

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 2 REPORT

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

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:	WHAT WE WILL DO (YEAR 2 ACTIVITIES):	END OF YEAR SUCCESSES
Improving how we support those affected by violence against women and girls	The Council will launch its follow-up programme, RISE, designed for mothers who have completed a therapeutic programme after experiencing domestic abuse. This initiative aims to reduce isolation and empower women to lead independent lives.	The Council launched its follow-up programme, RISE, which aims to reduce isolation and promote independence. The programme was delivered four times across the year and supported a total of 23 women.
Improving access to specialist support for children affected by domestic Abuse	The Council will launch the successful 12-week domestic abuse Let's Talk group work programme to the South Asian Community, fostering open dialogue and support.	The Council introduced a 12-week domestic abuse Let's Talk group work programme specifically for the South Asian Community. The pilot was dependent on referrals from specialist services, but low referrals led to participants joining up in the general Let's Talk Programme as an alternative.
Improving the identification and positive outcomes for women and girls who are at risk of sexual exploitation	The Sexual Violence Prevention worker will continue working at the two outreach sessions within the borough.	The Council has prioritised sexual violence prevention by maintaining two dedicated outreach sessions within the borough. The Sexual Violence Prevention Worker has supported a total of 79 women and girls who have reached out to the service.
	The Sexual Violence Prevention worker will deliver training to safeguarding Detectives in the West Area Basic Command Unit to upskill them for positive outcomes.	A total of 6 specialist training sessions have been delivered to safeguarding detectives and professionals within the West Area Basic Command Unit to enhance their understanding and response to sexual violence cases.

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

WE WILL CHECK WE'RE ON TRACK BY:	WHAT WE WILL DO (YEAR 2 ACTIVITIES):	END OF YEAR SUCCESSES
Increasing the number of men and boys who engage and support the Violence Against Women and Girls Plan	The Council will host an event celebrating our male White Ribbon Champions and their dedication to ending violence against women and promoting gender equality. This event will also mark the beginning of our recruitment drive to welcome new male White Ribbon Champions who are ready to make a difference	The Council hosted a commemorative event in October 2024 to honour 10 male White Ribbon Champions for their commitment to ending violence against women and girls. The Council convened its first steering group to explore strategies for engaging more young men and boys in the prevention of gender-based violence.
Increasing the number of venues that are trained to recognise, handle and report abuse and harassment	The Council will deliver specialised training around recognising signs and responding to domestic abuse disclosures to dentists and opticians to enhance their ability to support their patients.	The Council has been engaging with opticians and hairdressers to provide specialised training focused on recognising signs of domestic abuse and responding effectively to disclosures. This training aims to enhance their ability to support victims with sensitivity and confidence. Two successful training sessions have been delivered to hairdressers.
	The Council will offer specialist training to local leisure centres staff to compliment the Ask for Angela scheme.	The council delivered specialist training to support the Ask for Angela programme to 2 Leisure Centres in the borough. Furthermore, events were held across 5 different leisure centres to engage the community on the scheme.
Improving children's and young people's understanding of what healthy relationships, consent and respect looks like	Through our Learning to Respect programme, we will continue to create opportunities for children and young people to provide feedback on the successful domestic abuse prevention programme delivered in schools.	Feedback has been positive, with teachers highlighting the focus of prevention and useful resources. The teachers said that children reported feeling more confident and have a better understanding of the importance of being respectful.
Strengthen the way Hounslow Council and the Police work together to tackle violence against women and girls	The Council and the Police will engage students in meaningful discussions around violence against women and girls' safety including topics such as tech exploitation.	The Council and the Police worked with those in Years 10 to 13 to engage in conversations about the safety of women and girls and the importance of respectful relationships. Together they delivered 22 Consent workshops reaching 493 children.

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
Improving the effectiveness of protection measures available to women and girls	Safer Homes, the Council's security provision for victims of domestic abuse continues to provide protection measures. It ensures the person experiencing domestic abuse can securely remain in their home in most circumstances with extra security provisions to make them safer.	The Council maintained its Safer Homes programme, continuing to provide essential security measures for victims of domestic abuse. A total of 23 referrals were received into the project which were accepted and supported.
Increasing the number of domestic abuse perpetrators who change their harmful behaviours	The Council will work in collaboration with the Police to implement the DRIVE Partnership which works with high harm, high risk and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse to prevent their abusive behaviour and protect victims.	The Council has embedded a process within the Daily MARAC to identify perpetrators who may be appropriate for referral to the DRIVE programme. Final decisions and referrals are made at the Monthly MARAC, with a total of 10 referrals made to date.
Increasing the number of women and girls who feel safe in public spaces	The Council will work in partnership with the Police to identify a public space and collaborate with women and girls to enhance and transform the area, creating a welcoming environment that reflects their needs and ideas	A walk and talk with professionals from the Council and Police took place in Lampton park in response to women and girls feeling unsafe. The exercise resulted in foliage being trimmed and safety posters in view around the park.