

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS PLAN 2023-2026

Hounslow Safer Communities:

**Working with communities to keep Hounslow a low crime borough
and a safe place to live, work, study and visit.**

END OF YEAR 1 REPORT

PRIORITY 1: Victims, survivors and children receive the right help

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:	WHAT WE WILL DO (YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES):	END OF YEAR SUCCESSES
<p>Improving how we support those affected by violence against women and girls</p>	<p>Explore a follow-on group for mothers who have completed a therapeutic programme for non-abusing parents affected by domestic abuse. This programme will seek to reduce isolation, as well as equip and empower women to lead independent lives.</p>	<p>The Council developed a follow-on group for women affected by domestic abuse. This programme aims to reduce isolation and encourage independence.</p> <p>The Council commissioned Learn English At Home (LEAH) to fast-track adult domestic abuse victims into English classes, enhancing their independence and ability to navigate the community.</p>
<p>Improving access to specialist support for children affected by domestic abuse</p>	<p>Explore how to further develop the Council's successful 12-week domestic abuse Let's Talk group work programme for children and mothers, where English is not their first language.</p>	<p>The Council commissioned a specialised organisation called SheWise to adapt the renowned Let's Talk 12-week therapeutic program to address the specific needs of women and children from the South Asian community affected by domestic abuse.</p>
<p>Improving the identification and positive outcomes for women and girls who are at risk of sexual exploitation</p>	<p>Sexual Violence Prevention worker to encourage referrals from adult survivors of historic child sexual abuse. In addition to this, implement two outreach sessions within the borough.</p> <p>Hounslow Council to use regular feedback from young women attending a local girl's group. The feedback will be used to improve outcomes for young women at risk of child sexual exploitation.</p>	<p>The Council's dedicated sexual violence prevention worker actively encouraged referrals from adult survivors of historical sexual abuse and connected them with the support they required. The case worker dealt with 96 new referrals.</p> <p>To further extend our reach, we also implemented two outreach sessions within Feltham Sexual Health Clinic and Heart of Hounslow, ensuring accessible assistance for all in need. This improved a referral pathway which has been a positive outcome for survivors.</p> <p>The Council have collaborated with the NHS through the Sunflower Clinic, providing specialised support to individuals working in the sex industries. This partnership ensured tailored care and resources, fostering a safe and empowering environment for those in need.</p> <p>Our local girls' group shared positive feedback, expressing that the sessions have been incredibly valuable. They highlighted that the program has helped them better understand important topics such as sexual health, relationships, friendships, and online safety.</p>

PRIORITY 2: Work together to stop Violence Against Women and Girls

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:	WHAT WE WILL DO (YEAR 1 ACTIVITIES):	END OF YEAR SUCCESSES
<p>Increasing the number of men and boys who engage and support the Violence Against Women and Girls Plan.</p>	<p>To successfully implement year one of the national White Ribbon accreditation programme.</p> <p>This programme is aimed at changing social attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>The Council has been actively advancing the White Ribbon Action Plan, successfully completing several key initiatives. One notable achievement was inviting our male colleagues to participate in a photo campaign, capturing impactful images of them with a prominent white ribbon. These images were then widely shared across our communication channels, significantly amplifying awareness, and encouraging engagement within our community.</p>
<p>Increasing the number of venues that are trained to recognise, handle and report abuse and harassment.</p>	<p>Develop a pilot project to support local business venues to train staff to identify and respond to sexual harassment of women and girls.</p> <p>To explore the introduction of the Ask Angela campaign in licensed venues in the borough, through communications and licence applications. The campaign is codeword that discreetly indicates to staff that they need support.</p>	<p>The Council reached out to local pharmacies to offer specialised training on creating and maintaining safe spaces. Seven pharmacies were trained with the skills and knowledge needed to support individuals seeking a safe and confidential environment.</p> <p>The West Area Basic Command Unit trained 11 venues across the borough to implement the Ask Angela scheme which includes bars, pubs, and restaurants.</p>
<p>Improving children's and young people's understanding of what healthy relationships, consent and respect looks like.</p>	<p>Create opportunities for children and young people to provide feedback on our successful domestic violence prevention programme delivered in schools.</p>	<p>The Learning to Respect Programme continued to deliver training to teachers and other school-based professionals, raising awareness about the nature and effects of domestic abuse. 6 schools engaged with the programme with approximately 177 professionals trained.</p> <p>A secondary school and three primary schools partnered with Learning to Respect on a peer-to-peer drama project, engaging 120 pupils. Feedback highlighted 6th formers' enthusiasm for working with younger students and the valuable insights gained about healthy relationships and domestic abuse, making it a memorable and impactful experience for all involved.</p>

PRIORITY 2: Work together to stop Violence Against Women and Girls

<p>Strengthen the way Hounslow Council and the Police work together to tackle violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>The Council will play a key role in West Area Basic Command Unit's Trust and Confidence Working Group to address violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>The Trust and Confidence Working Group has been replaced by the new West Area Basic Command Unit Violence Against Women & Girls Group. At this meeting the Council collaborated with the police to address VAWG issues including sexual harassment in public spaces.</p>
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PRIORITY 3: Taking action against perpetrators

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:	WHAT WE WILL DO (YEAR 2 ACTIVITIES):	END OF YEAR SUCCESSES
<p>Improving the effectiveness of protection measures available to women and girls.</p>	<p>The Police to carry out an evaluation of protective measures to increase number of applications.</p>	<p>The Police continue to use protective measures to safeguard victims. This includes the Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO's), which were used 156 times.</p> <p>The evaluation of the DVPO's indicated there are enforcement challenges with regards to compliance as breaches may not always be reported or acted upon promptly.</p> <p>As well as DVPO's there has been an increase in non-molestation orders being granted by the courts i.e. 150 in Hounslow. Stalking Protection Orders are also being utilised effectively across Hounslow with 32 being issued.</p>
<p>Increasing the number of domestic abuse perpetrators who change their harmful behaviours.</p>	<p>The Police and Hounslow Council to work in partnership to explore how to engage domestic abuse perpetrators in custody to encourage them to change their offending behaviour.</p>	<p>The Police continue to have conversations with perpetrators in custody to encourage them to change their offending behaviour.</p> <p>The Police launched the VAWG100 initiative, holding monthly meetings to support officers in advancing cases related to violence against women and girls.</p> <p>Children's Social Care fund Cranstoun, which operates a domestic abuse prevention programme targeting men who are perpetrators called the Men and Masculinities. The initiative received 48 referrals. Of these, 28 individuals began the programme, 14 completed it successfully, and 9 are currently participating in the group.</p>

PRIORITY 3: Taking action against perpetrators

Increasing the number of women and girls who feel safe in public spaces.

Hounslow Council to explore improvements to local areas where there is evidence that women and girls feel unsafe.

The West Area Basic Command Unit established a partnership with businesses in Chiswick to enhance the safety of female staff and residents. This work was delivered by Police Designated Ward Officers and Police Community Support Officers, increasing presence during critical times.

The West Area Basic Command Unit and Hounslow Parks Service developed a project to install additional physical safety measures in Lampton park to reduce crimes affecting women and girls making the parks more accessible, inclusive, and safer for girls.