

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 24 January 2022



Violence Against Women and Girls Commission

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is not a new phenomenon, however the murder of Sarah Everard in March 2021 ignited a national conversation and generated increased awareness of the dangers facing women. The extensive media coverage has prompted many women and girls locally to reflect and speak out about their personal experiences of VAWG especially following the appalling death of Bobbi-Anne McLeod in Plymouth. The tragic events in the City over recent months have made it an absolute imperative to assess what more can be done at the local level to ensure that women and girls feel safe and empowered to live without fear of harm, abuse or intimidation.

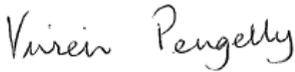
To sit alongside the initiatives that are currently being delivered, Plymouth City Council and the Safer Plymouth Partnership would like a clear route for women and girls to engage around VAWG. The Violence Against Women and Girls Commission will be a key route for hearing first-hand the voices of women and girls.

The City Council resolves to:

1. Endorse the establishment of the Plymouth Violence Against Women and Girls Commission
2. Supports its objectives:
 - To shine a spotlight on the national issue of violence against women and girls and to understand more about the issue for those living in Plymouth.
 - To take a proactive stance to better understanding a wide range of views and experiences, and consider what more needs to be done to tackle the issue.
 - To improve the perception, and the lived experience of women and girls that Plymouth is a safe City.
 - To promote a better understanding of the causes and means of addressing male violence against women and girls.
 - To provide impetus for key partners and the private sector to review their contribution to tackling VAWG in the City.
 - To take the opportunity to revisit and revise local policies if appropriate, including the Public Health approach to addressing VAWG, and to identify and seek to influence any areas of national policy that need revising.
 - To review existing partnership arrangements in the City to make sure there is a clear focus and tangible action on addressing VAWG, including its wider impact on the families and children of victims and abusers.
 - To ensure there is strong and visible leadership on VAWG for the City to drive through the recommendations identified by the Commission, and to be the champion for change.
3. Commits to supporting the Commission in its work and looks forward to receiving its recommendations

4. Commits the Council to resourcing the recommendations as they pertain to Plymouth City Council action plans
5. Commits to asking every Cabinet Member to look at areas in their portfolio which can contribute to making women feel safer

Proposer: Councillor Mrs Vivien Pengelly

Signature: 

Seconder: Councillor Jemima Laing

Signature: 