

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	09 June 2025
Title of Report:	Integrating Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls in Plymouth City Council Policies
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Events, Cemeteries and Crematoria)
Lead Strategic Director:	Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities)
Author:	Tracey Naismith (Head of Community Safety)
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Your Reference:	TN09062025
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I

Purpose of Report

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a pervasive issue that affects not only the victims but also the community at large. To effectively combat this issue, Plymouth City Council must prioritise the primary prevention of VAWG in all new and updated policies and strategies across its departments. This report outlines the rationale for such an approach and connects it to the council's corporate plan and the Plymouth plan.

Recommendations and Reasons

Cabinet are asked to should include the primary prevention of Violence against Women and Girls when agreeing new and updated policies and strategies across all council departments alongside responses to gender-based violence through the report and decision processes, supported by a checklist and officer guidance.

Reasons:

1. Holistic Approach to Gender Equality: By embedding primary prevention in policy-making, the council demonstrates a commitment to achieving gender equality. This proactive stance not only addresses the symptoms of VAWG but also tackles the root causes, fostering a safer environment for all residents.

2. Alignment with National and Local Priorities: The UK government's strategy on VAWG emphasises the importance of prevention. Aligning local policies with national priorities enhances funding opportunities and supports collaborative efforts across sectors.

3. Long-term Cost Savings: Investing in prevention strategies can significantly reduce the costs associated with

responding to incidents of VAWG, including healthcare, legal services, housing and social support. A proactive approach can lead to a healthier, more resilient community, ultimately saving public funds.

4. Community Engagement and Empowerment: Policies that focus on prevention encourage community involvement and empower individuals to challenge harmful behaviours and attitudes. This grassroots involvement fosters a culture of respect and equality.

5. Data-Driven Decision Making: Integrating primary prevention into policy development allows for the collection and analysis of data related to VAWG. This data can inform targeted interventions and track progress over time, ensuring that strategies remain effective and relevant.

6. Introducing a VAWG lens into policy decisions can lead to cultural change by raising awareness. VAWG strategies can help shift societal norms and attitudes that tolerate or perpetuate violence against women and girls. Introducing this into policy will ensure a VAWG lens is considered at every possible opportunity and enable policies to be written in a way that supports our tackling VAWG ambition.

Alternative options considered and rejected

No change. This option may hinder Plymouth City Council's approach to tackling VAWG.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Plymouth City Council's Corporate Plan outlines the vision for a prosperous, healthy, and inclusive city. By prioritising the primary prevention of VAWG, the council can significantly contribute to the health and well-being of its citizens, ensuring that safety is a fundamental aspect of community life. This aligns with the plan's commitment to creating a supportive environment for all residents.

The Plymouth Plan emphasises the importance of a collaborative approach to tackling social issues. Including primary prevention of VAWG in all policies supports the plan's objectives of promoting social cohesion and enhancing community safety. It also reinforces the commitment to equality and diversity, ensuring that all voices are heard and protected and we are building strong and safe communities.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

No impact.

Legal Implications

The Council must ensure that it has due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (s.149 Equality Act 2010) in formulating its policies, including how it will remove or minimise any disadvantage suffered by people with a protected characteristic.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

Plymouth City Council has a dedicated team who work with partners to tackle VAWG in Plymouth. The introduction of this approach will support equality of opportunity in several ways, including creating safe environments where individuals are able to pursue education, employment and personal growth without fear of violence or harassment. The introduction of this consideration across all

policies and strategies will pave the way for greater equality of opportunity across all sectors in the city.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 1A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Integrating Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls in Plymouth City Council Policies							

Background papers:

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 1A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Domestic Abuse Data Pack							

Sign off:

Fin	OW.25 .26.006	Leg	LS/0000 1312/2/ AC/29/ 5/25	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Matt Garrett											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Date agreed: 29/05/2025											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Sally Haydon agreed via email 20 May 2025											