

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy – Delivery Plan 2023-24

VAWG Strategy – Strategic Actions							
Priority H/M/L	Objectives	Actions / Update	Lead	Start	End	Status	
H	1. VAWG Strategy Governance / Sign-Off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed by VAWG Board – 24.11.2022 Agreed by Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board – 06.12.2022 Approved by Corporate Board – 18.01.2023 Approved by Cabinet – 16.02.2023 	Strategy in process of being approved by WCC governance.	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse)- Strategy and Commissioning	Dec-22	Feb-23	In progress	
H	2. VAWG Strategy Delivery Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Agreed by VAWG Board – Feb 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First draft developed Dec-22 To be agreed at VAWG Board – Feb 2023 	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse)- Strategy and Commissioning	Dec-22	Feb-23	In progress	
M	3. VAWG Strategy Performance measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAWG Task and Finish Group to agree 		WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse)- Strategy and Commissioning	Dec-22	Mar-23	In progress	

Objective 1 - Prioritising Prevention:

To challenge the attitudes, behaviours and societal norms which foster VAWG by raising awareness and the understanding of them, and by intervening early where possible to prevent it. The Strategy commits to work to ensure that everyone understands what healthy relationships look like and to recognise the signs of abuse, and work to better understand how to prevent the cycle of abuse.

Priority H/M/L	Objectives	Actions / Update	Lead	Start	End	Status
H	4. <u>Contribute to local education programmes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways to contribute to educational curriculums, encourage education providers to incorporate age-appropriate education, exploring respect, healthy relationships, and consent, considering the role of pornography in portraying VAWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAWG Board to raise awareness of the VAWG Strategy to Education leads and seek to encourage them to embed practices/recommendations within their respected educational establishments. VAWG board will ask such establishments to consider their own responses to the Strategy. 	VAWG Board Chair WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse)- Strategy and Commissioning	March 2023	June 2023	Not started
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAAS to undertake a mapping exercise with schools across the county to ascertain what information / messages are being delivered and by whom. Information will be used to identify any gaps in provision to schools or young people. Will then work with services to ensure the right resources and information is available. 	Sexual Assault & Abuse Strategy (SAAS) Coordinator Coventry & Warwickshire - (in partnership with colleagues in the Safeguarding Board and Education)	March 2023	August 2023	Not started

H	5.	<p><u>Targeted early prevention interventions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to prevent escalation once problematic behaviour has been recognised or reported, through targeted early interventions with boys displaying harmful (sexual or disrespectful) behaviours, and men identified as perpetrating VAWG for the first time, as well as those displaying risk factors, or perpetrating 'lower level' VAWG (i.e., types of VAWG with lower risk of harm). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire DA Perpetrator Programme (W-DAPP) funded by the Home Office and PCC and delivered by FICS, has six intervention pathways, including those for early interventions with boys displaying harmful (sexual or disrespectful) behaviours, and men identified as perpetrating VAWG for the first time, as well as those displaying risk factors, or perpetrating 'lower level' VAWG (i.e., types of VAWG with lower risk of harm). Funding for current W-DAPP comes to and end on 31/03/2023 but a new Home Office funding stream has opened and the OPCC and FICS are actively working on a bid to that and for match-funding from the PCC. Should the bid fail then a wider set of commissioning partners will need to work together to identify gaps and seek to identify and access funding streams. 	<p>WCC Domestic Abuse Support Team/ Youth Justice</p> <p>OPCC Grants & Commissioning Lead</p> <p>FICS W-DAPP Lead</p> <p>WCC Community Safety Team</p>	Dec 2022	April 2023	In Progress
H	6.	<p><u>Increase support for young victims:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase support offered to children and young people exposed to VAWG, in an attempt to break intergenerational cycle of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to review demand and performance for this DiAmond specialist domestic abuse counselling and therapy service, identifying any barriers/ gaps to be addressed. 	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse)- Strategy and Commissioning	February 2023	June 2026 (contract end date)	Not started
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning partners to work together to identify gaps in the provision of funded support to children and young people exposed to VAWG and seek to identify and access funding streams in order to provide the identified support need. 	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse), Strategy and Commissioning	February 2023	On-going	Not started

				WCC Lifestyle and Prevention Team (Sexual Health Strategy and Commissioning)			
				WCC Domestic Abuse Support Team/ Youth Justice			
				OPCC Grants & Commissioning Lead			

Objective 2 - Supporting Victims:

The ambition is to provide high-quality, fit for purpose, joined up provision for victim-survivors, ensuring that VAWG partners collaborate to meet the needs of all Warwickshire communities. The Strategy seeks to address the barriers that prevent people telling someone about the abuse and violence that they are experiencing.

Priority H/M/L	Objectives	Actions / Update	Lead	Start	End	Status
H	7. <u>Raise awareness of victims' rights and associated laws:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police and support services to make sure they are informing every victim they have contact with of the Victim's Codes of Practice (2021), in a jargon-free way so that victims fully understand their rights. Promote safeguarding such as Clare's Law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCJB to ensure compliance with new Victims Code of Practice 2021 which sets out the standards and services communities should expect to receive from the police and criminal justice agencies in the county if they fall victim to or witness a crime. This should include analysis of performance data, surveys with victims/survivors and case file audits. 	OPCC LCJB Lead with all other local agencies required to deliver rights under the Victims Code: Police, CPS, HMCTS, Probation Service, NHS, etc	April 2023	March 2024	Not started
H		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire Police to develop a VAWG scrutiny panel with the Victim's Code at its heart. 	Warwickshire Police	Feb 2023	March 2023	Not started
TBC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPCC to review the PCC's Victims Charter in light of the Victims Bill (once the implications are fully 	OPCC Victims Lead	TBC once VB receives		Not started

			understood at the point of Royal Ascent) and the new Victims Code of Practice 2021; with a view to the refreshing and relaunching of the Charter as appropriate, ensuring it is clear and jargon-free.		Royal Ascent		
TBC			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following above, OPCC to support the relaunching of the PCC's Victims Charter through the development of an appropriate launch event. 	OPCC Engagement Lead	TBC once VB receives Royal Ascent		Not started
M	8.	<u>Offer better support throughout the criminal justice system:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to be made in terms of better support being offered to all who come into contact with it, and at various stages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCJB to journey map the routes VAWG victims/survivors take through the criminal justice system to identify areas for improvement. 	OPCC LCJB Lead	March 2023	Sept 2023	Not started
H	9.	<u>Address existing barriers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support services work to address all barriers outlined within the TONIC report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to review monitoring data, highlighting any over or under-represented groups, and using this information to target communications to specific groups. Ensure contracted services and grant recipients have plans in place to address and remove the barriers experienced by victims and survivors in seeking support. 	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse), Strategy and Commissioning WCC Lifestyle and Prevention Team (Sexual Health) Strategy and Commissioning)	Feb 2023	On-going	Not started

				WCC Domestic Abuse Support Team/ Youth Justice OPCC Grants & Commissioning Lead			
H			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EQIA will be carried out on the VAWG strategy. 	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse), Strategy and Commissioning	Oct 2022	Feb 2023 (Reviewed annually)	In Progress
H			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map existing VAWG provision- Identify and work together to address gaps in service provision and to enhance existing provision. 	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse), Strategy and Commissioning	Feb 2023	April 2023 (mapping complete)	Not started
M	10.	<p><u>Improve understanding of child-to-parent abuse:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore how commonly this occurs in Warwickshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor data on child-to-parent abuse in Warwickshire, including data on children who are arrested as a result of child-to-parent abuse. 	WCC Domestic Abuse Support Team/ Youth Justice Warwickshire Police	Feb 2023	On-going Data to be reviewed August 2023	Not started
M	11.	<p><u>Explore dedicated support for victims of stalking:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore need for dedicated stalking service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire Police will look to put measures in place to ensure that the use of a Stalking Protection Order is considered in relevant cases. 	Warwickshire Police	Feb 2023	March 2024	Not started

M		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore what support can be offered to people experiencing stalking by existing services. Police to support victim-survivors of stalking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning partners to work together to identify gaps in the provision of specialist stalking services. Identify and access funding streams as necessary in order to provide the identified support needs. 	<p>WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse), Strategy and Commissioning</p> <p>WCC Lifestyle and Prevention Team (Sexual Health) Strategy and Commissioning)</p> <p>WCC Domestic Abuse Support Team/ Youth Justice</p> <p>OPCC Grants & Commissioning Lead</p>	March 2023	March 2024	Not started
M	12.	<p><u>Employers to implement workplace policies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAWG Board to encourage employers across Warwickshire to have up-to-date workplace policies that ensure colleagues are able to spot the signs of a victim or perpetrator of VAWG, and subsequently signpost or support them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All partners should have policies in place to protect, support and guide staff and volunteers in the workplace. 	VAWG Board Chair	Feb 2023	November 2023	Not started
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire Police will refresh DA policy/procedure to ensure that victims/survivors of VAWG who are serving police officers or police staff are properly supported. 	Warwickshire Police	Feb 2023	March 2024	Not started

Objective 3 - Pursuing Perpetrators and Reducing Re-offending:

This will be facilitated by working collaboratively across the VAWG partnership agencies to engage those who offend, in behavioural change interventions to stop the harm to victim-survivors, their families and the wider community.

Priority H/M/L	Objectives	Actions / Update	Lead	Start	End	Status
M	13. <u>Encourage reporting to the police:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any professionals who come into contact with survivors of VAWG should be supporting victims to report to the police. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning partners to ensure contracted services and grant recipients work together with Warwickshire Police to establish pathways for the reporting, with consent, of anonymised intelligence regarding perpetrators of VAWG, where this is safe to do so. <i>Case Example: a victim self-refers to a Sexual Violence service following a sexual assault on them by a taxi driver, they do not wish to report it to the police. With the consent of the victim, the service provider passes a description of the taxi driver, a description of his vehicle, and the location in which he was working, to the police).</i> 	<p>WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse), Strategy and Commissioning</p> <p>WCC Lifestyle and Prevention Team (Sexual Health) Strategy and Commissioning)</p> <p>WCC Domestic Abuse Support Team/ Youth Justice</p> <p>OPCC Grants & Commissioning Lead</p>	April 2023	December 2023	Not started
M	14. <u>Deliver training to professionals:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness of different types of VAWG, how to respond effectively and appropriately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAWG partners to map the current delivery of specialist VAWG-related training and awareness raising within member organisations. Training offer will be developed based on findings. 	VAWG Strategy Task & Finish Group	April 2023	July 2023	Not started
M	15. <u>Consider developing a specialist VAWG police team:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage a shift to more proactive as opposed to reactive policing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From April 2023 the force will have combined DA & RASSO Teams (DART). 	Warwickshire Police	Sept 2023	April 2023	Not started

H	16.	<u>Police to ensure quick response times to VAWG call outs</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire Police will ensure that the response to VAWG related incidents will be prioritised in accordance with risk. A THRIVE (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Explanation) risk assessment will be conducted in all cases where a member of the public contacts the police to report an incident, where there is a delay in police attendance the incident will be reviewed at regular intervals. 	Warwickshire Police		On-going. To be reviewed Oct 2023	Not started
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire Police will look to place HARMS markers on victims' addresses where appropriate to ensure that incidents involving those at most risk are prioritised (data to be provided). 	Warwickshire Police		On-going. To be reviewed Oct 2023	Not started
H	17.	<u>Police to robustly follow up on all reports of breaches:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to restrictions, orders, or licence conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire Police will conduct reasonable line enquiries into any breaches of bail conditions or civil orders and where appropriate explore whether the actions of the perpetrator would amount to a further crime (for example harassment or stalking). 	Warwickshire Police	March 2023	On-going. To be reviewed March 2024	Not started
M	18.	<u>Increase transparency and accountability within policing:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To begin the process of rebuilding trust and confidence in the criminal justice system. 	<i>Linked to objective 7</i>	Warwickshire Police			Not started
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire Police will work with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to set up a local Warwickshire DA and RASSO scrutiny panels. 	Warwickshire Police	March 2023	March 2024	Not started
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire Police will share with partners at regular intervals the police specific VAIWG action plan to 	Warwickshire Police	Feb 2023	On-going. To be reviewed	Not started

			build trust and confidence with partners.			August 2023	
H	19.	<u>Drive improvements to the courts and Crown Prosecution Service processes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trials should not be cancelled or postponed, or more notice should be given with a full explanation for the reason. Survivors should be appropriately supported during court trials. There is a need to improve conviction rates for VAWG cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will write to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, sharing key findings and recommendations from this report and ask that action is taken. 	Jointly by LCJB and VAWG Board Chairs	Feb 2023	August 2023	Not started
M			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPCC to work with the VAWG Board Chair or their representative, to establish a local formal process for VAWG criminal justice concerns to be highlighted to the LCJB for consideration, and for appropriate and time updates to be provided back to the VAWG Board. This includes concerns raised at the VAWG Board or by one of its subgroups. 	Jointly by LCJB and VAWG Board Chairs	Feb 2023	April 2023	Not started
M			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPCC to work with the VAWG Board Chair or their representative, to establish an agreed framework for the joined-up and coordinated reporting of local concerns to national bodies such as the Ministry of Justice and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner. Consideration may wish to be given about a single joint correspondence where this is deemed beneficial. 	Jointly by OPCC and VAWG Board Chair	Feb 2023	April 2023	Not started
H			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCJB partners, in particular HMCTS, 				March 2024

M			and relevant Support Services, to ensure that the arrangements for VAWG victims-survivors at court do not lead to the perpetuation of abuse. This includes the facilities available and the use of special measures	OPCC- Victims Lead & LCJB Lead	January 2023		
H			LCJB members to identify their plans for improving conviction rates for VAWG cases, including any increases in capacity and capability of resources where this is necessary. Report to be made back to the VAWG Board once understood and on an ongoing basis as necessary.	OPCC- LCJB Lead	Feb 2023	April 2024	Not started

Objective 4 - Strengthening the System:

The Strategy will provide the framework to continue to strengthen our partnership response to create a whole system approach to tackling VAWG. Working together, professionals across the partnership will develop a consistent understanding and response to VAWG.

Priority H/M/L	Objectives	Actions / Update	Lead	Start	End	Status
H	20. <u>Review existing partners, subgroups, and community safety partnerships:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider their corresponding roles to ensure these are being used effectively and efficiently. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will review the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and review what the Act stipulates regarding a Local Partnership Board. Will review existing VAWG governance and partnership structure to ensure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DA Act 2021 requirements are being adhered to in the most effective way. The structure supports the strategic priority of creating and developing a stronger system and delivering and overseeing the VAWG 	VAWG Board Chair VAWG Strategy Task & Finish Group	Feb 2023	July 2023	Not started

			Strategy.				
H	21.	<u>Involve those with lived experience:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the development and delivery of the new local VAWG Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of victims-survivors have consented to being involved in future VAWG work. VAWG Board will consider the best ways of involving those with lived experience, drawing on Best Practice and exploring options such as setting up a Lived Experience Advisory Group. 	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse), Strategy and Commissioning Warwickshire Police	Feb 2023	July 2023	Not started

General Objectives:

Additional objectives that are not within the key 4 objectives/priorities

Priority H/M/L	Objectives	Actions / Update	Lead	Start	End	Status
M	22. <u>Publish a summary of the Call for Evidence:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage transparency within the approach to tackling VAWG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Executive Summary, and easy read version. 	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse), Strategy and Commissioning	Feb 2023	April 2023	Not started
H	23. <u>Improve data recording and reporting practices:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations – in particular the police – in Warwickshire to work to improve data recording and reporting practices in order to have a better understanding of the scale of VAWG locally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwickshire Police will look to develop a VAWG specific dataset that can be shared with partners. (Note: There is good compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules) 	Warwickshire Police	Feb 2023	March 2024	Not started
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) to ensure that relevant data from Primary and Secondary Care is shared with the Analysts supporting VAWG 	ICP	Feb 2023	March 2024	Not started
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCC and OPCC to ensure that data from WCC/OPCC commissioned Victim Support Services continues to be fed into the Analysts supporting 	WCC Vulnerable People Team (Domestic Abuse),	Feb 2023	On-going. To be reviewed at VAWG	Not started

			VAWG. This will particularly relate to self-referrals to services, where the data may not be captured elsewhere.	Strategy and Commissioning OPCC Grants & Commissioning Lead		Strategy T&G Spring 2023.	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCJB to ensure that all the required data from Criminal Justice partners is made available to the Analysts supporting VAWG in order that the data helps contribute to a full understanding of the local VAWG attrition rates at each step of the Criminal Justice process. 	OPCC LCJB Lead	Feb 2023	March 2024	Not started
H	24.	Increase safety in public spaces: work to improve feelings of safety in public spaces across Warwickshire for women and girls and 'after dark', consider increased police presence, CCTV, and street lighting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Partnerships to develop responses to this within their local Community Safety Partnership plans. 	Community Safety Partnerships	Feb 2023	Dec 2023	Not started

Objectives owned by existing sub-groups

Subgroups to demonstrate they are working towards relevant objectives in quarterly reports back to VAWG Board.

Objective 1 - Prioritising Prevention:

To challenge the attitudes, behaviours and societal norms which foster VAWG by raising awareness and the understanding of them, and by intervening early where possible to prevent it. The Strategy commits to work to ensure that everyone understands what healthy relationships look like and to recognise the signs of abuse, and work to better understand how to prevent the cycle of abuse.

Priority H/M/L	Objectives	Lead Subgroup
-------------------	------------	---------------

M	1.	Improve awareness raising campaigns: there is a need for more awareness raising campaigns among the general public to showcase what is and is not acceptable behaviour, increase understanding of the different types of VAWG, and the associated impacts and issues, so that both victims and perpetrators are able to recognise VAWG for what it is, and seek appropriate support accordingly.	VAWG Communication Subgroup
M	2.	Men and boys to be more proactively involved in conversations about VAWG: so that they feel comfortable to call out and challenge their peers on inappropriate comments, attitudes, or behaviour.	VAWG Communication Subgroup

Objective 2 - Supporting Victims:

The ambition is to provide high-quality, fit for purpose, joined up provision for victim-survivors, ensuring that VAWG partners collaborate to meet the needs of all Warwickshire communities. The Strategy seeks to address the barriers that prevent people telling someone about the abuse and violence that they are experiencing.

Priority H/M/L	Objectives	Lead Subgroup
H	3. Address existing barriers: address all barriers outlined within the TONIC report, which included lack of awareness of what help is available, the complex and confusing landscape of support services, issues around capacity and waiting lists, and promoting inclusivity to reach individuals with protected characteristics. Consider ways to promote engagement with support services amongst those who do not report their experience of VAWG to the police.	VAWG Communication Subgroup
H	4. Explore increasing refuge capacity: survivors called for increased accommodation capacity so the VAWG Board could explore related data to ascertain level of need.	Safe Accommodation Working Group
M	5. Offer practical support with finances and housing: especially for those fleeing abuse and violence perpetrated by a partner or family member.	Safe Accommodation Working Group

Objective 3 - Pursuing Perpetrators and Reducing Re-offending:

This will be facilitated by working collaboratively across the VAWG partnership agencies to engage those who offend, in behavioural change interventions to stop the harm to victim-survivors, their families and the wider community.

Priority H/M/L	Objectives		Lead Subgroup
M	6.	Encourage reporting to the police: all and any professionals who come into contact with survivors of VAWG should be supporting victims to report to the police.	VAWG Communication Subgroup
H	7.	Invest in increasing the capacity of perpetrator programmes: to meet the demand both in prison settings and the community, catering to everyone regardless of their background, targeting a wide range of VAWG crime types, and ensuring these are fit for purpose through empirical evaluation.	Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Review Task & Finish Group