Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls: The Next Steps

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Wednesday 13th March 2013
10:15am – 4:30pm

Central London

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.
Overview

Each year more than one million women suffer from domestic violence, over 300,000 are sexually assaulted and, according to recent figures from the Ministry of Justice, Home Office and Office for National Statistics, 69,000 women are raped. It is estimated that the minimum cost of providing public services, including health, social and legal services, to female victims of violence is £36.7bn annually; notably, these figures do not include the substantial number of victims who never report such crimes.

Pledging to end violence against women and girls, the Government launched a national strategy entitled ‘Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls’ in March 2011, followed by ‘The Next Chapter’ in March 2012. Two years on from its initial release, much progress has been made across the strategy’s key themes: prevention, provision of services, partnership working, better justice outcomes and risk reduction. In the past year the Government has sought to strengthen the legal framework to better protect women and girls from violence, introducing two specific criminal offences of stalking (November 2012) and committing to creating new offences of forcing someone to marry against their will and breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order in 2013. The Government has also extended the definition of domestic violence to include coercive control and those aged 16-17, which will take effect from March 2013.

At a local level, it is envisaged that ongoing reforms to policing, the NHS, public health arrangements and local commissioning will address current gaps in service provision for women and girls, enabling services to be tailored to local needs and increasing accountability. Better training of front-line professionals will improve victims’ experiences of the criminal justice process, whilst the Victim Surcharge has recently been extended to increase financial support. The Government is clear that partnership working between local statutory and voluntary services will need to be strengthened in order to provide consistent, effective and robust support services for victims within the new local landscape.

Two years on from the launch of the Government’s strategy to end VAWG, this timely symposium provides an invaluable opportunity for local authorities and practitioners from across the police, social and health services to assess progress made over the last year, examine and understand the changing local landscape and explore the next steps in tackling VAWG.

Why Attend?

- Explore the progress made over the past year in tackling VAWG, including latest policy and funding developments
- Examine changes to the legal framework for tackling violence against women and girls, including new laws against stalking
- Discuss how to effectively integrate the new domestic violence definition into front-line practices to better safeguard women and girls
- Assess how to improve victims’ experiences of the criminal justice system through better practitioner training and increased accountability
- Consider how to address current gaps in service provision through high quality commissioning and partnership working

Who Should Attend?

- Domestic Violence Co-ordinators
- MARACs
- Rape and Sexual Assault Support Centres and Specialists
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Housing Officers
- Police Service
- Police Authorities and Fire Services
- Health Service Professionals
- Probation Officers
- Families Services Officers
- Children’s Trusts and Children’s Centres
- Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- Victim Support Representatives
- Community Cohesion and Development Organisations
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
- Local Criminal Justice Boards
- Probation Officers
- Counselling Services
- Community Safety Teams
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinators
- Drug and Alcohol Action Teams
- Youth Offending Teams
- Community Support Officers
- Children and Youth Services
- Local Education Welfare Authorities
- Criminal Justice Practitioners
- Judges and Magistrates
- Legal Professionals
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Central Government Departments and Agencies
- Equality and Diversity Practitioners
- Third Sector Practitioners
- Faith Organisations
- Academics and Researchers

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/MSNUZ/

Alternatively, if you would like to book your accommodation by phone, you can call Daniel Spinner at HotelMap, on 020 7292 2335 quoting Special Reference Code MSNUZ

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Recognising the new and significant roles that Police and Crime Commissioners and Health and Wellbeing Boards are likely to play, it will be important that they are equipped with the right knowledge so that they can work with communities, the women’s sector and victims themselves to ensure the right response is provided at a local level. Statutory and voluntary services need to share information about the women and girls at most risk and agree clear referral and needs assessment arrangements.”

- ‘Call to End Violence against Women and Girls Taking Action – the next chapter’, March 2012
Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls:
The Next Steps

Programme

09:30 Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15 Chair’s Welcome and Introduction

10:30 Panel Session One:
The National Strategy, Two Years On – A New Direction in Tackling Violence against Women and Girls
  • Where Are We Now and Where Do We Need To Get To? Examining the Latest Policy and Funding Developments, Reviewing Recent Pilots
  • Integrating the New DV Definition into Practitioner Guidance and Training – Addressing Coercive Abuse and Teenage Relationship Abuse
  • Utilising New Powers and Legislation to Tackle and Prosecute Stalking – Improving the Safety and Security of Victims and Ensuring Effective Prosecution
  • Introducing Tougher Sentencing for Sexual Crime and Strengthening the Rehabilitation and Management of Sex Offenders
  • Combating Forced Marriage and ‘Honour’ Based Violence – Working Towards a New Legal Framework

11:15 Morning Refreshments
11:30 Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One

12:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 Panel Session Two:
Working in Partnership to Transform Local Service Provision for Women and Girls
  • Strengthening Front-line Responses – Improving Workforce Training and Increasing Accountability through PCCs and Domestic Homicide Reviews
  • Improving the Prosecution of VAWG – Providing Victims with Support and Security throughout the CJ process and Increasing Prosecution Rates
  • Supporting Victims to Recover – Providing Consistent Access to Financial and Housing Assistance and Mental Health Care, Extending the Victim Surcharge
  • Addressing the Gaps in Service Provision through Better Commissioning – Understanding Local Needs and Prioritising the Vulnerable within a Changing Local Landscape
  • Working in Partnership with the Women’s VCS to Build Local Capacity, Share Information and Best Practice and Secure Funding

14:15 Afternoon Refreshments
14:30 Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30 Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
15:40 Networking Reception
16:30 Close

**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 13th March 2013
Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue: Central London

Forthcoming Events

Meeting the Challenge of Dementia: Raising Awareness and Improving Care Standards
13th February 2013

Sustainability in Housing: Bringing Empty Properties Back into Use
14th February 2013

Implementing the Alcohol Strategy: Calling Time on Binge Drinking and Alcohol-Fuelled Violence
26th February 2013

The New Framework for School Inspections
27th February 2013

International Student Recruitment: Understanding and Complying with the Points Based Immigration System
28th February 2013

Prison and Probation Reform: Closing the ‘Revolving Door’ in Offender Management
5th March 2013

Emergency Planning in a New Age of Uncertainty: Building the Nation’s Resilience to Flooding
6th March 2013

Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Well-being: Transforming Service Delivery
7th March 2013

The Future of NHS Commissioning: Countdown to the New Structural Landscape
12th March 2013

Biodiversity 2020: The Challenge for Local Authorities and Public Bodies
14th March 2013

Fulfilling Potential, Realising Aspirations: A New Vision for Disabled People’s Services
19th March 2013

Warmer, Healthier and Fairer: Tackling Fuel Poverty
20th March 2013

Domestic Violence and Young People: Tackling Teenage Relationship Abuse
26th March 2013

Drug Policy in Schools: Raising Awareness and Strengthening Early Intervention
18th April 2013

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We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact Parvin Madahar on 020 3137 8630 or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk
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