

# **Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**

## **Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**

### **2021-2025**

***“A Gender Informed Approach”***

**Office of the Police and Crime  
Commissioner**

**For Nottinghamshire**

### **Forward of the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner:**

Violence against Women and Girls is violence against all of society; it not only devastates individual lives but undermines every aspect of life from our children's education to our older years. The Government's 2016-2020 VAWG Strategy was a welcome development in further recognising the scope and scale of the problem and I welcome the continued commitment of the Government to this agenda in 2021.

National strategies are vital but to make change that lasts we need to have strong local approaches that make full use of legislation, support the vital voluntary and community sector and to keep the VAWG agenda at the forefront of our thinking. I have therefore led the development of this strategy to meet that very challenge and I am pleased to see it published as a demonstration of our resolve in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

I could not publish this strategy in 2021 without reflecting on the circumstances in which our city and county now find themselves. The coronavirus has been debilitating to our communities and as I write this it is clear that the road to recovery will be a long one.

Notwithstanding the impact on our communities and services we cannot lose our focus on protecting women and girls, the impact of lockdown has been sadly very apparent to policing and the providers of services to survivors. We know the wide spectrum of further risks to women has not gone away. Now more than ever we need strong collective leadership of the VAWG agenda.

My own experience of working in or alongside women's and emergency services has informed my strong belief in the value of partnership working, and whilst this strategy has been developed by my team, it has been a genuinely collaborative effort with partners and colleagues across the city and the county. I am confident that the commitments in this refreshed approach will not only support existing activity but also truly add value.

**Emma Foody**

**Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire**

# INTRODUCTION



## INTRODUCTION

The UK Government published a VAWG Strategy for the United Kingdom in March 2016.<sup>1</sup> The strategy expressed the Government's desire to identify the issue of VAWG as a distinct area of policy within the wider policing and community safety agendas and to develop the areas outlined in the coalition government's 2010 Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

The 2016 strategy has been subsequently updated through a 'refresh' document published in March 2019. The Government is now seeking consultation responses for a further refresh this year with a web-based consultation due to close on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021.<sup>2</sup>

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have a longstanding commitment to tackling domestic and sexual violence and abuse (DSVA) which is most prominently expressed through the well-established provision in policing, children's and adults' safeguarding and in the specialist VAWG third sector. This commitment is embodied in DSVA strategies for both the city and the county, in the community safety plans for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and in the overarching Police and Crime Plan published by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

The Government's VAWG Strategy and refresh describes the full range of harms that are encompassed by the VAWG agenda, corresponding to the 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This definition importantly encompasses harms beyond DSVA and includes (but is not limited to) honour

<sup>1</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/522166/VAWG\\_Strategy\\_FINAL\\_PUBLICATION\\_MASTER\\_vRB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522166/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/violence-against-women-and-girls-vawg-call-for-evidence>

## INTRODUCTION

based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), hate crime and stalking and harassment.

The 2016 strategy has four key pillars: 1. Prevention; 2. Provision of Services; 3. Pursuit; and 4. Partnerships. This framework has broad correspondence with strategy structures in the counter terrorism and organised crime fields and is complementary to existing local strategies.

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire founded in 2019 under local leadership has VAWG issues within its purview and funds a range of relevant initiatives as well as working to establish local best practice across the partnership<sup>3</sup>. The VRU has joined the DSVA governance arrangements in the city and county.

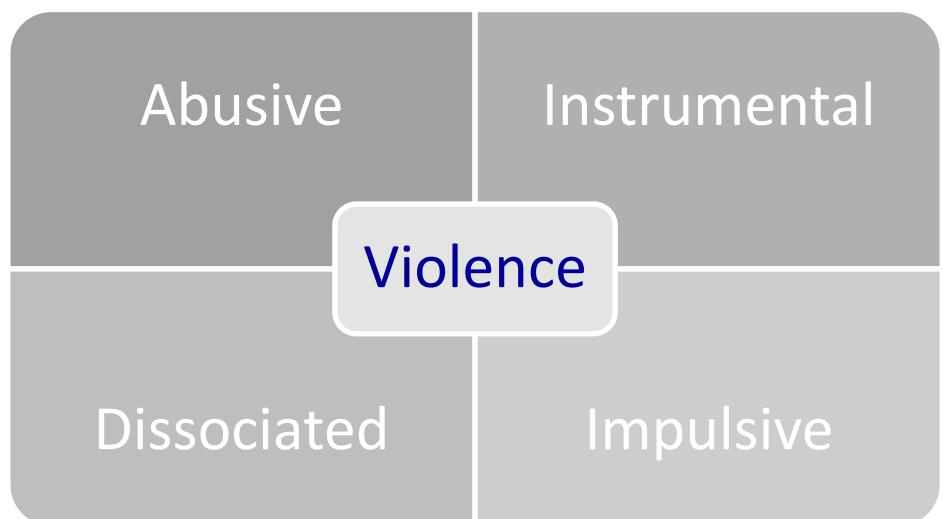
### Approach

This strategy takes seriously the social, gendered and long-term nature of attitudes towards women and girls which drive the offending described in this strategy. A dedicated approach to VAWG is needed because of the attitudes, beliefs and behaviours of some men and boys towards women. The offences covered in this strategy are not akin to acquisitive crimes, for instance, where opportunity, the desire or need for financial gain drive offending – they are structured around the societal and personal factors which affect women and girls. Put simply some men believe women can be treated without respect leading to harmful behaviour, it is this belief we are committed to tackling alongside supporting survivors and pursuing perpetrators.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nottsvru.co.uk/information>

## APPROACH



Our approach to violence and abuse recognises that there are different ways in which violence and abuse can be manifested and that we must take seriously these differences in order to develop meaningful theories of change, police responses and commission appropriate specialist support for survivors.

The offences and issues covered by this strategy fall mainly into the 'Abusive' category of offences, these offences arise from and are the cause of inequality and harm to women and girls as part of a pattern of thought and action by perpetrators.

We understand that abuse can take many forms but must be understood in terms of the power and control that abusers have over survivors. Our understanding of abuse goes beyond recognising its difference from non-abusive crimes but also that it is centred around power and control, sometimes referred to as the 'Duluth Model' of coercive control.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theduluthmodel.org/wheels/understanding-power-control-wheel/>

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Based on this understanding, that abuse has its origins in beliefs, that abuse forms a pattern of behaviour and because abuse has a life-long impact on survivors we structure our local approach in four parts, prevention (including addressing beliefs and attitudes), provision of support to survivors, management of perpetrators and working with partners as only with every component of our system working together can meaningful change occur.

***This strategy is not intended as a detailed account of all of the local provision for the issues of VAWG in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire but is intended to offer an overview of our approach, the challenges we face and our commitments to tackle them. The links at the end of this document provide points of reference for our allied strategies, approaches and services.***

## DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

This strategy is intended to cover an indicative span of harms and forms of abuse which face women and girls, not just those that would comprise direct violence or offences which would constitute a crime of violence as recorded by the police. The following definitions and descriptions inform this strategy.

### Violence Against Women and Girls

This strategy uses the United Nations definition of violence Against Women and Girls which followed from the 57th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and has was adopted by the UK Government in 2013.<sup>5</sup>

The United Nations defines violence against women 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” (General Assembly Resolution 48/104 *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, 1993).<sup>6</sup>

### Domestic Violence and Abuse

Domestic abuse is defined across government (according to the Domestic Abuse Bill of 2021) as any incident of controlling, coercive, or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of their gender or sexuality. This definition will remain in use until April 2021 when it should be widened and become a statutory definition.

Domestic abuse covers, but is not limited to:

<sup>5</sup> [Declaration to end violence against women and girls - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls)

<sup>6</sup> [Defining Violence against Women and Girls \(endvawnow.org\)](http://endvawnow.org)

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- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional forms of abuse.

Controlling behaviour can involve a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape, and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten a person.

The definition is inclusive of intimate partner violence and wider familial abuse. The majority (approximately 80%) of the people in our care have committed IPV and as such, this framework mainly focuses on IPV, however all individuals committing domestic abuse Domestic Abuse Policy Framework.<sup>7</sup>

## Sexual Violence and Abuse

Sexual violence and abuse can take many forms, Rape Crisis for England and Wales describes the term as covering *any kind of unwanted sexual act or activity, including rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse and many others<sup>8</sup>.*

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is responsible for the prosecution of sexual offences in England and Wales. The CPS works to its own VAWG strategy which defines the scope and nature of its approach to sexual

<sup>7</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877643/domestic-abuse-pf.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877643/domestic-abuse-pf.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [What is sexual violence? | Rape Crisis England & Wales](#)

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violence and abuse which includes both current and historic offences.<sup>9</sup>

### Female Genital Mutilation

The UN World Health Organisation (WHO) describes Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as [comprising] all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

The practice is mostly carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths. In many settings, health care providers perform FGM due to the belief that the procedure is safer when medicalized<sup>1</sup>. WHO strongly urges health care providers not to perform FGM.

FGM is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. It reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. It is nearly always carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of children. The practice also violates a person's rights to health, security and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death.<sup>10</sup>

### Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage

In the UK there is currently no formal legal definition of Honour Based Violence (HBV). The CPS and National Police Chiefs Council work to the definition of "Honour based violence' is a crime or incident which has or may

<sup>9</sup> [Sexual offences | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk)

<sup>10</sup> [Female genital mutilation \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

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have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community."<sup>11</sup>

HBV can take many forms but it motivated by beliefs that do not respect the rights, autonomy and personhood of female survivors.

### Stalking and Harassment

Stalking and harassment are crimes which can have a devastating impact on survivors and also signal other threats of harm. Historically these offences have been underreported which has led in more recent years to increased focus on them by partners locally and nationally.

### Hate Crime

Nottinghamshire Police define a hate crime (including hate incident) as 'Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.' The five nationally components of hate crime (established in law) are: race religion/faith sexual orientation disability transgender-identity. Nottinghamshire Police also record and monitor the following strands: misogyny (incidents targeted at women because they're women) alternative sub-cultures (e.g. goth or emo sub-culture). The local inclusion of misogyny is not nationally recognised but represents an important local contribution to our thinking about harmful attitudes, beliefs and behaviours directed towards women and girls.

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### PREVALENCE IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire represents a considerable population area and also one of considerable diversity both in terms of demography as well as urban geography. The Force Area contains a large and very diverse city as well as medium-sized towns, villages and rural areas. We understand our local issues and provision in this context.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have a population of nearly two million people (1.15m) with the city of Nottingham having an especially young population compared to the rest of the county and with England as a whole. Nottingham is a very diverse city with approximately 35% of the population being non-white British according to 2011 census data.

The full Police and Crime Needs Assessment for Nottinghamshire can be found online at:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Public-Information/Newsletters-and-Publications/Publications/PCNA/Nottinghamshire-Police-and-Crime-Needs-Assessment-2019.pdf>

The recent Domestic Violence Position Paper for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire can be found online at:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Newsletters-and-Publications.aspx>

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Nottinghamshire also has significantly higher levels of deprivation than the England average and within Nottinghamshire there are areas of acute socio-economic need which must also inform any approach to addressing harms experienced by women and girls.

### Local Position

Using data from the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) it can be reasonably extrapolated that 6.3% of adults in Nottinghamshire will have experienced **domestic abuse** in 2019 (the latest data published in our Police and Crime Needs Assessment); this represents 42,242 people with the great majority women and girls.

It is also estimated that locally over 100,000 women in Nottinghamshire will have experienced some form of

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domestic abuse since the age of 16. This represents a considerable moral, social, economic and criminological issue.

In 2019 Nottinghamshire Police recorded 20,775 domestic abuse crimes, which when taken in the context of the prevalence estimates confirms the widely understood fact that domestic violence and abuse is a hidden crime and that survivors will experience many offences before they come to be identified by agencies.

Since 2016 17 women have been murdered in Nottinghamshire leading in many cases to Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews (DHRs) which now also include women who have committed suicide following abuse.

**Female Genital Mutilation** (FGM) is a similarly hidden offence which leaves devastating and life-long harms to survivors; our strategic assessment records that: the number of newly identified FGM cases recorded by GP practices, hospitals and healthcare providers in Nottinghamshire<sup>94</sup> each year averages around 80 each year, with the majority (81%) recorded in the city. A total of 95 victims of FGM were in contact with these services during 2018/19, the majority (85) of which were identified via midwifery services during their pregnancy.

In most cases, the procedures were undertaken to victims in their home country when they were under the age of 10. Survivors were predominantly from Northern Africa (35), Eastern Africa (25) and Western Africa (25). Internationally, the countries of Indonesia, Egypt and Ethiopia are estimated to be responsible for over half of the world's population of FGM affected women and girls. Police in Nottinghamshire recorded 20 FGM cases in 2018/19, which remains broadly consistent with the average seen over the previous three years.

Nottinghamshire Police recorded 121 '**'honour' based violence**' crimes (68) and non-crime referrals (53) in 2018/19 marking an overall increase of 68% on the previous year. The increased levels of disclosure are likely to have been affected by the appointment of two

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dedicated Honour-Based Abuse Officers since June 2018 who have been working to engage communities and improve reporting and safeguarding opportunities through the use of tools such as HBA Orders.

Extrapolations from the Crime Survey for England and Wales indicate that around 14,935 women are likely to have experienced **sexual assault** over the last year, while around 85,504 women and girls are likely to have experienced sexual assault since the age of 16.

The number of **forced marriage** (16) cases recorded locally also increased by around 60% during this period (2019), while new cases reported to national public helpline by around 47% following a steady decline between 2012 and 2017. Where known, the victims identified were predominantly from Pakistan (44%) and aged between 22 and 25 (25%).

**Misogyny hate crimes** and incidents recorded by Nottinghamshire Police also increased markedly (+48%) in 2017/18 to 121, of which 67 were recorded as crimes and 54 were recorded as incidents.

### ***Stalking and Harassment***

Nottinghamshire Police recorded 10,390 incidents of stalking and harassment in 2020 up 0.1% on the previous year. This often underreported offence type has been affected by the increase in the use of social media and other online platforms which enable perpetrators to pursue this offending.

# VISION & AIMs

## VISION, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### Our Vision

***“Working together to end violence against women and girls in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire through a gender-informed approach”***

### Aims

- 1.** *To improve the joint understanding of VAWG as gender-informed across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire as expressed in our strategic planning and service delivery*
- 2.** *To have measurably increased the effectiveness of our local response to VAWG*
- 3.** *To maintain specific domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and abuse, hate crime and other strategies to ensure the detail and specificity of those approaches is retained and to accommodate a wider consideration of gender in those approaches*

# OBJECTIVES

## OBJECTIVES

- 1.** Embedding VAWG within the strategic assessments of our local partnerships to better reflect the agenda in our collective strategic thinking
- 2.** Establishing a scheme of performance management across the key identified VAWG strands to track and monitor our collective effectiveness
- 3.** Identifying opportunities for additional support to survivors of the most hidden aspects of VAWG, especially with regards to harmful cultural practices especially for women from minority communities of ethnicity, faith, origin, sexuality and disability
- 4.** Maintaining effective domestic violence case conferencing arrangements (such as MARAC) across both the city and the county
- 5.** Ensuring high-quality specialist survivor support is commissioned and in place for those that need it
- 6.** Considering the needs of boys, both as survivors and witnesses of abuse in the home and the impact of this on their future attitudes and behaviours as part of a future, dedicated piece of work to accompany this strategy
- 7.** Making the best use of police and other powers to address the harm caused to survivors by perpetrators

# PREVENTION

## 1. PREVENTION

Prevention is central to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's approach to violence against women and girls. It not only seeks to prevent individuals going on to become perpetrators of abuse. It has an important operational aspect where Nottinghamshire Police act to prevent the commission of specific crimes (such as taking a girl out of the country for forced marriage or genital cutting for instance).

Our approach to prevention is three fold: 1. Primary prevention – universal action to all residents; 2. Secondary prevention – targeted prevention to adults at risk of experiencing abuse and 3. Tertiary prevention – aiming to help individuals that are already experiencing abuse as survivors and working with perpetrators.

Prevention is also foundational to our theory of change for our communities. We recognise that violence against women and girls is unlike some other forms of offending in that it arises from social, cultural and psychological origins in some men and in society.

In Nottinghamshire we seek to not only prevent incidences of VAWG against individual survivors by perpetrators but also strive to create a climate in which there is no tolerance of the unacceptable beliefs that underpin them. We seek to educate, respond and also to express our commitment to women and girls through our shared policy commitments expressed for instance in our support for misogyny as a hate crime.

### Key Pillars of our approach

#### Communities and Professionals

The OPCC with partners jointly commission Equation to deliver information, resources, training, briefings and awareness campaigns across Nottinghamshire. Including taking part in the international White Ribbon Campaign and leading the local Help a Friend Campaign. Equation

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have delivered over a million information cards to communities and professionals since 2000 and these promote our local DSVA services. Professionals across Nottinghamshire receive regular training, briefings and updates on services and legislation, ensuring that they can support survivors appropriately. Equation is commissioned to deliver a website which includes signposting to survivors and resources for professionals.

## **Education and Young People**

The OPCC with partners, jointly commissions work with children and young people to promote healthy relationships. This is a vital contribution to not only enabling and empowering our next generations of young people to recognise, understand and, in the case of perpetration, reject abuse of women and girls. It helps us to positively shape the social environment of our city and county and to express condemnation of all forms of abuse against women and girls.

Equation deliver the GREAT and Equate programme across Nottinghamshire and provide resources and interventions to young people from nursery to college age in a range of settings, including schools, alternative provision and colleges. Nottinghamshire Women's Aid and Juno Women's Aid deliver the Freedom Programme and Ask Me programme as awareness and healthy relationships work with individuals in the community.

## **Misogyny as a Hate Crime**

Nottingham City, with the support of the PCC and partners launched a Hate Crime Strategy in 2020. A key component of this strategy has been the reflection of the approach led by Nottinghamshire Police and the Nottingham Women's Centre to identify, record and respond to misogyny as a Hate Crime

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## Communications and Engagement

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have invested in consistent communications with residents and communities to promote and empower women to see the help which is available to them and to seek support when they need it. The Consent Coalition, developed and lead by the Crime and Drugs Partnership and Nottinghamshire Sexual Violence and Support Service, is a key expression of our gender informed approach to communications which squarely addresses the attitudes, beliefs and behaviours of some men. The campaign is a good example of how a gender informed local approach can help to not only inform survivors about how the system works (supported by CPS led information and advice) but also confronts perpetrators and potential perpetrators with the potential impact and consequences of their actions.

We are also locally committed to seeking the views and experiences of women and girls not only as part of our commissioning processes and needs assessments, in response to inspections and challenges such but also as part of our approach to service improvement. In March of 2021 for instance Nottinghamshire Police announced a new approach to follow-up with survivors following contact with police to understand the issues they face and to help improve satisfaction.

## Perpetrator Programmes

A comprehensive approach to prevention requires us to address the attitudes, behaviours and beliefs of perpetrators directly where possible. In Nottinghamshire the Building Better Relationships (BBR) programme is a course for perpetrators under statutory orders held by the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company (DLNR CRC).

The Safer Choices one to one programme works with those who are not eligible for the BBR programme to extend these interventions to those that do not meet the criteria for BBR. These perpetrator programmes are a key component of our approach to preventing further

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domestic violence and abuse by those who have demonstrated the risk they pose to women and girls.

For those not managed as high-risk by IOM approaches (see below) provision is being developed locally to meet this need. With recent funds made available by the Home Office, matched by the Nottinghamshire PCC a pilot project has been launched. The 'Your Choice Project' will work as a pilot from April to September 2021 with a cohort of voluntary participants.

OPCC in partnership with the VRU also commissions prevention work with young survivors of DVA who are displaying harmful beliefs and behaviours, this is delivered by Equation in partnership with schools across Nottinghamshire.

## Key Challenges

Whilst effective targeted prevention is demonstrated to have a meaningful impact on attitudes and beliefs of individuals the need to engage at a social and cultural level remains if the harmful behaviours of some men towards women and girls are to change for the long term. This will require strong, clear primary legislation to establish society's contempt for misogyny, whilst the government's recent stated intention to establish misogyny hate crime in law, at least experimentally, is a good step much more work will be needed to communicate this publically and change attitudes for the long-term.

The increasing diversity of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, particularly in terms of country of origin may create further barriers to communications and engagement. Language, cultural or other factors may make it increasingly hard to deliver effective messages that will not only be heard, but trusted.

Whilst specific provision for non-high-risk offenders has featured in the landscape of provision historically the limited funds available to the city and county's partnerships has meant that in recent years local funding has been prioritised according to risk and has therefore

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been focussed on services for survivors. We consider working directly with perpetrators in group and one to one sessions to be an important component of any comprehensive approach to prevention.

## **What we will do:**

We will continue to **deliver prevention activity across primary, secondary and tertiary strands** (including perpetrators):

We will continue to **maintain and promote misogyny as a hate crime** in Nottinghamshire, working with partners to ensure this is clearly expressed to survivors, perpetrators and wider society. We will continue to robustly **advocate for misogyny as a hate crime with national government**.

We **will further work with newer communities and the specialist third sector to ensure that communications for women and girls from ethnic minorities and newer communities** are effective and trusted.

We will **continue to pilot and seek funding for the mainstreaming of dedicated perpetrator programmes** in the prevention space, recognising these are a valuable part of our approach to prevention.

We will **continue to ensure that all survivors**, including those that are disabled, older, younger, from all faiths and those from the LGBT community are able to receive support and advice as survivors of VAWG.

We recognise that for some survivors there are additional complexities and barriers to services, those with multiple disadvantage for example (living with DVA, mental ill-health and substance misuse) and **we are committed to working across the partnership to engage with and support these groups**.

# SURVIVORS

## 2. SURVIVOR SUPPORT

Support for survivors is at the heart of our response to violence against women and girls in Nottingham. Alongside our three tiers of prevention and managing perpetrators, supporting survivors is vital to our approach.

Women and girls experiencing violence and abuse in all forms require support to seek safety, protect their families and to navigate the system of services we have in place.

Strong support to enter and remain in the model of support, when women are ready and able is crucial, our approach is structured around our understanding of the particular needs of women and girls and rests on the provision of gender informed services and safe women-only spaces.

### **Key Pillars of our approach**

#### **Helplines**

The harms women and girls experience are often hidden, the prevalence described in this document point to the fact that whilst Nottinghamshire Police records a considerable number of offences and incidents locally the known prevalence of VAWG is much higher, the evidence shows that women on average experience up to 30 incidents of domestic abuse before they become known to the police. It is vital to our approach therefore that impartial, free and independent advice and support is available to survivors of abuse in both the city and county areas through locally commissioned helplines. The local helplines also provide a vital service of providing advice and support to professionals to assist them in making referrals, offering safe and professional advice and understanding the options available to survivors. Notts SVSS provides the helpline for survivors of sexual violence and abuse in Nottinghamshire, this helpline

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provides the support and advice to survivors they need to access other services, helps to support them in their needs and understand the wider-system of support. All helplines are free and confidential. The Juno Women's Aid domestic and sexual violence and abuse helpline alone took 11,223 calls in 2019/20 further indicating the need presented to partners posed by violence and abuse.

## **Specialist Survivor Support Services**

In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire local services are jointly commissioned by partners including the OPCC, city and county councils and NHS to ensure that effective survivor support arrangements are in place. Underpinned by joint commissioning, monitoring and information sharing arrangements these services delivered by Juno Women's Aid in Nottingham and south Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire Women's Aid in the north Nottinghamshire provide a wide range of support from helplines advice, one to one case support to women and support in navigating the range of protective arrangements from reporting to the police to sanctuary schemes and refuges. Refuges and the sanctuary scheme are vital components for women and their families' safety; this gender-specific provision is a core component of our approach locally. The services operate from safe, women only spaces ensuring that our gender-informed approach to survivor support remains at the heart of local delivery.

Nottinghamshire Sexual Violence Support Services (NSVSS) provides support in safe, confidential environments to women over 18 who have experienced or are experiencing sexual violence or abuse.

The OPCC have recently commissioned in partnership with NHS, city and county the new ASA (Against Sexual Abuse) Hub delivered by NSVSS which provides a joined up service for all survivors of SVA across Nottinghamshire. The Hub ensures the criminal justice and therapeutic services are coordinated with and for survivors. The Hub was developed in partnership with

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survivors over 4 years and will focus on delivering its services to all communities across the county.

## **Specialist Advocates**

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) are the means by which survivors are intensively supported and help to represent the needs of survivors within systems such as those whose perpetrators are within Integrated Offender Management (IOM) for DVA (see below). IDVAs and ISVAs support survivors throughout the process (across the specialist DA courts in both Mansfield in the county and Nottingham city) and communicate across partners to ensure the cases assigned to them are safe, transparent and effective. IDVAs and ISVAs are a demonstrated method of supporting survivors with their needs whilst ensuring effective case management and agency coordination.

## **Multi-Agency Specialist Approaches**

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a well-established multi-agency approach to ensuring that the highest-risk survivors of domestic violence and abuse are fully supported and that inter-agency communication is of the most comprehensive standard. MARAC ensures that all partners in both the state and specialist third sectors are aware of the highest-risk cases and that all of the mechanisms available to supporting a survivor are understood across partners and employed effectively. The city and county MARACs jointly manage the highest risk cases alongside mirrored arrangements for the management of perpetrators in IOM. Multi-agency working is a key component of our local approach to protecting women and girls from violence. The role of statutory safeguarding is considerable and forms an integrated component of our approach.

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Women that experience repeat incidents of hate crime can have their cases assessed by the Nottingham Hate Incidents Performance Panel (NHIPP) which assesses the highest-risk cases of repeat hate crime. This process is analogous to MARAC and has been developing over recent years. Whilst the reporting of misogyny as a hate crime is still low in the Force Area this process is available to ensure that the multi-agency principles, well established in other areas of operation are employed.

The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) provides support and practical help to anyone who has suffered sexual abuse. The SARC helps to ensure that a specialist, gender informed approach is available to women, ensuring that safeguarding and crisis care arrangements are in place for survivors.

FGM clinics provide care, advice, support and practical assistance to survivors of female genital mutilation. This crime is usually perpetrated against women outside of the UK and causes long-lasting physical and mental harm to survivors. Specialist midwifery as well as connection to wider support services are a core component of the provision.

## **Refuges and Sanctuary for Women and Their Families**

There are 77 refuge units in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire funded through central government local authorities and the charitable sector. Despite the commitments in the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 refuges are under pressure and are likely to remain so as the demand for these lifesaving services is likely to always outstrip supply. Sanctuary schemes which allow for the women to remain in their own home, (where it is safe to do so, with support and additional security) play a similarly important role. Refuges and sanctuary schemes are vital components of our approach as they allow women and their families to achieve at least temporary safety from their abusers and further their develop safety

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plans and housing options with specialist support services.

## Key Challenges

We know from the prevalence both estimated and reported of VAWG in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire that our services and approaches can only go so far in meeting the needs of women and girls, further and additional funding continues to be needed from government to ensure that we can fully meet the needs of survivors, funding is often short term and presents pressures on providers and commissioners alike in maintaining a stable and long-term model of support.

VAWG offences are by their nature often hidden and survivors often have to overcome huge personal, practical and sometimes social and cultural barriers before they feel able to report their needs. In the case of FGM and HBV these offences sometimes occur outside of the United Kingdom and only present to professionals' attention during pregnancy or medical intervention this can help identify girl children in the family and enable safeguarding to be put in place.

Women and girls face barriers to access and retention in our support models due to their circumstances whether that is due to their immediate practical needs, the on-going presence of a perpetrator or for other reasons.

We have therefore an on-going challenge to continue to promote access to services, to build trust with individual survivors and to maintain effective responses to women and girls' needs so as to retain the trust that is offered by them to professionals and services.

The changing demography of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (and especially so in the case of the city) presents further challenges to our model. Women and girls from newer, less-well established communities and from outside of the UK may experience still further barriers to access and maintenance in support.

# SURVIVORS

We are committed to commissioning, funding and supporting services from helplines through to intensive survivor support in our advocacy and case conferencing arrangements that meet the need of all the women and girls of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire regardless of their ethnicity, faith, origin or community of identity,

## What we will do

We will **continue to seek national funding** to bolster, increase and enhance our core provision for VAWG services in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire whenever and wherever possible. We will also **seek long-term funding solutions** for our provision wherever possible to give the specialist third sector the stability they need to plan, undertake service improvement and to grow.

We will work with partners to **Maintain and develop** our commissioned, funded and co-produced support services so that they continue to remain effective for survivors.

We will undertake a **deep dive into our provision** to identify barriers to access and retention in service for women and girls from minority groups of ethnicity, faith, origin and community to better ensure that their needs are met.

We will work with specialist third and community sector partners to better connect and integrate the wider system of support from FGM clinics, refuges and support services to ensure that the communities we serve are represented fully in the provision we provide. We will do this through specialist **additional capacity** which will be embedded in our wider model whilst also reaching out into and between communities.

## MANAGING PERPETRATORS

### 3. MANAGING PERPETRATORS

Whilst we place survivors at the centre of our gender informed approach we also recognise the vital need to address the harms that perpetrators pose to individuals and to society at large. Our specialist services within policing and their close engagement with safeguarding and probation providers is the foundation of our management of risk.

A strong understanding through the completion of risk assessments for all perpetrators enables policing and partners to assess the level of danger individual perpetrators pose and to put in place appropriate interventions.

Nottinghamshire Police retains tackling violence against women and girls as a key priority and this shall remain the case.

#### **Key Pillars of our approach**

##### **Identifying and Responding to Incidents**

Nottinghamshire Police, in common with other UK police services maintains a centralised command and specialist investigatory resource for the investigation of crimes of abuse. The Public Protection Unit is responsible for all areas of domestic and sexual abuse, FGM and HBV within the force alongside other teams and departments, especially the IOM team. The specialist and dedicated capacity this represents is central to liaison with other partners through joint processes such as the Domestic Abuse Referral Team (DART), the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) in the city and the county as well as interaction with MARAC.

## MANAGING PERPETRATORS

### Effective Use of Tools and Powers

Nottinghamshire Police employ a range of statutory tools and powers to manage the risk posed by perpetrators. Domestic Violence Prevention Orders (DVPOs), Domestic Violence Disclosures (DVDs), Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs) and orders to prevent honour based abuse provide a range of statutory mechanisms to manage risk. Nottinghamshire Police continues to expand the use of these powers and tools which are an effective set of measures to support police and partner activity once perpetrators have been identified by investigatory processes.

### Integrated Offender Management

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is a police and probation-led process by which some of the most concerning and prolific offenders are managed across a range of offence types. In Nottinghamshire IOM also manages domestic violence perpetrators and, alongside Women's Aid IDVA support for survivors seeks to manage and reduce the risk the high-risk perpetrators pose to survivors and wider society. Using a range of policing, probationary and court mandated tools and approaches IOM works alongside the MARAC process to deliver a holistic approach to offending.

Whilst IOM has its origins in serious acquisitive crime it has proved to be an effective approach both locally and nationally in managing DVA. We commit to ensure that our local IOM infrastructure continues to maintain intensive offender management with partners for high-high risk DVA perpetrators.

### Stalking and Harassment Clinic

In 2018 Nottinghamshire Police established a Stalking and Harassment Clinic which develops specific plans for the management of perpetrators of stalking whilst also ensuring support is put in place for survivors. The clinic is

## MANAGING PERPETRATORS

composed of staff from Nottinghamshire Police, Juno Women's Aid, Nottinghamshire Women's Aid, Equation, the DLNR CRC and is supported by clinical psychologists

### Key Challenges

The role of close, integrated and effective offender management in dealing with perpetrators is integral to our approach to reducing the risk perpetrators pose to survivors. The resources available to policing and partners are limited and the need to manage other offence types through our offender management regimes is always present.

The Stalking and Harassment Clinic represents a new and important additional capacity within our wider model and also assists in the wider effort to identify and deal with individuals who pose a threat to women and girls (and boys and men). It recognises that harmful attitudes, beliefs and behaviours rarely sit apart from each other but these risks and the support available is not always fully understood by professionals and residents alike. Work remains to embed and promote the service across Nottinghamshire.

### What we will do

Nottinghamshire Police shall **continue to make use of tools and powers** where practicable and appropriate to manage offenders and reduce risk to survivors.

We shall commit to ensure over the life of this strategy that our local **IOM approach retains a clear, defined domestic violence component** as a priority area of activity.

We will **maintain our Staking and Harassment Clinic and work to promote this provision more widely** across the city and the county and to promote the provision within policing.

## PARTNERSHIPS & CROSS-CUTTING LINKS

### 4. PARTNERSHIPS & CROSS-CUTTING LINKS

Working in partnership is an indispensable part of our local approach to violence against women and girls in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Only when everyone with a role to play is effectively engaged can meaningful support be provided to survivors, the risk posed by perpetrators managed and preventative approaches be embedded.

Our local strategic partnerships are well-established and embedded locally and all reflect in their strategies and plans the commitment to address violence and abuse against women. There is still work to do to jointly reflect VAWG as an overarching strategic themes across the range of offence types it embodies and to further commit to VAWG as a gender informed issue.

VAWG cannot be seen a single issue and indeed cuts across a wide range of aspects of society, policing and our strategic approaches. It is vital that we work to express VAWG ‘as VAWG’ in our strategies and plans to ensure that it is retained as a priority and rightly seen as ‘everyone’s business’.

#### **Key Pillars of our approach**

##### **Specialist Third Sector Providers**

The provision of services to women and girls in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and the wide range of activity to keep them safe could not be accomplished without the dedication of a robust and collaborative sector of providers. From the establishment of helplines, the provision of refuges, the independent advocates and the maintenance of specialist support the third sector is a vital asset.

## PARTNERSHIPS & CROSS-CUTTING LINKS

### Nottingham Crime & Drugs Partnership

<http://www.nottinghamcdp.co.uk/>

The Nottingham Crime & Drugs Partnership (CDP) is the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for Nottingham. The CDP is responsible for the Partnership Strategic Needs assessment of crime, ASB, substance misuse and reoffending for the city as well as its Partnership Plan. The Partnership Plan expresses the priorities for city partners and is refreshed annually. The current partnership plan established domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime as priorities for the city.

The CDP provides governance and reporting structures for the DSVA Strategy Group and DSVA Joint Commissioning Group and from March 2021 will be the Local Partnership Board for DSVA under the new Statutory Duty outlined in the DA Act. This approach to governance ensures that all operational and strategy groups managing DSVA are coordinated across the city and aligned where possible with county structures and commissioning.

### Safer Nottinghamshire Board

[https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/OutsideBo dies/tabid/69/ctl/ViewCMIS\\_OutsideBody/mid/395/id/1 71/Default.aspx](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/OutsideBo dies/tabid/69/ctl/ViewCMIS_OutsideBody/mid/395/id/1 71/Default.aspx)

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB) is the overarching strategic partnership for CSPs in the county. The Board has a key coordinating and oversight role in ensuring that the component parts of our approach to VAWG remain as priorities for the statutory local partners and for their effective delivery.

### Nottingham and Nottinghamshire VRU

<https://www.nottsvru.co.uk/>

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) was established as a partnership of local leads including the city and county councils to deliver a range of strategic interventions and deploy

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central government funding to tackle violence in the city and the county. Working with partners the VRU establishes best practice, utilises and allocates Home Office funding and develops strategies and approaches to addressing violence including violence against women and girls.

## **VAWG in Other Strategies**

Women and girls in gangs can experience very different relationships of power, coercion and control than men and boys which should be reflected in and understood by the neighbouring policy areas of Serious and Organised Crime and in violence reduction approaches generally.

Serious and organised crime is a driver of a wide range of other criminality and the impact on women and girls associated with criminal networks can be profound.

Women also face dangers and abuse in the public realm. In our approaches to our night time economies, transport strategies, management of green spaces and our streets VAWG should be reflected, understood and responded to.

## **Boys and Men**

Many of the offence types, circumstances and harms that are described in this strategy also affect boys and men in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. This strategy remains faithful to the UN definition of violence against women and girls and is also a gender informed approach, which speaks directly to the gendered issues of misogyny which underpins the societal origins of abuse. For this reason boys and men's needs are not in the scope of this strategic overview.

The needs of boys and men and a true understanding of the issues they as survivors face are serious and of equal moral and practical importance to our wider-approach. Gender informed services and perhaps particularly women only safe spaces are a vital contribution to our work to tackle VAWG however we recognise these can present barriers to access for boys and men.

## PARTNERSHIPS & CROSS-CUTTING LINKS

Boys and men have different but no less complicated needs as survivors than women and girls. These harms however have different origins and require different responses for which we wish to give the fullest possible treatment.

Our commitment to services to boys and men who experience domestic and sexual violence and abuse is demonstrated in our commissioned services, Equation deliver our specialist Men's DVA service and helpline and Nottinghamshire Sexual violence support service for all survivors of SVA.

### Key Challenges

Our local **third sector providers are reliant on outside funding** streams that are sometimes difficult to plan for as they emerge from central government, often in response to new legislation and strategies. The impact of Covid-19 on the sector has been considerable and whilst additional funding has been made available challenges remain to provider services which are not only stable but capable of growth and change to meet new challenges. Smaller providers may sometimes be less able to interact with formal commissioning and funding arrangements and this can have the effect of limiting the range of potential smaller providers who we can work with to deliver bespoke work.

The **range of strategies and strategic assessment** approaches can sometimes make the identification of the VAWG agenda more difficult where the various components of VAWG can fall across many organisations and partnerships different strategies and plans. This strategy is not intended to duplicate or replicate the rigor and detail held in specific plans however it does seek to resolve an approach that recognises the issues as associated and belonging to set of allied matters.

**Issues facing women and girls in and affected by serious and organised crime** for instance require an

## PARTNERSHIPS & CROSS-CUTTING LINKS

understanding of the issues of organised crime whilst also recognising the specific needs of women affected.

The **needs of boys and men** are of considerable concern to us, whilst taking these issues seriously we also seek to maintain the theoretical consistency of our VAWG approach according to the United Nations definition and to maintain the clarity of our gender informed approach.

### What we will do

We will **continue to work closely and collaboratively with the third sector** to support them in seeking and securing funding whilst also acknowledging the barriers that some smaller providers with a potential role to play we will further develop our relationships with smaller community providers and actively consider how OPCC funding approaches can help them develop, mature and contribute to the agenda.

We will work with partners through our joint structures to ensure that **VAWG is an integral and visible part of our local strategies, plans and assessments** to aid in maintaining strategic buy-in, develop strategies and retain focus on the key issues, recognising the gendered nature of VAWG.

In recognition of the different, significant needs of boys and men we will undertake consultation and scanning in order to develop a **specific companion to this strategy for boys and men**, we will publish this within the life of this strategy and make it publically available. This companion annex to the strategy will have equal status with the main strategy and represent both the important differences and commonalities between the two areas of approach.

We will develop the intent and direction of this strategy with partners to deliver a **comprehensive and detailed action plan** to take forwards our commitments.

## CONTACT

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