

## **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Statement of Intent**

Safer Solihull Partnership (SSP) believes that ensuring that Women and Girls feel safe and are safe is a priority for partners in Solihull. We have a vision in which people can live without fear of abuse or violence. The most recent statistics show that 1 in 5 women are victims of sexual assault (or attempted assault) in their lifetime. (ONS 2021).

### **What is Violence Against Women and Girls?**

The term VAWG covers a range of crimes, that disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include:-

- sexual violence,
- abuse and exploitation,
- sexual harassment and bullying,
- stalking,
- trafficking,
- domestic violence and abuse including coercive and controlling behaviour,
- female genital mutilation, forced marriage, crimes committed in the name of 'honour' (so-called 'honour' based violence)
- as well as many others, including offences committed online.

Please find the link to the National [Strategy](#)

### **Our Vision**

Together, we will reduce violence against women and girls in Solihull. We will ensure that the voice of women and girls drives our activity to work towards this vision by: developing a coordinated community response, where everyone is empowered to work towards ending violence against women and girls and develop a robust prevention and early intervention approach to reach everyone in our diverse communities. This will include a better understanding of who the perpetrators of VAWG are, which should enable a more targeted and effective awareness raising and education. The SSP acknowledges that men are a key part of the solution to tackling VAWG.

### **What Do We Know About Violence Against Women and Girls in Solihull?**

While we know that violence against women and girls is a problem. It is widely acknowledged that violence against women and girls are underreported, and many survivors do not come to the attention of services. This, coupled with lack of awareness of professionals around the many individual strands of VAWG, means that we do not have robust data, we want to understand how safe women and girls feel across Solihull and learn from their lived experiences. We will work to boost reporting across each priority area and work with partner agencies to gather this information. This data will allow us to understand if the action taken across Solihull has been successful in reducing VAWG

No single agency can be responsible for our priority of ending violence against women and girls. Working in partnership across all agencies and the community will ensure that we can obtain the best possible outcomes for victim/survivors in Solihull.

### **VAWG Objectives**

- Understand the context of VAWG in Solihull and the views of our communities to inform action
- Build stronger and cohesive communities through awareness raising and education
- To support victims and communities affected by VAWG
- To link with other work streams within the VAWG agenda