

APCC BULLETIN

Issue ten April 2022



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INTRODUCTION

This Bulletin is focused on how Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are committed to tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The continued threat that women and girls face every day is completely unacceptable and PCCs are driving the response and determined to make a real difference.

This year marks ten years since PCCs were first democratically elected and started making a real difference by giving the public a stronger voice in policing and criminal justice.

Throughout the year a new page on the APCC website, **Ten Years of PCCs Making A Difference** (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/ten-years-of-pccs-making-a-difference/>) will highlight areas of work that demonstrates how PCCs are making a real difference to the communities they serve.

Marc Jones

Chair of the APCC

APCC NEWS AND UPDATES

APCC VAWG ACTION PLAN

We recently published out our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) action plan.

This ambitious plan sets how PCCs are working with partner agencies, victims, and the wider community to end violence against women and girls. It includes priority actions and key deliverables that we will take forward to tackle the epidemic of VAWG that blights the lives of women and girls in both public and private spaces.

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/7498/apcc-vawg-action-plan-2022-23.pdf>

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/apcc-violence-against-women-and-girls-action-plan-2022-23/>

APCC VAWG SUMMIT

In February the APCC held a VAWG Summit which provided an opportunity to hear about the innovative and collaborative work that PCCs are engaged in with local and national partners in order to address the issue, lead from the front and drive positive change.

The VAWG Summit was hosted by the APCC Joint Victims' Leads, **Donna Jones** and **Sophie Linden**.

Speakers included:

Minister for Safeguarding, Rachel Maclean MP; the Victims' Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird QC; Chair of the Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust and former Inspector for HMICFRS, Zoe Billingham; Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs; and NPCC Lead for VAWG, Maggie Blyth.

VIEW THE PRESS RELEASE:

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/apcc-violence-against-women-and-girls-summit/>

TEN YEARS OF PCCS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In this, the tenth year of PCCs, we will be highlighting the innovative and impactful work that PCCs are doing to make a real difference to their local communities.

This will include challenging violence against women and girls; driving forward improvements to local criminal justice services; preventing crime and reducing re-offending; and tackling anti-social behaviour and addressing drug and alcohol abuse.

USEFUL LINK:

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/ten-years-of-pccs-making-a-difference/>

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS ARE PRIORITISING ACTION TO TACKLE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

(Donna Jones, APCC Joint Victims Lead and PCC for Hampshire and Sophie Linden, Joint Victims Lead and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime in London)

“We have a once in a generation opportunity to permanently uproot violence against women and girls, which is now epidemic in this country.”

Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary Zoe Billingham

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/news/news-feed/cross-system-approach-needed-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

The prevalence of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) across society is something that should profoundly concern all of us. The Office for National Statistics reported around one third of women over the age of 16 had experienced one form of harassment in the last 12 months in year ending June 2021¹. Whilst recent high profile and tragic incidents have elevated the issue in the eyes of both the media and policy makers, we know that it is only through sustained and targeted action that we can prevent violence, protect victims and put in place the cultural change necessary to end this epidemic of violence.

Our new **VAWG Action Plan** (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/7498/apcc-vawg-action-plan-2022-23.pdf>) sets out how we will do exactly that and rebuild public confidence in this area.

We want to drive a public health approach to tackling VAWG, where partners from across social policy come together to focus on the root causes of the issue. If we are to make a real impact then we must implement effective education, health, early identification and intervention programmes, alongside our diversion, prevention, perpetrator and victim and survivor services.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) have a central role in making this happen. Around England and Wales, we are speaking up for those survivors and victims,

some of whom are seeking justice through the criminal justice system, by placing them at the heart of this system.

We are committed to make the system work better for victims and we will be getting more powers to drive those changes in the months ahead.

In practical terms PCCs are prioritising VAWG more so than ever before. We are leading the way by commissioning quality local services, so that more of those that have suffered the life-changing impacts of VAWG are able to access the support they need.

For example, several PCCs have successfully received grant funding from the **Home Office Safer Streets Fund** (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safer-streets-fund-round-4-application-process>) to undertake targeted pieces of work to create safer spaces.

In addition, we fund high quality Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and other support for victims and survivors of rape and serious sexual assault. However, we recognise the chronic need for systemic change in this area and will continue to call for system leaders to do better for victims.

On the policing side, we publish police and crime plans, through which we hold our Chief Constables to account for the way police forces deliver investigations and support women and girls affected by VAWG. We are engaging closely with our colleagues in the National Police Chiefs' Council, supporting them in the delivery of their work to improve consistency in tackling this issue.

Our VAWG Action Plan focuses on how we can deliver a system wide approach to tackling and preventing VAWG; support PCCs to deliver quality services; hold police and criminal justice services to account and build public confidence in policing.

VAWG cannot be tackled overnight, nor can we address the underlying issues working in silos, only by working together will we see a step change in the treatment of women and girls. PCCs are committed to driving forward this agenda.

¹ Office for National Statistics, 'Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain', 24 August 2021, *All data related to Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain: 2 to 27 June 2021 - Office for National Statistics* (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/perceptionsofpersonalsafetyandexperiencesofharassmentgreatbritain/2to27june2021/relateddata>)

PCCs MAKING A DIFFERENCE

PCCS ARE LEADING THE WAY IN DELIVERING A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO VAWG

We have produced a VAWG graphic to showcase examples from PCCs on how they are working with partners locally to help end violence against women and girls.

The VAWG infographic is divided into four themes:

- Theme 1** Commissioning services of excellence
- Theme 2** Establishing a VAWG taskforce
- Theme 3** Prioritising VAWG through Police and Crime Plans and holding policing to account
- Theme 4** Other ways PCCs are leading the way in helping to end VAWG

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/ten-years-of-pccs-making-a-difference/helping-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-is-a-priority-for-pccs/>

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/>

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/public/apcc-bulletins>

LET'S GET TALKING

ABOUT THE APCC

The APCC is the national body which supports Police and Crime Commissioners and other local policing bodies across England and Wales to provide national leadership and drive strategic change across the policing, criminal justice and wider community safety landscape, to help keep our communities safe.

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(https://twitter.com/AssocPCCs?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Click on the links below to find out more about what we do:

ABOUT the APCC: The role of the PCCs is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/about-the-apcc/>)

APCC BUSINESS PRIORITIES: See our business plan and overview (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/campaigns/apcc-business-priorities/>)

APCC IMPACT REPORT: The Impact Report 2020/21 demonstrates the breadth of work and impact of the Association against its five business priorities (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/6924/impact-report-2021.pdf>)

LATEST NEWS: Up-to-date news updates from our website (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/>)

FIND YOUR PCC: Use our simple tool to locate the PCC in your area (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/find-your-pcc/>)

APCC BULLETINS: View previous bulletins (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/public/apcc-bulletins>)

YOU HAVE A VOICE: Short animated video explaining the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/videos/pcc-video-you-have-a-voice/>)

ENDS

