

**Official**  
**Violence Against Women and Girls**

**VAWG Executive Group Terms of Reference**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Hayley Connor/Fiona Macpherson	Rotating on a quarterly basis (To be reviewed after third meeting)

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Executive Group is to oversee the work of signatories to the VAWG Partnership Strategy and to ensure that the actions taken by partners are in line with the vision, objectives, and strategy set out in that document. This oversight will also cover commitment to statutory obligations as set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and the Serious Violence Duty 2022. The executive group will also be expected to coordinate with the Domestic Abuse Executive Group to ensure there is not a duplication of efforts, and where appropriate harmonisation is maximised.

### 2. Aims and objectives

- Ensure that Surrey's partnership approach to preventing VAWG delivers on the Surrey VAWG partnership strategy 2022-2025.
- To improve outcomes for survivors of VAWG crimes by identifying gaps in service provision and making recommendations to improve services.
- To provide leadership for the partnership and to remove strategic challenges and barriers to support the delivery of effective services.
- Ensure that victims and survivors of VAWG crimes are supported by staff with appropriate levels of training and which recognises the intersectionality of victims and survivors.
- Ensure a whole-system approach, which is person-centred and trauma-informed, is implemented to remove barriers that may restrict access to support. This includes addressing the root causes of VAWG, namely gender inequality, misogyny, and harmful attitudes held towards women and girls, through education and prevention.
- Ensure data is used at all opportunities to ensure an evidenced-based approach is adopted and a platform is provided to survivors as the experts in their own experiences.
- To clearly communicate the principles, objectives and decisions made within the group to stakeholders.
- Improve access, support and engagement for victims and survivors with protected characteristics including but not limited to BAME victims, LGBTQ+ victims, male victims, disabled victims, GRT victims, victims with no recourse to public funds, and victims of faith-based and spiritual abuse.

### 3. Meeting Membership

- Surrey County Council Director of Commissioning
- Surrey County Council Assistant Director of Community Safety
- Surrey County Council VAWG Programme Officer (Secretary)\*
- Assistant Chief Constable of Surrey Police
- Lead for VAWG at Surrey Police
- VAWG Force Advisor of Surrey Police
- Head of Policy and Commissioning at Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
- Elected Member of Surrey County Council – Cabinet Lead for Violence Against Women and Girls

## Official Violence Against Women and Girls

- Representative from Public Health at Surrey County Council
- Representative of Healthy Schools at Surrey County Council
- Third Sector Representatives (Service providers)
- District and Borough Representatives from Community Safety Partnerships
- Education Safeguarding Team Lead
- *Representative from Health\**

Membership of this meeting may vary depending on the specific requirements of a meeting. Survivors should also have a direct presence in this meeting (when appropriate) which can be facilitated by service providers.

### 4. Inputs and Responsibilities

- Approve and monitor the implementation of the VAWG Partnership Strategy for Surrey.
- Hold partners to account with regards to implementation of their action plans to prevent VAWG and the alignment of these with the vision and objectives outlined in the VAWG Partnership Strategy.
- Support the partnership to make commissioning and decommissioning decisions. This can include when and how commissioning is undertaken to ensure the best and most appropriate services are made available for survivors and perpetrators.
- Ensure services across health, housing, education, early years and childhood support, social services, criminal justice, police, and third sector specialist providers are joined-up and complementary.
- Advise and support in dealing with issues raised and identified through formal and informal routes, including feedback from the VAWG Task and Finish Group(s).

### 5. Outputs

- Strategic decision making and direction
- Budget sign off and allocation
- Minutes/actions

### 6. Behaviours

- All members of the executive group will be expected to:
  - Champion the VAWG Partnership Strategy
  - Make evidenced decisions in the interests of preventing VAWG across Surrey
  - Expect, accept, and act on challenges
  - Report back on the work of their respective organisation
  - Carry out actions as agreed at meetings within the agreed timescale
  - Attend all executive group meetings or if unable to do so send apologies and an alternative colleague who will be authorised to approve actions
  - Be open and honest about what is going well, what can be improved, and what actions should be stopped

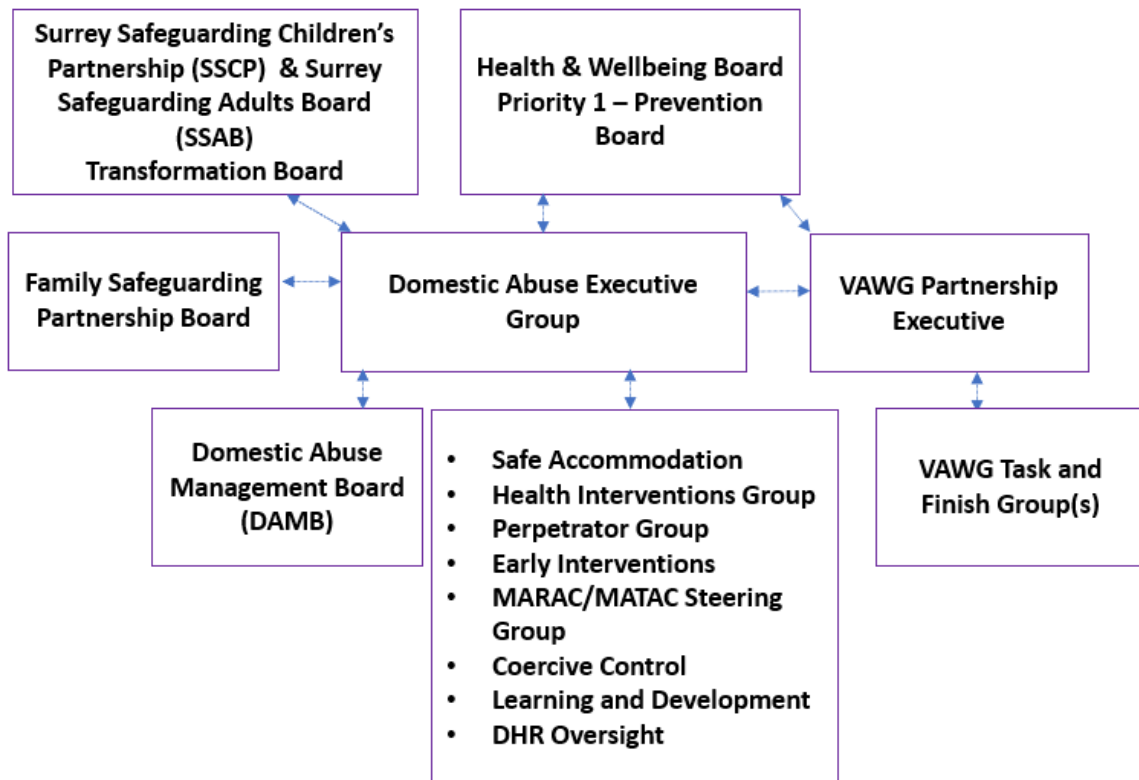
### 7. Decision Making Protocol

- The VAWG Executive Group will meet once every three months
- Meeting papers will be circulated one week ahead of the meeting

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- Co-ordination of the meetings, preparation of the agenda, and the recording of action points will be carried out by the **Surrey County Council VAWG Programme Officer (Secretary)**
- Action points will be issued no later than one week after the meeting
- The Chair(s) will indicate optional/required attendees for each meeting and communicate this to the VAWG Programme Officer
- All members may be contacted between meetings for advice or agreement on key issues should the need arise
- Confidential material will be marked as such and sent via protected email (in line with GDPR regulations)
- This group will be accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board

**8. Governance**



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