

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN EXTERNAL CONSULTATION GROUP

12<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
Rooms 710-712, CPS HQ, London  
Time: 14:15 – 16:15

## Attendees:

Funmi Johnson	DV Implementation Manager ( <b>Chair</b> )
Jude Watson	VAW Project Manager
Bahar Rokni	VAW administrator
Ghazia Ali	VAW administrator ( <b>Minutes</b> )
Alex Solomon	Policy Directorate, VAW Lead
Charlotte Triggs	Business Development Directorate, Rape Lead
Liz Kelly	EVAW/ London Metropolitan University
Emma Scott	Rights of Women
Ruth Breslin	POPPY project
Abigail Stepnitz	POPPY project
Hannana Siddiqui	Southall Black Sisters
Dr. Aisha Gill	Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Roehampton University (representing IMKAAN)
Emily Arkeil	NSPCC (DV ECG representative)
Karen Bailey	GLDVP (DV ECG representative)
Mark Lindley	Business Development Directorate
Commander Steve Allen	ACPO
Nikki Hubbard	ACPO
Gerry Campbell	Metropolitan Police
Christine Pusey	CPS Thames Valley
Lynne Townley	CPS Policy
Christine Magill	CPS Research
Nazir Afzal	CPS London Sector Director CPS London

## Apologies:

Arwel Jones	Policy Directorate, team leader Domestic Affairs
Karen Morgan-Read	Policy Directorate, DV Lead
Louise Gray	Policy Directorate, team leader Domestic Affairs
Ibtisam El-Baraka	Policy Directorate, Policy Assistant
Claire Moulsher	Policy Directorate, DV team
Lee Eggleston	Rape Crisis
Rachel Griffin	Victim Support
Kat Banyard	Fawcetts
Pat McGaw	Barnardo's
Sarah Maguire	Justice for Women
Anna Bird	Mind
Sarah Maguire	Justice for Women
Kathryn Stone	Voice UK
Khalda El Hafiz	Forward UK
Fay Maxted	Survivors Trust
Marai Larasi	Nia Project
Lee Eggleston	Rape Crisis

297

Simran Panesar	Ashiana
Yvonne Rhoden	Metropolitan Police
Farrah Bokahri	ECPAT
Diana Nammi	IKWRO
Kaveri Sharma	Newham Asian Womens Project
Jasvinder Sanghera	Karma Nirvana
Sarah Russell	Home Office FMU
Supt Steve Deehan	ACPO

***ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING:***

- All introduced themselves and FJ took the group through the minutes and actions from the October meeting.
- AS gave a brief update on the Child Abuse definition. - Policy is in the process of revising the child abuse definition. They will be taking into account the views received both electronically and in the October meeting on this. The revised definition will be circulated to everyone for comments and feedback as soon as it is available.
- All other actions were complete and no issues arising.

**Action Point: AS to sent revised definition to GA. GA to circulate to VAW ECG when available for views.**

***ITEM 2: ISSUES FROM THE DV EXTERNAL CONSULTATION GROUP:***

- KB and EA gave an overview of the discussion from the DV ECG, the main points of which were:
  1. DV Bulletin Board will no longer be used as it is. KMR is investigating a wider use for it as a VAW bulletin board. We are also looking at other avenues for providing prosecutors with information on DV issues.
  2. The VAW team have produced a support services directory for WCUs.
  3. There were concerns raised over the issues of collecting robust data on VAW strands and from SDVCs.
  4. There were concerns over the current DV thematic review of WCUs. Points included use and interpretation of risk assessments, training for WCU staff and witness intimidation.
  5. The DV Guidance, Policy and victim leaflet are hoping to be launched in early spring '09.

**ACTIONS**

**Action point: KMR to send paragraphs on multi-agency working and community engagement in DV Guidance to BR to send to VAW ECG group for feedback and comments by 19.01.09. [NB: post meeting KMR has sent this through and BR has sent to members.]**

**Action point: VAW team to look into inviting a representative from the DV Thematic Steering Group to the April VAW ECG to present the final Report.**

**ITEM 3: VAW HIGHLIGHT REPORT:**

- JW took the group through the main issues in Highlight report.
- SDVC (7): 104 SDVCs courts now. A Further six SDVC were accredited in October 2008. Further accreditation will take place in Q4 2008/9. We have also started consulting LCJBs re: taking over governance of SDVC and the response has been favourable.

**ITEM 4: STAKEHOLDERS PAPER:**

- FJ gave an overview of this paper.
- KB confirmed the DV ECG agreed to option 4, plus an additional focus group once a year which includes ECG members as well as other relevant organisations not currently part of the ECG.
- LK preferred option 4, but suggested an online questionnaire and focus group, and using the tool "survey monkey". It is harder to interpret focus group data and an online questionnaire does the survey monitoring and some calculation of data as well.
- AG agreed; from a methodological point of view an online questionnaire with survey monitoring is good.
- LK and RB volunteered to produce a first draft of the questionnaire and be involved in the group.

**Action point: GA to email all VAW ECG members with the proposed date of the meeting to develop the methodology for measuring stakeholder satisfaction and to request volunteers. All to respond ASAP.**

**ITEM 5: RATIONALISATION OF VAW AND HC COORDINATORS:**

- JW gave an overview of the report titled "Finalised decisions on VAW and Hate Crime Coordinators". The paper was to inform the group of what will be happening. We have asked Areas to identify VAW coordinators and send a brief outline of their VAW work structure plans by 20<sup>th</sup> February, a Seminar for the coordinators is being organised for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.
- JW gave an overview of Specialist prosecutors; currently we have ones for rape and DV. We are currently drawing up options on the rationalisation of Specialist prosecutors and whether we should also have VAW Specialists or just address expertise across all prosecutors dealing with VAW crimes. This will be taken to a steering group in February.
- Group discuss concerns regarding different strands and work overlap.
- LK questions if rape includes sexual offences.
- CT explains that rape coordinators only deal with rape due to policies set in place and resources. It is also based on recommendations from Reports such as "Without Consent".
- LK stated that there is a higher success rate for sexual offences cases and there may be some synergy with rape cases.
- CT agreed and confirmed prosecutors are told to take on Best Practice from these cases.

- LK suggested it may be better for coordinators to be “sexual violence coordinators”, rather than rape coordinators.
- CT confirmed she will take this back and look into it.
- JW confirmed that we will begin to address the integration of strands in the April coordinators’ seminar.
- KB suggested that in terms of coordination tasks, we could look at including work with IDVAs.
- CP mentions that in Thames Valley the coordinators from different VAW strands meet and discuss work. This has helped them understand each others roles they are now beginning to take ownership of there work. This is costly exercise in terms of time but is very helpful in the long run.
- CP confirmed she would be happy to share results with the team at the April coordinators seminar.

**Action point: JW to bring an update on the rationalisation work to the 14<sup>th</sup> April VAW ECG.**

**ITEM 6: EXPANSION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN INDICATOR:**

- JW gave an overview of this paper. JW explained with regards to expansion of VAW indicator we had been considering including: child abuse, crimes against the elderly and forced marriage and honour crimes. After discussing we have proposed to wait as we are not yet in the position to say what the targets would be until we have gathered baseline data. We will continue to measure DV, Rape and sexual offences data against targets and monitor the other VAW strands data for 3 years between 2008 – 11 to develop a baseline for consideration of targets from 2011 onwards.
- RB asks whether there is a commitment to a set target for human trafficking and prostitution.
- JW explained this will be looked at after 2011, but we will monitor the data and from now until 2011 consider the indicator then.
- LK asks if the ECG will get to see the baseline data as it develops.
- JW stated that this would need to be discussed with the PAG and Board. The data will be available through our annual reports and other reports we may publish and discussions with BDD will be needed if further data is needed.
- AG questions how Forced marriage and honour crimes indicator will be monitored under both civil and criminal matter.
- FJ and ES confirmed that as it is not a criminal offence, it wouldn't be picked up or monitored by the CPS.
- GC asked about those that would be linked to criminal cases.
- FJ confirmed we could not pull this information out but would gather data on any criminal cases.

**ITEM 7: METHODS TO MEASURE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) VICITM SUPPORT, SAFETY AND SATISFACTION:**

- JW gave an overview of this paper: Meetings were held of a cross-government/external partners VAW V&W project to develop scoping of this

work during Q2 and Q3. This includes work with Professor Liz Kelly and Professor Sylvia Walby as advisors and linking across OCJR, ACPO, MoJ and HO. Existing national and international work was reviewed by December 2008. Exploration is also underway of links to HO research into a sexual violence survey and into the British Crime Survey. A background report will be produced to inform the development of the methodology and consulted on with the voluntary sector in February.

- All members of the group were happy to be contacted about being invited to the February steering group meeting.

**Action point: GA to invite external organisation members to the February steering group meeting.**

***ITEM 8: CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER EXPANSION OF IDVAs, ISVAs, SDVCs:***

- FJ gave an overview of this paper.
- AG asked whether there had been a review of SDVCs, IDVAs and ISVAs.
- JW confirmed there had been.
- LK raised concern that the ISVA training and framework is a DV framework. There are unresolved issues regarding models not taking into account the specialist and complex SV issues.
- LK also raised concern with problem solving courts for prostitution; these are ok for those selling sex, but she would not be happy with them being used by offenders who are buying sex/offenders.
- FJ confirmed we are looking at this more from the point of view of prostitution referral orders being used to help get women out of sex work.
- ML agreed there is an issue with ISVA training being based on the IDVA model, which may result in the production of advocates that are not suitable for the role.
- KB also raised that Newham IDVAs are going into Crown Courts.
- FJ stated this paper is quite generic and there will also be issues for BME survivors and other equality strands. We will take this into account when looking at training and models.
- All agreed JW will take back the following issues from this discussion to the working group:
  - Work on DV within Crown Courts, including training for Crown Court.
  - Expanding the specialist court model beyond DV.
  - Expanding ISVAs, IDVAs and other specialist support for victims – but consideration of a new model appropriate for all VAW and not just for DV
  - Specialised support and training for all services.
  - Capacity issues for all VAW services.
- RB raised taking back the point of whether we are asking advocates to have specialisms, or to know something about all the VAW strands.
- RB also raised the need for more specialist prostitution services.
- AG raised the need to look at whether as work with IDVAs expands; this erodes the work of stand alone specialist organisations.

- JW confirmed she will take these points back.
- VAW ECG requested information on the Review of IDVAs and ISVAs when available.

**ITEM 9: FORCED MARRIAGE AND SO-CALLED 'HONOUR' CRIME:**

- FJ introduces Christine Magill CPS Research team; Lynne Townley CPS Policy Team and Nazir Afzal CPS London Sector Director.
- Christine Magill gave an overview of the key findings from the analysis of the CPS forced marriage pilot, published in the 'CPS pilot on forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime – findings December 2008 report.
- Lynne Townley gave an overview of the recommendations from the analysis of the CPS forced marriage pilot, published in the 'CPS pilot on forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime – findings December 2008 report.
- NA commented there has been extensive media coverage around the forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime issue. Jasvinder Sanghera's book Daughters of Shame has received 5 stars by The Times and a film looking at honour crime issues will be released in March. A young Swedish group will be visiting NA in February in relation to work on forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime by the Swedish Government.
- NA visited Hampshire and was surprised at the high number of forced marriage cases coming forward. He will be looking at the following issues: disability, same sex gender and use of expert witnesses in forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime cases.
- LT distributed copies of the CPS News article from January 2009, issue 120 titled 'Successful inter-agency working and cooperation' this article mentions community engagement that LT has been doing in relation to forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime.
- LT confirmed the CPS will continue to flag forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime cases on the Case Management System in order to make prosecutors aware of the specialist requirements involved.
- LT will also be producing an Aide Memoire for prosecutors to be displayed in charging rooms.
- **Comments from External members:**
- HS commented this research confirms what we have known for a long time and shows the primary victims are women and men are secondary in many cases because of their relationship with the women. As this is a gendered issue, we must ensure it is linked to existing policies around VAW.
- HS was concerned about the family control aspect. Definition of family in this county does not include extended family. Most cases are based around domestic violence and family situations; therefore we must also take this into account in DV Policy.
- HS asked how the recommendations from the report will be taken forward and what role will support/voluntary organisations play?
- AG also asked how we will work on community engagement, with external partners and the FMU.

- LT responded that how multi-agency work is involved is devolved to Areas, therefore it varies between Areas. We will be looking at how we can pass on Good Practice across the board. LT also plans to meet with the FMU to discuss this further.
- JW stated that some of the group issues were clearly policy and LT was taking the lead on this. JW proposed reconvening the steering group to see how we should take this forward.
- Group agreed.
- AG asked whether it would be possible to be consulted on the Aide Memoire
- LT confirmed she would forward a copy of the DV Aide Memoire as an example and discuss consultation of the forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime Aide Memoire with the steering group.
- AG raised concerned with the terminology "honour crime" being used. She mentioned a different terminology which is now being used in India.
- NA confirmed they could take this up in the steering group once it reconvenes.
- KB raised the use of risk assessment in MARACs not working well in terms of forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime. This has not been noted in the recommendations, but it is noted in the findings that appropriate risk assessment development may need to be looked at.
- LK raised concern with MARACs, IDVAs etc and the issues of womens' privacy and consent in terms of information sharing between agencies – we need to be mindful in terms of policy and breaching Human Rights legislation.
- CP stated the need to be mindful of having support agencies and processes already in place for victims, alongside raising awareness and reporting of forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime.
- HS asked whether the CPS would also look at the guidance around women as offenders. A lot of women are being re-victimised and convicted of murder, for example, in the context of a forced marriage and so-called 'honour' crime situation.

**Action point: LT to forward the DV Aide Memoire to AG.**

**Action point: LT to investigate whether anything on women offenders is available in terms of prosecutor guidance.**

**Action point: GA to arrange a meeting for the forced marriage/so-called honour crime steering group for last week in February 2009.**

#### ***ITEM 10: FORECASTING AND RISK:***

- JW gave an overview of this - see page 4 on highlight report.
- CT is working on a VAW Messages sheet and once completed it will be circulated electronically for comments.

#### ***ITEM 11: DATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF 2009 MEETINGS:***

- Next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 2.15pm – 4.15pm room 710 – 712 at CPS HQ London, EC4 7EX. The theme for this meeting will be Rape.

- 303
- The following reps will be representing the VAW ECG at the VAW PAG which will be on **21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 1pm – 4pm**
    - **Emma Scott** – Rights of Women
    - GA will also contact **Lee Eggleston** at Rape Crisis with reference to representing the VAW ECG at VAW PAG.



## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS EXTERNAL CONSULTATION GROUP**

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2013, 2pm-4pm  
Room 3.01, CPS HQ London**

### **Attendees:**

Jude Watson	(JW) VAWG Strategy Manager (Chair)
Asha Odedra	(AO) VAWG Strategy Manager
Melissa Altman	(MA) Refuge
Hilary Fisher	(HF) Women's Aid
Heather Harvey	(HH) Eaves Housing
Diane Hurlley	(DH) HMCPSI
Sally Jackson	(SJ) Standing Together
Lia Latchford	(LL) Imkaan
Pam Miller	(PM) NSPCC
Lena Parmar	(LP) CPS Strategy and Policy Directorate Policy Advisor
Nicola Perkins	(NP) Equality and Diversity Policy Advisor
Neelam Sarkaria	(NS) CPS Strategy and Policy Directorate Team Leader
Alison Sprawson	(AS) CPS Strategy and Policy Directorate Team Leader
Paula Ellis	(PE) PA/Director, Public Accountability and Inclusion

### **Apologies:**

Hannah Camplin (HC) (Rights of Women), Rachel Griffin (Suzy Lamplugh Trust), Diana Barran (CAADA), Jo Todd (Respect), Gillian Finch (Cisters), Julia Long (NIA) and Vivienne Hayes (Women's Resource Centre).

### **Item 1 Introductions**

JW welcomed everyone and thanked those who had attended the ad-hoc meeting on CPS Refocusing agenda on 13 May 2013.

### **Item 2 Minutes from March 2013**

JW went through the action points of the March 2013 meeting:

Action 1: Complete.

Action 2: Outstanding.

Action: AO to send WCU 'greatest need' checklist to HC but will now sent to all the meeting.

Action 3: Complete.

Action 4: Outstanding.

Action: JW/AO to advise VAWG Coordinators to involve third sector organisations with PCCs.

Action 5: No responses received but to attendees to continue to feedback.

Action 6: AO to hold offline refocusing discussion with HMCPSI.

Action 7: Complete.

Action 8: NS said they are deferring work on updating the Special Measures legal guidance until after finalisation of the Child Sexual Abuse Guidance.

Action 9: Complete.

308  
Action 10: Complete.

### **Item 3 Child Sexual Abuse Guidelines**

NS informed the group that the DPP launched the interim guidelines on prosecuting cases of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) today and asked attendees to feedback to the consultation which closes on 3 September [http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/csa\\_consultation\\_index.html](http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/csa_consultation_index.html). Key points from NS's updated included consideration of:

- Early consultation between Police and CPS and looking at how cases would be managed through Rape and Serious Sexual Offence Units within each CPS Area.
- OCC risk factors.
- Victim support including counselling and pre-trial therapy where appropriate.
- Taking a statement.
- Informing telling the victim about other allegations and trawling.
- Section on the credibility/reliability of child or young person.
- Focusing on the credibility of the allegation and the offender rather than the victim.
- Identifying children at risk.
- Looking at the wider context of the victims surroundings including previous convictions eg victims sometimes commit survival crime.
- Case presentation in court.
- Myths and stereotypes raised in court should be addressed. NS would welcome thoughts on whether it would be helpful to have an annex setting out myths and stereotypes.
- Future funding and numbers will be an issue for registered intermediaries.
- Special measures and support to victims and witnesses in court.
- Third party material including information sharing protocols with local authorities.

### **Item 4 Social Media Guidelines**

NS explained that on 19 December 2012, the DPP published interim guidelines on prosecution cases involving social media which will be subject to a three month consultation up to 13 March this year. Six roundtable meetings were held and 50 different organisations attended. 59 responses were received and the interim guidelines were amended. The definitive legal guidance will be published in next couple of weeks.

HH said that issues around gender discrimination issues raised by End Violence Against Women Coalition and Eaves had not been reflected in the published guidelines. HH added this was particularly important as there had been an enormous misogynistic backlash against any woman having a public platform and speaking out especially on issues of women's rights. HH also wanted to know how the decisions were reached that meant that the gender discrimination points were not represented. NS said she will find out who attended the roundtable meetings and email HH regarding the her point about gender discrimination.

**Action: NS will provide HH with list of roundtable attendees and send information in relation to the gender aspect of the social media guidelines.**

AO added there would be a CPS response to the consultation.

### **Item 5 Extreme pornography**

NS said the offence of possessing extreme pornography came into force on 26 January 2009. The Legal Guidance has been revised to reflect evidential and public interest considerations. And helpful comments were received from the Community Accountability Forum (CAF).

HH advised the ECG that there was a serious gap in legislation regarding the depiction of rape or simulated rape. HH added that it was also legal to show adults having sex with someone dressed as a child. HH is pursuing this with MoJ as well.

**Action: NS to provide link to Extreme Pornography Legal Guidance to ECG and share comments around wider issues related, but not covered by the guidance.**

### **Item 6 CPS VAWG action plan 2012/13 update**

AO outlined updates the CPS action plans including:

- Child Sexual Abuse (CSA): interim legal guidance had been launched for consultation; a network of specialist prosecutors has been established and Rape and Serious Sexual Offence Units (RASSO) were being rolled out.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party protocols: work on-going centrally on rolling out protocols in relation to child sexual abuse.
- ECG meeting held in May on CPS Refocusing to discuss Standard Operating Practice (SOP) for the Magistrates' Court which had been developed following views from ECG members and RASSO minimum standards. AO was grateful to those who attended the May meeting and to those who agreed to be part of a virtual unit. Others are welcome to join.
- Minimum standards for RASSO Units are near completion and rollout schedule for later this year. JW advised that it was proposed that, as a minimum, RASSO Units cover all the rape and penetrative offences, crown court child sexual offences, cases with multiple victims, sexual offences with vulnerable adults and youth court rape and sexual offence cases.
- High weighted measure for VAWG is currently being developed. Seeking to set an expectation of a 75% conviction rate for VAWG. Further updates on sub-targets will be provided at a later date.
- VAWG assurance process for Q3/Q4 2012/13 complete. Annual performance report due to be published later in the year. For the next VAWG assurance process, VAWG strategy manager will approach ECG for brief commentary on their views on how CPS Areas are performing on VAWG issues.
- Reviewing policies, guidance and training across VAWG issues.
- Supporting prosecutions involving harmful traditional practices. The CCP and VAWG champion, Nazir Afzal, is very interested on this issue and

307

wants to gather as much information around VAWG and cultural issues eg around female foeticide or front room exorcisms. To be discuss in a future meeting.

- NS mentioned that the DPP had held an FGM roundtable meeting and the work is nearly finalised. HH asked if they could contribute and NS agreed that would be useful.

**Action: NS to contact HH**

- SDVC Steering Group meeting had been postponed to July.
- Considering feasibility of applying SDVC models to the youth courts. Due to be arranging information sharing with local criminal justice agencies in July.
- Address ways to improve the support to victims in the prosecution of DV cases – to be discussed later in the meeting.

**Item 7 DV non-engagement or withdrawal of victims**

JW explained that research was carried out last year on DV, non-engagement or withdrawal of victims over four months in one CPS Area and looked at every case where the victim refused to engage or formally retracted and measured what happened after that. A focus group with IDVAs was also held.

Main issues for victim safety were:

- appropriate bail conditions;
- prosecution of harassment and stalking offences;
- applications of restraining orders on conviction and acquittal;
- special measures; and
- the prosecution of any breaches.

Recommendations included around:

- improving the use of other evidence;
- ensuring better awareness on these issues and the prevention of withdrawal;
- addressing victims' safety better;
- appropriate use of summonses; and
- multi-agency communication systems with victims and their services.

The findings will also be discussed at the Community Accountability Forum before a formal launch later in the year. The findings will be used to inform the domestic violence policy in the future. ECG considered the papers which led to discussions around:

- Better recording of victim non-participation and pressure from the family: not recorded nationally and sometimes patchy but does not impact on our practice in this area and research recommends better understanding the reasons behind a retraction

- Any impact of work around Reducing Bureaucracy on the use of DASH? -

LP responded that there are pilots being run in Hampshire and Thames Valley. LP added that she had attended a meeting in April about risk assessments and DASH but any follow up could be provided at the next meeting.

**Action: LP to provide any update on DASH for September ECG**

### **Item 8 ECG Membership**

AO asked if members are happy for the following organisations to be removed from the circulation list: Ethnic Minority Foundation (EMF), MPIA, Queen Mary University and Voice UK. It was agreed that a letter be sent to members to advise.

AO asked if there any suggestions for new reps. Possible organisations are Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse; Mothers against Murder and Aggression; and College of Policing. The meeting were happy for these organisations to join the ECG. AS suggested Women's Break Out as a new member. HF suggested Women in Prisons.

**Action: AS to pass details of Women's Break Out to JW.**

**Action: VAWG Strategy Manager to write to organisations to inform that they are being removed from the ECG.**

**Action: VAWG Strategy Manager to write to organisations to invite them to the ECG.**

### **Item 9 Report on charging allegedly false allegations**

AO explained that the report, published on 13 March, provided an insight into charging in relevant cases over a 17-month period. All CPS Areas were required to refer relevant cases to the DPP and a review found that:

- 5,651 prosecutions for rape;
- 35 prosecutions for false allegations of rape;
- around 111,891 DV prosecutions;
- 6 prosecutions for false allegations of DV;
- a further 3 people charged with making false allegations of both rape and DV;
- the majority of suspects of false allegation were female and nearly half were 21 and under. A significant number of cases involved third party report. Alcohol and drugs, previous conviction and issues such as mental health;
- where it was possible to prove the falsity of an original allegation, the evidence relied on was sources such as CCTV or independent witnesses; and
- complex cases.

The next steps are to look at tweaking the legal guidance to support prosecutors looking at these cases. 25% of cases would also be reviewed as part of the wider VAWG assurance process and dip sampling 25% of cases to assure the DPP of the quality and consistency of the decision making.

309

HH said 38% of decisions involved third party reporting and asked for an example. AO responded that it included parents reporting on children's behalf. JW added that the volume of under-21 cases was shocking, the report is made by the parent or whoever and then it spirals out of control.

HH asked if the CPS addressing the issues around third party reporting. AO responded that it feeds into the intention of the suspect so if somebody did not intend to pervert the course of justice or did not intend for somebody to get arrested. In cases where a third party may have reported that alleged crime it might be less likely that intent could be proven. LP added that this should be looked at in conjunction with the Perverting the Course of Justice Guidance.

### **Item 10 CPS DV Policy and Training Update**

LP wrote to ECG members earlier this year. LP had been working with JW to consolidate documents. Currently the documents were being finalised to go out for public consultation later in the year and would include:

- revised government definition of DV;
- changing the emphasis on evidence gathering and case building;
- information sharing from children's services;
- engagement with partners and IDVAs and ISVAs;
- importance of risk assessments;
- information around claims of self-defence and counter allegations. This will be useful for partners and media;
- more information on withdrawal of statements; and
- developing and expanding on individual dynamics and information on specific groups eg victims within teenage relationship, older women in abusive relationships, child to parent violence and neglect of older relative.

HH asked about no recourse to public funds. LP advised that there was a short section around refuge and asylum seekers.

**Action: HH to share information on no recourse to public funds with LP.**

LP said a training package was also being developed. JW said we did a cyber-stalking training package at the end of last year but developing a short package on stalking with CPD points and working on an update on forced marriage honour based violence training. An ECG member said they did the cyber stalking training and it was really good.

SJ said in SDVC a number of harassment cases coming through and when you look at the case it could easily have been charged as stalking. Particularly with CPS Direct, could some work be done at the early stage so that people are thinking stalking rather than harassment as a charge? JW said the legislation that came in November, it is very small numbers of stalking cases that have been prosecuted and completed.

MA asked about links to other areas and LP advised that within the whole document will be links to other guidance. MA asked about restraining orders. AS said they were considering what prosecutors need to know when looking at cases. LP said restraining order is already in the wider training package.

### **Item 11 Victims' right to review**

NP spoke at the last ECG meeting on the Victims' Right to Review scheme and wanted to give an update on the consultation taking place at present. The scheme was finalised and launched on 5 June. The VRR only applies to cases where we've made the decision on or after 5 June so we expect the volume to increase over the course of the next few months. The scheme has gone live and the consultation ends on 5 September. We want a wide range of views to inform the finalisation of the scheme by the end of the year.

Asked the meeting to read through the document and provide detailed views as it's essential the scheme is of benefit to VAWG victims. The document is available on the CPS website [http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/vrr\\_consultation\\_index.html](http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/vrr_consultation_index.html). There are five key questions at the end of the document:

1. Do you agree the guidance is clear in respect of which decisions fall within the scope of the scheme?
2. Do you agree that the guidance clearly sets out how victims can exercise their right to review?
3. Do you agree that the guidance clearly sets out the basis of the victims' right to review, reflecting existing principles for reconsidering a prosecution decision?
4. Do you consider that the proposed time limits are appropriate?
5. Are there any other issues you think should be considered and addressed in the guidance?

The following cases do not fall within the scope of VRR:

- (i) cases where the police exercise their independent discretion not to investigate or not to investigate a case further (whether in consultation with the CPS or not) where a full file of evidence has not been provided with a view to the CPS taking a formal prosecution decision;
- (ii) cases where a single charge or charges are discontinued but another charge or charges relating to that victim do continue;
- (iii) cases where a single charge or charges are substantially altered but proceedings involving that victim continue;
- (iv) cases which are concluded by way of out of court disposal; and
- (v) cases where the victim requests that proceedings be stopped.

AO reiterated that where the charge is substantially altered or if victim reported rape and the charge doesn't reflect their initial allegation, they may not be able to seek recourse through the VRR scheme. NP added that cases where there is out of court disposal where the suspect has received a caution and also where the victim has asked for the case to be stopped wouldn't be included in the scheme.

HH asked for the rationale for excluding both these important cases and talked about how community resolutions have been used. AS said out of court disposals are nothing to do with CPS and the majority don't come to us, particularly community resolutions. Suggested HH take up issues with ACPO.

HH asked about the rape example. AS said she thought it would go to judicial review or there is the internal complaints system. NP added that this matter hasn't been resolved yet there have been legal arguments going on for about 18 months and reiterated that it would be useful for detailed views to be submitted to consultation.

HH asked if the meeting could see the record of arguments that had taken place around certain elements of the VRR scheme to inform their response to the consultation. NP said she would get evidence of arguments for and against.

The complaints policy has also been revised to reflect VRR and an Independent Assessor of Complaints has been appointed to deal with non-legal Stage 3 complaints.

**Action: NP to provide evidence of arguments that had taken place around certain elements of the VRR scheme.**

**Update:**

*The reasoning behind the exclusion of out of court disposals is twofold:*

- i. Out of court disposals which impose a warning or an obligation (and we think we can say simple cautions do) are specifically excluded from the forthcoming EU Directive on Victims referred to in Killick and*
- ii. Out of court disposals are the end result of a criminal process – they are not (technically) the same as decisions not to prosecute or to 'terminate' proceedings (as explored in Killick) as there is both a process (albeit this is non-court) and a final 'disposal'.*

*Cases*

- a. where a single charge or charges are discontinued but another charge or charges relating to that victim do continue or*
- b. where a single charge or charges are substantially altered but proceedings involving that victim continue*

*are not included in the scheme because*

- i. proceedings involving the victim are still proceeding and*
- ii. it would simply not be practical to regularly transfer the management of live and continuing prosecutions to other prosecutors for review – this would cause delays that the court would not tolerate.*

### **Item 12 CAF papers**

AO apologised that papers for the 24 June Community Accountability Forum (CAF) meeting had not yet been circulated. Members have a draft agenda. Issues being covered are research on DV, PCJ, probably CSA and Social Media Guidelines. AO asked if there were any volunteers to attend the meeting with HC on behalf of ECG.

PM said she would attend the 9 September CAF meeting.



**Action: Details of forthcoming CAF meeting dates to be sent to ECG members.**

JW asked if someone who had attended this ECG meeting could contact HC to give her an update as she was not at ECG.

**Action: HH will contact HC regarding 11June ECG meeting in advance of CAF meeting on 24 June.**

**AOB**

None.

**Next ECG Meeting: 4 September 2013**



**CPS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS  
EXTERNAL CONSULTATION GROUP**

**9 December 2015**

**Attendees:**

Di Hurlley	HMCPSI
Jonathan Ellis	HMCPSI
Belinda Smith	NSPCC
Sian Hawkins	Women's Aid
Namita Prakash	The Survivors Trust
Lee Eggleston	Rape Crisis
Nicole Jacobs	Standing Together
Tina Reece	Welsh Women's Aid
Emma Scott	Rights of Women
Kristiana Wrixon	Suzy Lamplugh Trust
Heather Harvey	NIA
Jude Watson	VAWG Strategy Manager
Asha Odedra	VAWG Strategy Manager
Vic Mall	Deputy VAWG Strategy Manager

**Apologies:**

Fay Maxsted	Survivors Trust
Clare Laxton	Womens Aid
Jenny Hopkins	CCP East of England and VAWG Champion
Hilary Fisher	Womens Aid
Rahni Binjie	NIA
Lisa King	Refuge
Jo Todd	RESPECT
Sally Jackson	Standing Together
Jo Harvey Barringer	Broken Rainbow
Diana Barran	SafeLives

**Agenda Item 1: Introductions**

The VAWG Strategy Managers opened the meeting and thanked everyone for joining.

**Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Actions from September 2015 Meeting**

ECG members cleared the minutes from the meeting in September.

AO gave an update to the actions:

<b>List of Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>
Check Home Office working group on victim and witness satisfaction with the police <i>Vic still chasing Smita Kaur at the Home Office</i>	VAWG SM

<p>VAWG SM to liaise with Louisa Rolfe, Police lead on Domestic Abuse, to discuss how we can improve police recording and pull out the information on the relationships between perpetrator and victim. Also to discuss findings from the pilot project in Hammersmith which is tracking cases</p> <p><b><i>The VAWG Strategy Managers have approached Louisa Rolfe to meet which she is happy to do so however as she is currently overseeing another job role pressures are too high to do so at present</i></b></p>	VAWG SM
<p>ECG to compile a letter to HMCTS, Police and CPS asking them to look at data collection with the offer of forming a working group to help support the work</p> <p><b><i>Carried forward – ECG to meet in March to discuss the common IT Platform and men’s issues before this is taken any further</i></b></p>	ECG
<p>VAWG SM to find out the current schedule for the Common IT Platform</p> <p><b><i>AO met with the CPS lead John Pears to discuss progress; The common IT platform will be a phased project. Delivery is envisaged to begin in 2018.</i></b></p>	VAWG SM
<p>VAWG SM to update on the Out of Court Disposal Pilots and discuss findings</p> <p><b><i>To be discussed in Agenda Item 3</i></b></p>	VAWG SM
<p>Lee to send VAWG SM details on the meeting where the police presented on Out of Court Disposals</p> <p><b><i>Completed</i></b></p>	Lee
<p>VAWG SM to find out where the criminal injuries compensation policy sits and how the CPS can influence</p> <p><b><i>The Criminal Injuries Compensation Policy does sit with the MoJ</i></b></p> <p><b><i>MoJ have said they are not looking to further reform the scheme and its rules following the last consultation and changes in 2012. There are no plans to consult for the foreseeable future</i></b></p> <p><b><i>LE advised that Rape Crisis will now be taking this to Baroness Goddard Independent Enquiry. She informed the group individuals are now being asked to pay for their own medicals (value up to £50) as evidence in order to apply for the fund</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Action: LE to feedback to group any progress on taking the Criminal Injuries Compensation Policy to the Independent Enquiry</i></b></p>	VAWG SM

Jude to speak with Marion Langford to raise the issues with criminal injuries compensation policy at one of the cross-government roundtables <b>Completed</b>	Jude
Issues around the mis-use of PCJ to be raised at the next RASSO Unit Heads meeting <b>Completed</b>	VAWG SM
Invite specific groups to next ECG to discuss reporting of male victims as part of the VAWG <b>Deferred to meeting in March</b>	VAWG SM
Circulate briefing to CPS Areas on the use of the term VAWG to further clarify the departmental position <b>Completed</b>	VAWG SM
VAWG Strategy Managers to share the list of CPS data caveats with ECG members <b>Completed</b>	VAWG SM
VAWG Strategy Managers to circulate Pam's email listing data requirements and queries <b>Completed</b>	VAWG SM
ECG to write to Nicole Jacobs and Heather Harvey ASAP to outline all data related issues in relation to VAWG reporting in the CJS <b>Carry forward</b>	ECG
ECG members to email in suggestions and thoughts on automatic summonses <b>Carry forward – thoughts still welcome</b>	ECG
VAWG SM to consider proactive media around the CPS and PCJ <b>CPS National Press Office have been informed</b>	VAWG SM
Neil to raise point around the level of VAWG experience the mental health specialists have within the liaison and diversion pilots <b>The health specialists have not had specific training in VAWG. The locations of the pilots are listed and attached to the covering email for these minutes.</b>	Neil Moore
VAWG SM to send Matthew the original advice they collated on how to do an effective survey of DA victims and witnesses. MM and Clare Laxton, plus other interested groups, to meet separately to discuss <b>Matthew McGonagle to contact Women's Aid and set up a meeting in the New Year before the next ECG meeting</b>	VAWG SM
Matthew to provide update on adult survivors of child sexual abuse in the next ECG meeting	Matthew

<b>Matthew will update the group at the meeting in March</b>	McGonagle
Vic to feedback to the group following the meeting with the Director on VAWG and Social Media <b>Discussed in Agenda Item 8</b>	Vic
Vic to make contacted with GEO on online VAWG issues <b>Vic has been in contact with Carol O'Connor from the GEO who works in the gender policy team.</b> <b>GEO are involved in a number of initiatives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Stop online abuse; this is a 'one stop shop' webpage which advises on what help you can access if you have suffered any form of online abuse and what the law says.</b></li> <li>- <b>Revenge porn helpline; GEO hold the funding for this. The helpline is funded up until March and they will be doing some evaluation. Safer internet campaign; this gives advice to teachers around the sorts of bullying young people are experiencing online and what is and isn't illegal.</b></li> <li>- <b>PSHE toolkit; this toolkit has been developed so that teachers can download information to teach children about the risks of cyber bullying/revenge porn.</b></li> <li>- <b>Online Safety Briefings; face to face online safety briefings available to anyone have also been delivered across the country</b></li> <li>- <b>Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP); this is a programme for parents in order for them to understand what their children are/could be exposed to.</b></li> <li>- <b>This is abuse campaign; likely to be re-launched and updated 2015/16. TV adverts and interactive online material.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>They are intending on setting up a working group of officials who work on online/cyber policy the CPS have indicated they would like to be involved.</b></p>	Vic
Vic to contact ECG when then January ECG has been rearranged <b>Completed</b>	Vic

### **Agenda Item 3: CPS VAWG Action Plans**

AO ran the group through the embedded table outlining the proposed actions for each of the VAWG strands for 2015-16.



Item 3 CPS VAWG  
Action Plan 2015-16.c

The below extra information was given for the following strands:

**Identification of good practice and victim issues with Victim CCP lead – DA deep dive in 5 courts;** VM confirmed the Deep Dive Visits have now concluded and the findings of these were presented at the Cross CJS Victim and Witness Board in October.

The findings reflect the recommended components within the SDVC manual however there are a few changes and extra components that came out of the exercise.

The board decided the findings should be presented to the National Criminal Justice Board and Ministers should decide how to take this work forward.

This work should run in line with the work being undertaken on SDVCs.

**Review of specialist DV Courts – final submissions and actions with MoJ and HO;** JW confirmed the MoJ have now finalised the list of SDVCs across the country and reviewed the current position. Due to MoJ issues following the announcements made in the spending review and further potential court closures MoJ have decided to postpone the submission across government to Ministers recommending a re-launch of the SDVCs.

However operational changes can still be implemented and as such CPS/MoJ/HO will work together to update the SDVC resource manual following the findings of the domestic abuse deep dive exercise and ask SDVCs and all other Areas to implement these practices and processes.

Further to this Areas will be asked to inform Local Criminal Justice Boards and the National SDVC Steering Group of any changes to courts within their Areas in order for there to be an accurate picture of what is happening on the ground.

The CPS will be updating the Director for Public Prosecutions on the progress of this work and requesting approval.

To note: An article in the Guardian referred to specialist courts.

[http://gu.com/p/4ez9v?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](http://gu.com/p/4ez9v?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

**Restorative Justice Issues:** MoJ/HO/Police have met to discuss restorative justice and domestic abuse.

The MoJ are producing guidance on Restorative Justice and domestic abuse with a focus on risk assessments and safety issues.

Considerations include: Restorative justice may be appropriate (case depending) for those involved in sibling abuse and in some cases re family abuse. For those instances where coercion or control is evidenced restorative justice may not be suitable. This is the same for cases of HBV. The guidance is only in draft form.

The group queried what was being done around restorative justice and sexual violence the VAWG SM explained the focus was on domestic abuse and that ECG members should contact the MoJ to take this forward.

**Action – HH and LE to contact the MoJ to request guidance for the use of Restorative Justice in sexual abuse cases. JW will raise this at the next meeting**

318

**Out of Court Disposal pilots;** JW informed the group of the progress of the two types of out of court disposal pilots: project CARA and the MoJ/HO/CPS/Police pilots.

Project CARA – This project involves a control group whereby defendants are given a simple caution and then a solution focussed approach whereby the other defendants are given two sessions focussed on rehabilitation and effects of their behaviour on the victims. An interim report is being published in February outlining the findings of this pilot.

MoJ/HO/CPS/Police pilot – three OOCDD pilots are running. Data is currently being collated on what conditions are being used and their impact. This will be published within a report in 2016.

**Action – JW to enquire whether she can share the Project CARA evaluation and MoJ/HO/CPS/Police pilot report in Spring with the ECG**

**Action – Womens Aid to share their thoughts on project CARA with the VAWG SM**

JW confirmed that Louise Rolfe endorsed the MoJ/HO/CPS/Police OOCDD Pilots.

**Revenge pornography – assessment of law, develop new guidance;** SM updated the group - Guidance on the new law has been issued to prosecutors. An issue has been raised by the Helpline around the anonymity of the victim in these cases. Victims are quite often being named in the media. SM is liaising with the Helpline and to address this issue, currently prosecutors can only make an application for reporting restrictions as witness anonymity orders can only be applied for when the defendant does not know the identity of the victim or witness.

**Stalking;** SM updated the group – Stalking SPOCs have been established in all CPS Areas. A working group has been implemented which is looking at developing and implementing a training solution to ensure correct and successful prosecutions of stalking cases are achieved. Paladin kindly offered for prosecutors to attend their face-to-face specialised stalking training, which was gladly accepted and prosecutors from each CPS Area attended.

The NPCC and HO have launched a consultation around introducing a new Stalking Protection Order which the CPS has supported.

Garry Shewan, NPCC Stalking lead, has written to the PNC board asking that stalking cases are flagged. SM will update the group on progress.

**Action – SM to update the ECG on progress of ensuring stalking cases are flagged on PNC**

Members of the stalking working group will also be lobbying the sentencing council to provide sentencing guidelines on the stalking offences.

**Forced marriage and honour based violence;** VM confirmed that she had updated the list of specialist HBV and FM prosecutors within Areas and will be contacting them with a survey to decipher what training/action prosecutors require to ensure cases are correctly identified and prosecuted successfully. An action plan will then be created to address skills and process gaps.



The HMIC report [The depths of dishonour: Hidden voices and shameful crimes - An inspection of the police response to honour-based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation](#) was published on 8 December. VM will be reviewing the report and taking forward any actions falling from this as necessary. The Home Office are creating a cross government working group to address the issues raised and VM will attend on behalf of the CPS.

### **Trafficking**

The group noted the changes of name from Human Trafficking to Modern Slavery and requested that referral to trafficking especially sexual trafficking was made clear.

### **Prostitution**

The group queried the action being taken forward on prostitution. They requested that actions are drawn up on prosecuting prostitution including the laws on challenging demand. They asked that CPS draws up actions irrespective of the cross government plans.

**Action – VAWG SM to request specific actions to include in CPS action plan on prostitution policy and practice.**

### **Agenda Item 4: New offence of controlling or coercive behaviour**



Item 4 New Offence  
of Controlling or Coer

AO ran the ECG through the attached paper outlining the new offence which was announced on 5 December with a commencement date of 29 December.

AO led on the creation of the CPS legal guidance for this offence and a training pack for Areas to deliver to prosecutors.

The group queried the difference between this offence and the stalking offences. AO explained that the offence which is charged depends upon the status of the relationship at that time the offence took place. The legal guidance states:

*When selecting the appropriate charge, prosecutors should consider the status of the relationship. Where there is an ongoing relationship then the offence of controlling or coercive behaviour should be considered. Stalking and harassment offences may be appropriate if the victim and the perpetrator were previously in a relationship but no longer live together. These offences can also be charged in relation to activity that takes place between people who do not know each other and may never even have met one another.*

*There may be instances where the relationship status of the victim and perpetrator change a number of times during the investigation and prosecution. It is the status of the relationship at the time the offending behaviour was alleged to have taken place which is relevant.*

*A separate investigation and prosecution should be considered as appropriate if offending continues after the status of the relationship changes. For example, where:*

- an offence of controlling or coercive behaviour is in the process of being investigated or charged; and
- the victim and the perpetrator are no longer in an ongoing relationship but the offending continues; then
- the offence of stalking or harassment could also apply alongside the offence of controlling or coercive behaviour.

In these instances, and depending on the circumstances of the case, it may be appropriate to:

- Include offences related to controlling or coercive behaviour along with stalking or harassment offences on the same indictment; or
- Proceed with separate prosecutions for controlling or coercive behaviour and stalking and harassment. This approach might be more appropriate in circumstances where the defendant is on police or court bail and they continue to harass or stalk the victim. In these instances, the police should consider remanding the defendant in custody.

HH raised the issue that arises in HBV cases where families can often use the community to coerce or control the victims. AO clarified that within the guidance it states individuals can be charged for directly or indirectly coercing or controlling the victim.

The group queried how the offence will be monitored and what data it is possible to collect on the use of the new offence.

AO explained she has been working alongside CPSD (who are likely to charge the majority of these cases) and they will be monitoring the use of the offence.

The data can be pulled off the CPS Case Management System. The group said that gender breakdowns for these cases will be extremely important.

**Action – AO to update the ECG on data monitoring of the new offence; exploring what data can be collected and on an ongoing basis**

AO will be reviewing and updating the guidance and training as and when the offences start coming through the CJS system and lessons are learnt.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Domestic Abuse Products and Training Update**



Item 5 Domestic Abuse Training Update

JW ran the group through the proposed training plan for Domestic Abuse over 2015-16.

#### **Agenda Item 6: #ConsentIs Campaign**



Item 6 Consent Is Campaign on rape.do

Zoe Blah from CPS National Press Office attended the meeting to feedback on the #ConsentIs Twitter Campaign. The embedded report outlines the key messages around the campaign.

The campaign stemmed from the national rape conference held in January and the misinterpretation of the press on the 'offender centric' approach i.e. the media reported it was up to the males to evidence consent, which of course is incorrect.

The campaign provoked good conversations around the issue of consent. Zoe was pleased to see the myths and stereotypes around the issue being busted throughout the campaign and those who negatively participated being corrected and responded to by individuals and organisations without the need of the CPSs involvement.

Following the event CPS VAWG Champion Jenny Hopkins held a Q&A session addressing the common issues and queries raised throughout the campaign.

Zoe asked ECG for feedback on the campaign seeing as it was the first of this kind the CPS has ran. ECG were positive, they agreed it was well received and it was impressive how much media coverage it attracted within the National press.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Rape training update**



Item 7 Rape Training  
Update.doc

Marion Langford CPS Rape Policy Lead ran the ECG through the embedded training plan on rape.

Further information was provided on the below sections:

**Understanding Consent 2015 for advocates:** two of these courses will run per month up until June and then the position will be reviewed. The consent training for advocates requires them to produce; an opening speech, cross-examination and a closing speech.

**Joint Police and CPS Regional Workshops:** these are now all completed and feedback from Areas has been collated. The feedback was positive and the workshops have provoked closer working between the police and CPS locally. RASSO Unit Heads are facilitating more training for the police as and when required. The main concerns are around outstanding issues with third party protocol and the inconsistent adoption of the rape protocol across Areas.

**Rape 2 day F2F training:** six of these sessions were delivered in October and two courses per month will run up until June 2016. 72 prosecutors have been trained in total so far. Prosecutors within Complex Case Units are also being trained in case they are dealing with any complex cases of rape or child sexual abuse.

322

RASSO lawyers will be rotated out of the units every six months (those who have been there three-five years) having a consistent supply of these courses will ensure all new RASSO lawyers entering into the units will complete the training.

**Train the trainer for Area RASSO trainers;** 20 prosecutors have been trained to deliver the RASSO course ensuring there are enough trainers to succeed training proposals in 2015-16.

**Youth refresher training and youth specialist prosecutor training;** ECG asked how the data is collected for these offences i.e. are historic cases flagged as child abuse or as adult abuse. The CPS flag differently to the police which causes confusion. The police flag the age at the time the offence is committed.

**Action – JW to confirm how youth data is flagged**

ML confirmed youth courts now retain rape cases and can hold trials within the youth courts only needing to send them for sentence in the Crown Court.

Youth courts are therefore busier with RASSO cases.

### **Agenda Item 8: Cyber enabled VAWG**



Item 8 Cyber  
enabled VAWG v1.0.c

VM outlined the embedded paper on cyber enabled VAWG.

The Director for Public Prosecutions approved plans for the social media guidelines and cyber strategy to be updated and include sections on VAWG.

She also approved plans for Twitter to deliver training to prosecutors on the application and functions of the social media platform in order for prosecutors to understand how it can be used and how widely information can be spread and the types of information that can be sent.

**Action – VM to send the lines and sections on VAWG within the guidelines and strategy to the ECG**

**Action – VM to liaise with SM to see whether Facebook would be willing to conduct a similar training session to that which Twitter have offered**

**Action – VM to provide the ECG with information on the accountability of Social Media and Internet platforms for publishing inappropriate information and visuals**

KW informed ECG members that the NCA and Senior Police Officers are inviting individuals in to speak with them on the dangers of cybercrime.

**Action – KW to pass over contact details to anyone who is interested in speaking to the NCA on cybercrime**

HH asked whether or not perpetrators online activity and use of smartphones etc. to control and threaten victims can be used as key pieces of evidence in those cases of

grooming too. She gave the example of an individual being made to watch pornography and then being forced to conduct the sexual acts shown on their partner

AO has included this example in one of the case studies used in the coercive or controlling training.

**The next full ECG will be on Tuesday 1 March at 1pm**

**Actions from the meeting:**

<b>List of Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>
Check Home Office working group on victim and witness satisfaction with the police <b><i>Vic still chasing Smita Kaur at the Home Office</i></b>	VAWG SM
VAWG SM to liaise with Louisa Rolfe, Police lead on Domestic Abuse, to discuss how we can improve police recording and pull out the information on the relationships between perpetrator and victim. Also to discuss findings from the pilot project in Hammersmith which is tracking cases <b><i>The VAWG Strategy Managers have approached Louisa Rolfe to meet which she is happy to do so however as she is currently overseeing another job role pressures are too high to do so at present</i></b>	VAWG SM
ECG to compile a letter to HMCTS, Police and CPS asking them to look at data collection with the offer of forming a working group to help support the work <b><i>Carried forward – ECG to meet in March to discuss the common IT Platform and mens issues before this is taken any further</i></b>	ECG
LE to feedback to group any progress on taking the Criminal Injuries Policy to Independent Enquiry	VAWG SM
Invite specific groups to next ECG to discuss reporting of male victims as part of the VAWG	VAWG SM
ECG to write to Nicole Jacobs and Heather Harvey ASAP to outline all data related issues in relation to VAWG reporting in the CJS	ECG
ECG members to email in suggestions and thoughts on automatic summonses	ECG
Matthew McGonagle to meet with Womens Aid in the New Year to discuss the Victim and Witness Survey	Matthew McGonagle
Matthew to provide update on adult survivors of child sexual abuse in the next ECG meeting	Matthew McGonagle

HH and LE to contact the MoJ to request guidance for the use of Restorative Justice in sexual abuse cases. JW will raise this at the next meeting	HH and LE
JW to enquire whether she can share the Project CARA evaluation and MoJ/HO/CPS/Police pilot report with the ECG	VAWG SM
Womens Aid to share their thoughts on project CARA with the VAWG SM	Sian Hawkins
SM to update the ECG on progress of ensuring stalking cases are flagged on PNC	Sam Magness
VAWG SM to request specific actions to include in CPS action plan on prostitution policy and practice	VAWG SM
AO to update the ECG on data monitoring of the new offence; exploring what data can be collected and on an ongoing basis	VAWG SM
JW to confirm how youth data is flagged	JW
VM to send the lines and sections on VAWG within the guidelines and strategy to the ECG	Vic
VM to liaise with SM to see whether Facebook would be willing to conduct a similar training session to that which Twitter have offered	Vic
VM to provide the ECG with information on the accountability of Social Media and Internet platforms for publishing inappropriate information and visuals	Vic
KW to pass over contact details to anyone who is interested in speaking to the NCA on cybercrime	KW

**External Consultation Group**

<b>REPORT COVER NOTE</b>	
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	01/06/16
<b>Report Title</b>	CPS Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Action Plan Update June 2016
<b>Report Author</b>	VAWG Strategy Manager
<b>Report Highlights</b>	The information in the attached table summarises CPS work since the last ECG in March 2016.

