



Kingston Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2025-2030



Co-produced with the Kingston Survivors Forum
Executive Summary



'Kingston's Survivor Forum said: As trauma survivors, we have often felt powerless, unheard or misunderstood, but being part of this strategy brings improvement and changes from the difficulties and barriers we have experienced. The Survivors Forums have been a space where we have always felt listened to and valued, where our experiences and views have been respected. We have felt empowered when we have seen our participation make a positive difference to the services future women experiencing abuse and trauma will receive. We are all hugely grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of this vital work.'





Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuse against women and girls such as domestic homicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and harassment in work and public life. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women.

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls is a priority for Kingston

When thinking about the consequences of violence against women and girls, it is important to consider the impact (mental, emotional, physical, social and financial) on the individual survivor and their family and children. There is rarely just one victim – it affects whole families, and whole communities. We also know the most vulnerable in society often find it hardest to access support (Women's Aid). The impact of domestic abuse on the victim and on children is severe and long-lasting (Safelives) - this is why tackling VAWG is a priority for Kingston.

To successfully embed the strategy, a coordinated community response is crucial because it involves various stakeholders working together, including residents, communities,

businesses, statutory agencies and other stakeholders. This approach ensures that victims receive comprehensive support, perpetrators are held accountable, and preventive measures are implemented effectively. Additionally, it promotes collaboration, information sharing, and a unified effort to address the root causes of violence and create lasting change in society.

Co-production

Co-production serves as a powerful tool to disprove the misconception that individuals with lived experiences lack the capability to engage with professionals. Here in Kingston, we firmly advocate for the involvement of those with lived experiences shaping our local services and strategies to combat VAWG.

Commitments

Support to survivors

- Commit to our duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to develop ways to get support and provide safe accommodation for victim survivors of domestic abuse.
- Work towards the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation for our council housing teams.
- Ensure the new VAWG Service is promoted to highlight expansion of support from Domestic Abuse to all forms of VAWG.
- Create a referral pathway between our local night time economy venues, safer neighbourhood team and voluntary sector services and the Kingston VAWG service to ensure victims in public spaces have access to specialist support.
- Ensure that all awareness raising materials are culturally appropriate and are accessible in a wide range of languages.
- Support the community to provide longer term support and enable further funding opportunities for the Kingston Women's Hub.
- Develop a better understanding of the impact of serious violence and exploitation on women and girls and ensure appropriate support is available, including mental health support.
- Continue to learn from people with lived experience and use the learning to drive what we do, how we do it and how we measure success.
- Ensure that services understand the impact of trauma and commit to specialist trauma-informed training for their staff.
- Put emphasis on the use of language and promote our language guidance campaign to continue a zero tolerance approach to victim blaming.
- Review data across the partnership to identify gaps and improve them to ensure all victim survivors have support that is accessible and meets their needs.

Commitments

Children and young people

- Seek funding and work creatively across the partnership to identify specialist support for child victims of domestic abuse.
- Continue to work with children and young people including the Children in Care Council and Youth Council to co-produce interventions and ensure the voices of young people are incorporated in our approach.
- Continue the early intervention and prevention work with our schools, colleges and universities to tackle root causes of VAWG and increase awareness raising.
- Achieving for Children will work with the Community Safety Team to provide training around supporting

non-abusive parents in a trauma-informed way.

- Work to improve the response to girls and young women impacted by serious violence including different forms of exploitation and serious harm.
- Work to improve our response to tackling VAWG in public spaces and identify spaces outside the family home where children and young people can experience harm.
- Work closely to support children and young people with neurodiversity and specialist education needs at an earlier stage to prevent harm and abuse.



Commitments

Holding perpetrators to account

- Work towards a partnership approach to disrupt perpetration of abuse and utilise all enforcement options to reduce the risk to victims and survivors.
- Work to identify opportunities for behaviour change and support for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Continue to ensure there is appropriate and effective information sharing across our risk management panels to ensure a joined-up approach.
- Incorporate specialist training around working with perpetrators into our VAWG training plan to ensure there is increased confidence amongst professionals.
- Closely work with the Police, Business Improvement District, Voluntary Sector Organisations and local businesses to improve our response to tackling VAWG across the borough.
- Analyse the adult child to parent violence data to identify appropriate and specialist support to perpetrators and victims.
- Work towards improved data collection around perpetrators to develop a local picture around needs.
- Build a better relationship with family courts and improve their response to supporting victims and survivors of VAWG and holding perpetrators to account.



Commitments

VAWG is everyone's business

- Lead on delivering a coordinated community response, which includes collaboration between our survivors forum, practitioners forum and strategic delivery board and relevant sub-groups.
- Continue to work within our night time economy venues to tackle VAWG through prevention, education and partnership working.
- Develop an action plan linked to the Night Time Economy Strategy and align ongoing work in relation to tackling VAWG in public spaces.
- Closely work with the Police, Business Improvement District, Voluntary Sector Organisations and local businesses to improve our proactive response to tackling VAWG in Kingston Town Centre.
- Continue to develop our White Ribbon Action Plan to ensure local businesses and communities collaborate on programmes to end VAWG.
- Continue to strengthen the survivors forum network and build on our services being led by local needs.
- Support the running of the Pearl Project bi-annually to raise awareness and engage the public, business sector, VCSE and wider partnership to continue to break the stigma against speaking out about VAWG.
- Continue to raise awareness around VAWG and build on the existing work with our minority ethnic communities.
- Continue our collaboration work with local faith based communities to ensure safe spaces for disclosure and support.
- Ensure that multi-agency information sharing is effective and appropriate to safeguard victim survivors and their children.
- Ensure services are accessible through awareness raising, strong partnership links, co-location of specialist roles within services and a comprehensive training package.
- Practitioners across the partnership will understand the various forms of VAWG and its links with serious youth violence, contextual harm and modern slavery and are able to provide a safe and supportive response.
- Conduct Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR) and link in with Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Serious Adult Reviews to identify and share learning and create relevant action plans to ensure long-term change.
- Agencies across the partnership will review their own policies and practices to identify areas of improvement and incorporate examples of best practice.

If you have difficulty reading this document or would like it in a different format, please call our helpline on 020 8547 5000 or ask someone to call on your behalf.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2025-2030

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Guildhall 2, Kingston Upon Thames,
KT1 1EU

