.

DRAFT SEPT 11

We will prevent people from becoming perpetrators or victims of VAWG

Summary of Objective

We want to prevent VAWG from occurring, and stop it from worsening. This may be through education and awareness-raising; support and advice for victims and perpetrators (or potential victims and perpetrators); and through improving the ways that organisations work together to identify abuse and stop it from happening.

Current preventative services include:

- Work in schools and communities to raise awareness of what constitutes abuse and promote understanding of healthy relationships and consent
- Securing 'White Ribbon' status in Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire
- Work commissioned through Refuge, Cambridge Women's Aid, and Rape Crisis to provide outreach to victims seeking support in the community
- The establishment of a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Panel (DVPP) which challenges and disrupts the behaviour of those using violence and abuse
- Advice and information available through programmes, social media and activities operated by the County Council and Peterborough City Council
- Work with perpetrators through the Probation Service, Ormiston Families, and BENCH, on building better relationships and reducing the likelihood of reoffending in future relationships.

Areas for Development

Through this strategy, we will:

- **Further develop our preventative and awareness work with schools, special education units, colleges, and universities**
- **Support local agencies to develop their responses to appropriate information-sharing, service user needs, and staff impacted by violence and abuse including those who may be perpetrating abuse or at risk of using violence and abuse**
- **Work to improve our understanding of, and responses to, those working in prostitution / sex industry**
- **Ensure that support is available in a timely manner**
- **Place a greater emphasis on education for specific communities into what constitutes abuse; and what support is available**
- **Develop an holistic response to young people who are using / are at risk of using violence and abuse**
- **Ensure that all new relevant activities, services and agencies commissioned by partners of the DASVP are following best practice with regards to VAWG**
- **Develop a countywide approach to undertaking and implementing recommendations Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)**
- **Ensure that young victims are appropriately supported to recover from their experiences**

- **Work closely with the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards and Local Authorities to join up our collective activities and responses.**

How will we measure our success?

If we are successful in this objective, we expect to see:

- The delivery of more preventative work in schools, colleges and universities, which will be evaluated to ensure that learning and support objectives for students are met
- An enhanced suite of relevant awareness materials and activities being made available (especially to vulnerable groups). We will monitor management information from partners to evaluate the impact of this initiative
- The provision of specialist posts in the community who are able to better respond to violence and abuse at an earlier stage. We will ensure that positive outcomes for those accessing this provision are achieved
- The establishment and evaluation of specialist interventions for those young people who perpetrate / or are at risk of perpetrating violence and abuse.

We will protect victims of VAWG, whether or not they choose to report crimes to the police

Summary of Objective

Protection for victims and their families is complex and occurs at all levels of the service model, from advice and signposting at level one through to intensive work with individuals at risk at the highest level.

Current provision for adults and children includes:

- Independent advocacy, advice and safety planning provided to victims at risk by the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVAS) and Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy Service (ISVAS)
- Advocacy, advice and safety planning provided by the specialist outreach services for victims at risk
- Clinical and holistic support services at the countywide Sexual Assault and Referral Centre (SARC)
- Enhanced support for victims of VAWG crime-types via the Victim and Witness Hub
- Daily and weekly MARACs to support high risk victims through multi-agency information sharing, risk assessment and safety planning
- Refuge accommodation commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to provide refuge for those fleeing severe domestic violence
- Enhanced safeguarding for children and adults via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and children's social care services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Appropriate and responsive police attendance at emergency incidents to offer protection from immediate danger, arresting the abuser if there is good reason to suspect that crime has taken place.

Working with families where violence and abuse is occurring provides challenges for services.. Our Local Authorities have greatly enhanced their response to abuse and violence over the past four years, and are able to offer a range of interventions across the four NICE levels at this time.

The police also have a key role to play in protecting victims of VAWG. Senior managers are responsible for ensuring the Constabulary takes positive action to protect victims of domestic VAWG. The police will take action to discharge their positive obligations contained in The Human Rights Act 1998, incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights 1958 (ECHR) in particular:

- **Article 2** – right to life
- **Article 3** – right not to be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which includes ill-treatment
- **Article 8** – right to respect for private and family life, which includes physical integrity.

Officers, as agents of the state, will take reasonable action, within their lawful powers, to safeguard the rights of victims and children. This includes the duty to:

- make an arrest where it is necessary and proportionate to do so
- protect the victim and vulnerable people within the household from harm

- instigate criminal proceedings where appropriate
- carry out effective perpetrator management where criminal proceedings are not possible or unsuitable.

Areas for Development

Through this strategy, we will:

- **Provide, in Peterborough, new specialist interventions for young people, those accessing A&E / maternity services, and those from minority ethnic groups affected as direct or indirect victims of VAWG**
- **Develop approaches to specialist intervention for families – in particular services that consider children and young people together with their protective parent (where one exists)**
- **Carry out more work with young people who are, or at risk of becoming, perpetrators of VAWG to challenge their behaviour and ensure that it does not begin a pattern of violence which continues into future relationships – especially those who perpetrate child to parent violence**
- **Ensure that outreach provision is accessible to all local residents**
- **Provide trauma-based therapeutic interventions in the community to young people who have been victims or perpetrators of violence and abuse**
- **Commit to working in partnership, via the DAHA framework, with strategic housing and social housing providers to review policies, initiatives and current working practices across all levels of need, to ensure early identification and consistency of housing approach to victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse across the County**
- **Develop a multi-agency domestic abuse unit for those wishing to disclose abuse and violence**
- **Develop and establish a joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Violence Perpetrator Panel (DVPP).**

How we will measure our success?

If we are successful in this objective, we expect to see:

- More people engaged in protective services where positive outcomes are achieved
- A reduction in repeat offending for those subject to the DVPP
- The roll-out of a multi-agency domestic abuse unit which is responsive to individual and agency-based requests for service
- A reduction in those victims deemed to be at 'high-risk' of homicide.

We will pursue perpetrators of VAWG through the criminal justice system and ensure that they face up to the implications of their actions

Summary of Objective

Data from the recent VAWG needs assessment shows that the Constabulary and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have greatly enhanced their responses to VAWG over the past four years. Relevant incident to crime conversion rates have improved, and new processes around the investigation of crimes, and the support offered to victims has been uplifted to include the provision of Domestic Violence Protection Orders / Notices (DVPO / N) and Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DVDS). Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the CPS currently have action plans in place to better respond to VAWG. Relevant countywide provision at this time includes:

- A specialist investigation unit (DAISU) within the Constabulary responding to VAWG crime-types
- A multi-agency Domestic Violence Perpetrator Panel (DVPP) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, responding to high-risk and high-profile perpetrators
- The provision, within the Integrated Offender Management programme, for those who use violence and abuse
- A merged Victim and Witness Hub / Witness Care service to improve the experience of VAWG victims through a single point of contact
- A specialist domestic violence court (SDVC) to bring offenders more swiftly to justice
- A MAPPA in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for those at the highest risk of re-offending.

Areas for Development

Cambridgeshire Constabulary will work in partnership with internal and external partners to ensure we work effectively and efficiently, seeking continuous improvement and deliver a safe service to those affected by VAWG.

The senior officers of Cambridgeshire Constabulary together with the Police and Crime Commissioner will take the lead in promoting a positive police culture when dealing with VAWG and supporting its victims / pursuing those who perpetrate it.

Subsequently, senior officers will establish a force-wide approach to tackling VAWG which reflects the requirement for positive action. We will also enhance our understanding of our effectiveness, seeking continuous improvement and embedding “what works”. We will be agile in our movement of resources to counter risk and threat and maximise opportunity.

The partnership will support the aims and objectives of the CPS 20/20 VAWG strategy, and will continue to develop new ways of challenging all perpetrators of VAWG crime-types.

How will we measure our success?

If we are successful in this objective, we expect to see:

- Increased victim satisfaction with services provided
- Increased incident to crime conversion rates
- Increased reporting rates.

DRAFT SEPT 17

We will prepare and support victims to recover from the consequences of VAWG

Summary of Objective

When an abusive or violent situation has ended, victims and their children often need support to recover and live their lives independently. As the VAWG needs assessment has shown, the impacts of abuse are often long-lasting and harmful.

There is also a growing understanding at a national and local level of the significant links between mental health and VAWG with national research suggesting that half of women in contact with mental health services have suffered abuse or violence; and that domestic abuse and sexual violence is a significant factor in many suicide attempts and amongst people attending A&E as a result of self-harm. However, with appropriate support, it is clear that victims can go on to live independently.

Whilst there is some excellent provision across the county, much of this has developed organically, and there are now gaps in support available, especially for those from specific groups, such as older people, individuals with disabilities, children, and BME communities.

Current provision across the county includes:

- Holistic community-based provision from specialist VAWG services, such as Cambridge Women's Aid, Refuge, and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership
- Parenting programmes, Troubled Families interventions, and enhanced children's social care interventions across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Access to specialist VAWG mental health and counselling services
- Support for victims of VAWG crimes from the Cambridgeshire Victim and Witness Hub
- Access to specialist IDVA posts (in Cambridgeshire) for young people, those from A8 communities, and those accessing A&E / maternity services.

Areas for Development

Through this strategy, we will:

- **Ensure that individuals and partner agencies are able to access support from a range of different agencies**
- **Further develop interventions for children and young people impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence, and VAWG**
- **Develop additional capacity at the Victim and Witness Hub to support victims of VAWG crime-types**
- **Ensure that supportive and restorative group provision is made available for those recovering from violence and abuse**
- **Maintain access to the Bobby Scheme for those victims wishing to remain in their own homes**
- **Ensure that all partner agencies are able to appropriately respond to disclosures / requests for service**

- **Embed our workforce development offer in practice to ensure that practitioners are responding according to need and best practice**
- **Ensure that statutory and voluntary sector mental health provision is joined up to support victims of VAWG.**

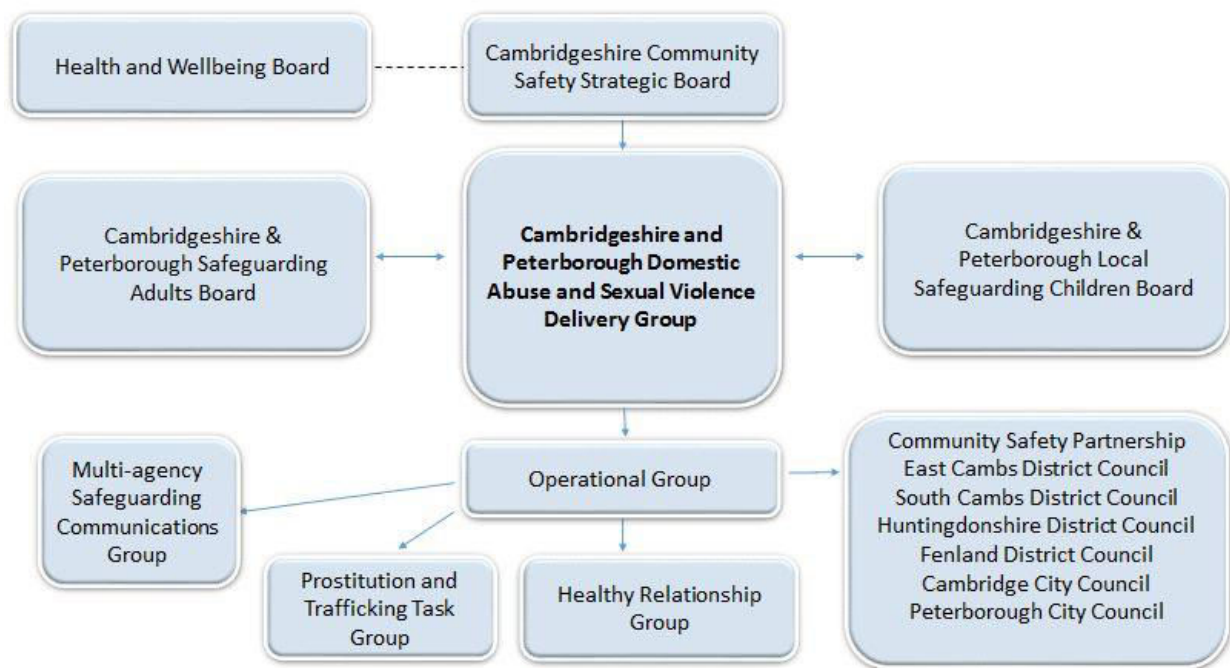
How will we measure our success?

Performance measures are to be developed for this area as part of the action planning process.

DRAFT SEPT 17

Delivery and implementation of the countywide strategy

The delivery and implementation of this strategy will be facilitated by two new countywide groups which report to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Safety Strategic Board, as modelled below. The groups will also work closely with other multi-agency partnerships, such as the Safeguarding Boards to ensure that our work is joined up and cost-effective. Joint commissioning activities, according to the National Statement of Expectations, will be further developed locally to facilitate the relevant implementation of the strategy.



How will we know we have been successful?

The Partnership has developed a 'dashboard' of relevant performance indicators and management information which will be used to benchmark activities arising from this strategy. We will report on these activities on a quarterly and annual basis to our local Safeguarding Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Board, and elected Members.

Delivery of the strategy will be overseen by the multi-agency Delivery Group, reporting to the countywide Community Safety Strategic Board. Task and finish groups will be established and overseen by the Delivery Group where necessary.

The DASV Operational Group will be responsible for implementing the countywide action plan, and for reporting on activities to the Delivery Group, and other partners.

The Partnership will produce and publish an annual report to update all stakeholders on activities and progress.