



Policing violence against women and girls

National framework for delivery: Year 1

December 2021

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Foreword

DCC Maggie Blyth, National Police Chiefs' Council lead for Violence Against Women and Girls

The data on the nature and prevalence of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in England and Wales is stark and shocking. In the UK, a woman was killed by a man every three days on average between 2009 and 2019. Millions of crimes of violence, abuse and harassment against women and girls are recorded each year. For instance, 15% of police-recorded crime is related to domestic abuse, with 1.6 million estimated female victims in the year ending March 2020. Many more offences never come to the attention of the police but are supported by our expert support services, yet others suffer in silence.

These figures are immense and are so commonly shared that it can be difficult to connect them to actual people, but some crimes come to the public attention. The horrific kidnapping, rape and murder of Sarah Everard by a serving police officer on 3 March 2021 led to women and girls across the country speaking out about their own experiences of violence and abuse, and demanding change. The tragic deaths of other women, such as Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, Julia James, Gracie Spinks, Sabina Nessa and Bobbi-Anne McLeod, have kept the issue of VAWG in the public consciousness. But while most cases do not feature in the news, the harm caused by VAWG – in all its forms – to all victims, their families and society is immeasurable.

The police have unique powers, responsibilities and opportunities to reduce this harm. We can prevent crimes, investigate offences, pursue perpetrators and bring them to justice, protect women and girls, manage offenders and help make our streets safer.

In mid-September 2021, an inspection from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) concluded that, while great improvements have been made in the policing response to

VAWG over the last decade, these were not enough. The report also found significant inconsistencies in the service that forces provide to women and girls across England and Wales. The inspectorate recommended a fundamental shift in prioritisation, aimed at bringing greater consistency and universally higher standards.

Creating a role of national VAWG coordinator is one part of a national policing response to this recommendation. This framework for delivery is another. The framework is the first of its kind, and aims to coordinate and standardise the policing of VAWG. It has been developed in partnership with the College of Policing and informed by consultation with stakeholders, as well as a review of existing relevant strategies, plans and recommendations. It has also been sense-checked by the specialist officers and staff who work on these cases every day. Recognising the impact of intersectionality, this framework includes an explicit requirement for forces to engage safely with – and seek the views of – Black and minoritised individuals and communities.

While policing cannot solve VAWG on its own, the focus in this year 1 framework is on the areas that policing can help to improve immediately. Years 2 and 3 will focus on the wider community and partnership approaches needed to deliver sustainable change.

The actions required from every force in this framework are wide-ranging. They span from better prevention activity in public places and online, to more relentless disruption of perpetrators and more robust offender management. They are designed to help make all women and girls safer, regardless of their age, although there are differences in the response required to crimes committed by and against young people.

There is also an overarching focus on building trust and confidence between women and girls and the police, which has been severely damaged by Sarah Everard's murder by a serving police officer, the abhorrent and inappropriate behaviour of officers photographing and sharing images of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman's dead bodies, and other examples of police officers abusing their position for sexual gain. All of us in policing must reflect on and improve our own attitudes and behaviours, and ensure that we're contributing to a culture in which

misogyny and sexism have no place whatsoever. The calling out of inappropriate behaviour should be the norm, and allegations against officers and staff must be dealt with swiftly, thoroughly and fairly. We have also considered the improvement activity and reviews that are being conducted in parallel with this framework, such as the inquiries and inspection into elements of policing standards. Policing is rightly held to high standards and we need to meet those standards.

This framework for delivery is for police forces to use to develop local action plans by March 2022, setting out their activity against this framework. It is about prioritising what we should be doing consistently and bringing enhanced coordination. All forces are already doing some of the activities in this framework well, but we need to do all of them well.

We are not calling for extra powers or legislation, or announcing new initiatives or pilots. This framework requires a fundamental shift in culture to prioritising those crimes that are VAWG-related.

The framework for delivery reflects that VAWG must be a strategic priority for all forces and will be assisted by a new local duty to tackle VAWG as part of any response to violent crime. Some actions are an intensification or prioritisation of work already on track – for example, Operation Soteria¹ and other NPCC-led action plans, or through the National Vulnerability Action Plan (NVAP)² already embedded in forces. This framework draws on these and the many other strategies, plans and activity related to VAWG in place across policing, as well as concurrent work on police culture and standards, on diversity, equality and inclusion, and more. It does not supersede them.

The framework for delivery does require every police force to prioritise concentrated and determined action to get the basics right now, and to achieve a common standard, culture and approach in preventing and

1 Operation Soteria is a programme that encourages forces and the CPS to focus rape and sexual offence investigations on the suspect, rather than on the victim's credibility. It seeks to improve communication with victims, as well as victims' experience of the criminal justice system.

2 The **National Vulnerability Action Plan**, which is produced by the NPCC and the College of Policing, draws together evidence relating to key areas of vulnerability and public protection. The NVAP encourages forces to take a whole-system approach to these issues, in order to improve outcomes and victim satisfaction.

responding to VAWG. This will give victims a consistent service, and will make sure that policing is better placed to respond to evolving types of offending and to understand these offences in the future.

Across policing, however, our ambition is far greater than just responding to these crimes. We want to see them eradicated and are committed to working in partnership with other parts of the criminal justice system and the wider public sector to make this happen. In 2022, our focus will be on activities to strengthen these partnerships. This will include education and prevention work with children and young people, both in our schools and communities, and working with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on building strong cases and securing justice. We will continue to work with all parts of the policing landscape – including the Home Office, the Welsh Government, the Independent Office of Police Conduct, HMICFRS, the National Crime Agency and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), with recognition of the governance and accountability role that police and crime commissioners (PCCs) have in relation to policing – to support policing as it makes these improvements. We will continue to work closely with the National Victims' Commissioner and National Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales.

Reflecting the importance of consistent standards, the College of Policing is a key partner in this work, providing national guidance, learning events and evidence of best practice, to help understand and embed what works across forces.

To conclude with a personal reflection, I've had the privilege of seeing the real difference that policing can make to victims of VAWG. I've seen the dedication and professionalism of so many frontline teams of committed officers and staff. I want women and girls everywhere to receive the same dedicated service I have seen, delivered by their own local police force, without fail.

I want the perpetrators of VAWG to have no doubt that policing is hostile to them. We will stand up to, and hold to account, anyone who harms women and girls.

Development of framework actions

We have developed this framework for delivery to help bring consistently high standards to the police response to VAWG offences. In this first framework, we have deliberately focused on the areas where policing can make the greatest impact in the shortest time. Our aim is to reduce the prevalence of these harmful and devastating crimes. The framework sets out priority actions for policing.

Future work will consider activities where policing needs to work in partnership with others to respond to VAWG, such as other criminal justice partners, victim services and wider safeguarding partners.

Actions are organised under three overarching objectives:

- improving trust and confidence in policing
- relentlessly pursuing perpetrators
- creating safer spaces

In order to identify the actions beneath each pillar, we reviewed existing strategies, policies, recommendations and plans related to VAWG, and we consulted widely. This led to a long list of potential actions. All of these actions were identified as having the potential to lead to widespread improvements in the policing response to VAWG, if they were adopted consistently across England and Wales.

We then consulted with stakeholders and interested parties from across policing, government and the third sector, to test and challenge our ambition and approach. Actions were updated as a result. A summary of the rationale for each action is provided in the framework.

All forces will be required to provide an action plan in March 2022, setting out their local plans in response to the national actions in this framework, together with data, which will allow an overview of progress across England and Wales.

To monitor and assess the effectiveness of our activity, we will develop and publish a comprehensive outcomes framework by March 2022.

Outcome and performance measurement

By 31 March 2022, we will publish an outcomes and performance framework, to sit alongside this delivery framework. This will set out how we will monitor police performance in responding to VAWG, and how we will assess policing's contribution to radically reducing the prevalence of these crimes.

We will develop the framework in consultation with policing, PCCs, other criminal justice system agencies, government and the third sector, to ensure that we have a shared understanding of:

- our current benchmark and outcomes within one year, two years and beyond
- what measures will best allow us and others to monitor progress
- what data is already collected elsewhere
- what good looks like

Based on this consultation activity, the framework will set out the quantitative and qualitative data related to VAWG that forces will be required to provide in a consistent format from April 2022. This data will allow us to build a national picture of activity, as well as a benchmark for policing's performance in relation to VAWG. It will be used to track progress, to highlight good practice, to facilitate sharing of learning between forces and to identify national trends and themes.

In the interim, in March 2022, forces will provide a limited data return covering the period from January to March 2022. This is focused on key areas of practice related to actions set out in the delivery framework, and will include:

- police conduct and complaints data
- crime to incident data for domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences

- arrest rates for VAWG offences
- use of pre-charge bail for VAWG offences
- files submitted the CPS for the charging of VAWG offences
- new file quality data for police forces from 20 December 2021, which could be used as an indicator of investigation standards
- data on the formal outcomes for VAWG offences

Additional bodies supporting this work

While the activities in this framework draw on – and in some cases, intensify – existing work, rather than introducing significant new demands on policing, we recognise that forces will need support in reaching consistently high standards. This section sets out some of the information, any signposts to existing guidance and best practice, and other support offered to assist policing in implementing the framework.

College of Policing

The College of Policing is the professional body for the police service in England and Wales. Working together with everyone in policing, we are the only body with the remit to set standards and to share the skills and knowledge that officers and staff need to prevent crime and keep people safe. It is therefore critical that we work alongside, and directly support, DCC Maggie Blyth in coordinating the national response to VAWG, as part of the delivery across policing and the wider criminal justice system. We have established a bespoke team to support this work, overseen by a chief officer.

Along with policing, the College of Policing will deliver a plan that in the first year will focus on three pillars: building trust and confidence, having a relentless focus on pursuing perpetrators, and creating safer spaces. Going forward, we will broaden our focus to help support wider

partnership initiatives as a whole-system approach is developed. In the interim, our supportive work for forces will include the following, among other areas.

- We have brought together existing, training and guidance at a single online location: [**Violence against women: Resources for policing.**](#)
- We have published [**vulnerability-related risks guidelines**](#) that will help first responders and their supervisors better identify and respond to vulnerability.
- We will publish a VAWG Toolkit for officers and leads, which will bring together all the legislation and preventative orders that can be utilised to keep women and girls safe.
- We will help forces by collating and sharing what works and promising practice, leading on evidence and evaluation for the VAWG Programme.
- We will commission new research where appropriate, to bridge gaps in evidence and to support forces in improving their response to VAWG.
- We will conduct our review of the vetting guidelines, the Code of Ethics and new Misconduct Outcomes Guidance, and we will explore how these are embedded across policing.
- A new leadership offering will help leaders at all levels of policing to drive out misogyny and inappropriate behaviour each and every time it is witnessed.
- We will develop specific programmes to support each of the pillars of work, focusing on those that will have the greatest impact first.
- Finally, we will continue listening to colleagues across the police service and our partner agencies, to ensure that the College of Policing provides what the service needs to tackle VAWG effectively.

Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme

The National Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) has been established to coordinate and improve the police service's response to vulnerability. The VKPP act as the national custodians of the NVAP, which is approved by the NPCC and the College of Policing.

The NVAP seeks to enable policing locally and nationally to develop joined-up and effective evidence-based responses to vulnerability, across the various forms in which it presents.

Work across the VKPP will be aligned to support the delivery of the national VAWG delivery framework, enabling learning from wider vulnerability work and that developed in the course of the delivery of this framework to be brought together.

Between now and March 2022, the VKPP will carry out the following.

- Develop a terms of reference for formulation of force VAWG problem profiles.
- Produce a national analysis of the recent NVAP benchmarking exercise, with relevant learning shared and disseminated to support VAWG practice development.
- Complete a VAWG call for practice exercise. Identify, review and share promising policing practice nationally and with the College of Policing, targeting onward evaluation support to develop our understanding of what works.
- Produce an updated national analysis on the scale and nature of domestic homicide and suspected suicide following domestic abuse.
- Produce a national analysis of learning from local multi-agency public protection arrangement (MAPPA) serious further incident reviews.
- Collate results from the national survey of officers and staff around practice relating to the voice of the victim in investigations.

Produce a national benchmarking of practice around how the victim’s voice is listened to and heard.

- Produce evidence-based journeys (logic models) to establish what good looks like. Suggest impact measures for forces to track progress in delivery of NVAP actions around recruitment officer norms and victims’ experiences, with a view to supporting the development of the VAWG performance framework and related collections going forward.

Terminology used

This document uses the following Home Office definition of VAWG:

“The term ‘violence against women and girls’ refers to acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, ‘honour’-based abuse (including female genital mutilation forced marriage, and ‘honour’ killings), as well as many others, including offences committed online. While we use the term ‘violence against women and girls’, throughout this Strategy, this refers to all victims of any of these offences.”

In 2022, we will be reviewing this definition with the College of Policing to be more explicit about the inclusion of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

We also recognise that there are discussions over the use of the terms ‘complainant’, ‘victim’ and ‘survivor’. Throughout this framework, the term ‘victim(s)’ is used to refer to those affected by VAWG. It also incorporates other terms, such as ‘complainant(s)’, ‘client(s)’ and ‘survivor(s)’, as referred to by those who we have consulted in developing the framework.

Finally, we discuss Black and minoritised individuals and communities within this document. The term ‘minoritised’ acknowledges that individuals and communities do not naturally exist as a minority, but are

actively minoritised as the result of social processes shaped by power. This includes those who have not always been consistently engaged with to a high standard by police, such as – but not limited to – migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, those with protected characteristics and adult women involved in sex industries.

The framework for delivery

Overview

Pillar 1: Build trust and confidence

1. Respond unequivocally to allegations of police-perpetrated abuse, learning from mistakes and best practice.
2. Challenge and address sexism and misogyny within policing.
3. Involve VAWG organisations, including charities supporting Black and minoritised women and girls, as well as individual women and girls with lived experience.
4. Collect consistent local and national information on the availability of specialist VAWG investigators to build the right capability and capacity.

Pillar 2: Relentless perpetrator pursuit

5. Relentlessly pursue and actively manage and target the most dangerous and prolific perpetrators.
6. Better use of police powers to protect women and girls, and to manage and disrupt perpetrators.
7. Adopt a trauma-aware approach at all levels, to better support victims through the criminal justice process, and focus on evidence-led prosecutions where appropriate
8. Enhanced supervision of VAWG investigations.

Pillar 3: Safer spaces

9. Immediate and unequivocal prioritisation of VAWG.
10. Focus prevention work on the most dangerous online, private and public spaces.

Detailed actions, rationale and timings of activity

Pillar 1: Build trust and confidence

1. Respond unequivocally to allegations of police-perpetrated abuse, learning from mistakes and best practice.

Actions

- Complete an urgent review of all current allegations of sexual misconduct, domestic abuse and other VAWG-related offences against officers and staff, ensuring that they are being investigated fully and quickly.
- Share learning on themes, problems and good practice..

Rationale

- Policing needs to take every possible step to root out those who do not uphold the culture and high standards that the public rightly expects from it.
- Policing cannot claim to take VAWG seriously if it does not respond immediately and robustly to VAWG-related allegations against its own workforce.
- If anyone within the force – or a member of the public – raises any concerns about the conduct of officers or staff, they must be confident that they can report safely, be heard and have the issues that they raise investigated swiftly, thoroughly and fairly.

Timings

- Actions to be completed by 30 June 2022.

2. Challenge and address sexism and misogyny within policing.

Actions

- Communicate immediately, clearly and frequently that misogynistic, sexist and sexualised behaviour will not be tolerated by anyone in policing.
- Establish and continuously improve a strong ‘call it out’ culture (including a focus on the importance of men being upstanders, not bystanders), supported by safe processes for reporting inappropriate behaviours and swift interventions where necessary.
- Share learning on themes, problems and good practice.
- Establish a continual programme of listening circles with women from across policing, seeking to involve women in designing solutions.
- Ensure that reward and recognition are given for those modelling positive behaviours.

Rationale

- Misogynistic and sexist views and behaviour are incompatible with the role of a police officer and the policing Code of Ethics.
- It is the duty of everyone in policing to call out inappropriate behaviours and offer support to those affected.
- Policing must lead in tackling sexism and misogynistic culture within the service. This includes speaking out against it in their own behaviours.

Timings

- Continuous and with immediate effect.

3. Involve VAWG organisations, including charities supporting Black and minoritised women and girls, as well as individual women and girls with lived experience.

Actions

- Establish regular independent scrutiny of force performance in responding to VAWG, aligned to internal audit activity.
- Involve and empower women and girls – including those who are Black and minoritised – and/or their representatives at every stage, ensuring that safe environments are created in order for this to take place.
- Constantly seek to expand the reach of communications, including through engagement with third-sector organisations that are working closely with different groups of women and girls.
- Provide clear and evidenced examples of how this involvement is used to change and improve practice, including incorporating the voices of those with lived experience into training and awareness-raising materials.

Rationale

- To build the trust of women and girls, policing needs not just to apply consistently high standards, but to be transparent and honest about how well it is performing.
- Engagement allows forces to learn from women and girls about the reality of experiencing VAWG offences, to improve procedures, to target their activity more effectively, and to increase openness and public trust.
- Some women and girls have been less successfully engaged with in the past, and police must recognise the extra barriers in place for some women and girls to engage with police. This includes Black and minoritised women, such as women with

disabilities and migrants. To avoid their needs being missed, constant efforts must be made to make contact with and hear them. This is particularly important because of the effects of intersectionality. Data indicates that some of these groups are more likely to experience VAWG, and/or face greater barriers to reporting it.

Timings

- Immediate.

4. Collect consistent local and national information on the availability of specialist VAWG investigators to build the right capability and capacity.

Actions

- Complete an urgent skills gap analysis of the number of specialist trained staff, relative to current demand. This should include specialist staff trained in initial response to VAWG-related offences, investigators and specialist trained interviewers.
- Use this to inform the national picture of skills and capabilities.
- Ensure that effective models of deployment for these specialist trained staff are in place, to enable effective response and swift investigation based on vulnerability and skills.

Rationale

- The skills gap analysis should be linked to the force management statement annual return, which is currently required by HMICFRS.
- The policing roles specifically of interest are:
 - PIP level 2 investigators
 - sexual offences liaison officers (SOLOs)

- Specialist Child Abuse Investigation Development Programme (SCAIDP)
- Rape and Specialist Sexual Assault Investigation Development Programme (SSAIDP)
- specialist trained interviewers to Achieve Best Evidence (ABE)
- VAWG investigations conducted by specialist investigators are judged to be more effective. We will be building on the promising practice of Op Soteria in relation to rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO).
- There is currently no consistent picture of the amount of specialist resource across forces, and reviews find that many 'specialist' investigators have received no additional training to carry out their role.
- This is a barrier to effective deployment and to being able to aggregate a national picture of skills and capabilities, which would help government in policy-making and resourcing decisions, and would inform the development of the College of Policing minimum viable product for investigating RASSO.
- Where staff are trained, they must be available and deployable in order to provide an effective service to victims.

Timings

- Initial analysis within three months, then six-monthly returns.

Pillar 2: Relentless perpetrator pursuit

5. Relentlessly pursue and actively manage and target the most dangerous and prolific perpetrators.

Actions

- Ensure that a process is in place to proactively identify individuals who pose the highest risk of harm to women and girls, and actively manage those individuals to prevent or reduce offending.
- Ensure that the process to identify risk includes assessment of behaviours known as high-risk indicators.
- Consider a multi-agency whole-system approach to offender management of such individuals, to include education, prevention, diversion, disruption and enforcement tactics, including the use of electronic tagging.

Rationale

- Perpetrators are the one and only cause of VAWG, and this should be recognised.
- A finite number of prolific perpetrators cause a disproportionate amount of harm. Targeting these will have the most preventative impact.
- Victims should not feel as though they are the ones under investigation. Investigations must focus on perpetrators first.
- Participants in the Home Office's VAWG call for evidence felt that prevention efforts were being undermined by a failure to convict perpetrators, and that this was contributing to a culture in which perpetrators think they can 'get away with it'.

Timings

- Quarterly return.

6. Better use of police powers to protect women and girls, and to manage and disrupt perpetrators.

Actions

- Increase effective use of protective and preventative tools and orders, ensuring that they are properly monitored, risk-based and well-governed.
- Complete a review of, and strengthen processes to identify, perpetrator non-compliance with orders.
- Ensure that, where required, breaches are met with swift action and robust enforcement.

Rationale

- Where there is evidence that an individual poses a risk of harm to the public, or is convicted of a VAWG offence, it is essential that this behaviour is addressed and managed at the earliest possible opportunity, utilising all existing tools and orders.
- While tools and orders are being used in all forces, this is inconsistent, sometimes with minimal governance and gaps in information sharing. Improvement and consistency in this will vastly improve safeguarding.
- If the police do not act when breaches occur, it promotes the idea that there are no repercussions for the perpetrator's behaviour.

Timings

- Quarterly return.

7. Adopt a trauma-aware approach at all levels, to better support victims through the criminal justice process, and focus on evidence-led prosecutions where appropriate.

Actions

- Raise officer and staff awareness of how the trauma of violent and abusive behaviours can affect VAWG victims, including the prevalence and physical, social and emotional impact of trauma.
- Ensure that officers and staff tailor their responses and approaches accordingly.
- Monitor referrals to appropriate specialist victim support services, taking action to ensure that these are conducted consistently and quickly.
- Ensure that force wellbeing strategies include an awareness of the effect of trauma on police officers and staff.

Rationale

- Reporting a VAWG offence can be a traumatic experience.
- The neurological response to the trauma of violent and abusive behaviours can impair a victim's ability to give a clear and coherent account of the offences against them, or to make consistent decisions.
- Identifying and understanding the effect of trauma on VAWG victims helps to ensure the right policing response and decision-making process about how to progress cases.
- We know that trauma can cause people to minimise the abuse they suffer and to withdraw their support. In such cases, if there is a serious risk of harm and the police feel that it is important to continue to court, we will work to regain the victim's support before we consider an evidence-led prosecution.

- We also must recognise that officers are exposed to trauma in the same way and need support.

Timings

- Quarterly data return.

8. Enhanced supervision of VAWG investigations.

Actions

- Develop a force process for enhanced and standardised supervision of VAWG investigations.
- Establish greater scrutiny of those cases proposed for finalisation with evidential difficulties under outcome codes:
 - **Code 14** – The victim declines, or is unable to support, further police action to identify the offender.
 - **Code 15** – The victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action.
 - **Code 16** – Named suspect identified. The victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.

Rationale

- The support and supervision provided to officers and staff undertaking these complex investigations is variable. In some cases, the focus of supervision is on compliance (with force policy or national guidance), and there is little evidence that the quality of decision-making is considered. This must improve.
- On average, three out of every four recorded domestic abuse cases are closed with outcomes 15 or 16. The number for rape cases is also very high: the number of offences ending in outcome 16 for recorded rapes for females increased from 5,773 in 2014/15

to the highest record of 18,584 in 2018/19. Closer scrutiny will ensure that this is being used in an appropriate way.

- Given this high rate of attrition (withdrawal of victim or witness support) and variation between forces, greater scrutiny of decision-making is required.

Timings

- Quarterly return.

Pillar 3: Safer spaces

9. Immediate and unequivocal prioritisation of VAWG.

Actions

- Build VAWG into every force's priority plan, and into internal and external policies and processes, and ensure that appropriate equality impact assessments are conducted and in place.
- Embed the new Serious Violence Duty into partnership VAWG plans.
- Develop and implement a communications and engagement strategy to set out how this prioritisation will affect police behaviours and practice, and how it will be monitored.

Rationale

- While there is some extremely effective policing practice across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, this is inconsistent in too many respects.
- VAWG is to be included in the Serious Violence Duty. As such, a partnership review of this new standing needs to take place.
- VAWG offences need to be a higher priority, both within forces and on a national scale.
- Everyone needs to be clear that tackling and preventing these offences is central to the policing mission.

Timings

- By March 2022.

10. Focus prevention work on the most dangerous online, private and public spaces.

Actions

- Target activity at identified high-risk and high-harm locations, including those associated with the night-time economy and other large-capacity venues, to make them safer.
- Develop and then maintain comprehensive problem profiles, including using partnership data, to inform VAWG prevention work. Profiles should identify dangerous and risky online, private and public spaces, and draw on information from women and girls (including those who are Black and minoritised) about where they feel at risk.
- Use profiles to target prevention activity, inform offender management and increase understanding of the most vulnerable victims.
- Promote the use of the National Streetsafe app within the community and use the information provided to inform the problem profiles.
- Work with local partners in wider criminal justice, education and health to target prevention activity, and ensure that this is part of any police and crime plan.

Rationale

- The locations where women and girls are most at risk from VAWG may be online, behind closed doors or in public spaces.
- To identify the riskiest locations and target activity to make them dangerous for predators, the police need to analyse information from all available sources. This includes crime ‘hotspotting’ techniques, as well as review of data from the StreetSafe app.
- It is also imperative that forces engage with women and girls themselves, to find out where and why they feel at risk.

This must include women and girls who traditionally have not been successfully engaged with, including migrants, women with disabilities and those from marginalised groups.

- A terms of reference for the VAWG problem profiles will be developed to assist forces with this work.

Timings

- Profile completion by September 2022.