

## Spotlight on Violence Against Women and Girls:

Emerging good practice on Violence Against Women and Girls commissioned by PCCs

By Emma Casey



## PCC Spotlights

Through the Second Generation project, Revolving Doors Agency aims to encourage Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) across the country to lead the way in ending the 'revolving door' of crisis and crime. This can be accomplished by improving responses for people who come into repeated contact with the police and criminal justice system, as a result of their multiple unmet needs.

This spotlight, the sixth in the series, highlights how PCCs across the country are tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG), through strengthening service provision and using the convening and commissioning powers of their roles. This is an area of policing that remains important under the Strategic Policing Requirement and a political priority under the national VAWG strategy. However, as our review recently highlighted, while almost all Police and Crime Plans identified VAWG as a key vulnerability or need locally, only a third translated this into a strategic priority

With this spotlight, we hope that by highlighting some of the positive work undertaken by PCCs, we can encourage others to take more action in this area.

### Background

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term that encompasses a wide range of gender-based crimes, which can be physical, psychological or sexual in nature. Since 2010, the UK government has adopted the definition set out by [United Nations](#), which describes VAWG as:

*“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”*

The most common forms of VAWG include: domestic violence; sexual abuse and emotional/psychological abuse. Other widespread forms include human trafficking and harmful traditional practices such as; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage (FM) and ‘Honour’ Based Violence (HBV). In all its forms, these offences follow entrenched gender inequalities and therefore, tackling VAWG needs to address patterns of abuse, rather than single incidents of violence.

The vast majority of gender-based violence is carried out by men against women and girls. According to a report commissioned by [Agenda](#), women are twice as likely as men to experience interpersonal violence, with around 1.2 million women across England having experienced substantial physical and sexual violence across their lifetime. There is also evidence that [65% of incidences of domestic abuse go unreported](#), hence the prevalence and severity of these crimes remain critical.

Whilst overall crime rates have been steadily decreasing over the past two decades, according to the latest figures released by the latest [Crime Survey for England and Wales \(September 2017\)](#) there was a 20 per cent increase in domestic-abuse related offences, a 23 per cent increase in sexual offences and a 29 per cent increase in rape in the last year. This is, in part, due to increased reporting as well as more proactive policing and [improvements in police recording](#) of such offences.

The human cost of VAWG is a life permeated with adversity, often in the form of; poor mental and physical health, poverty, disability, addiction, debt and homelessness. That [41 per cent of the prison population have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse](#) is illustrative of the wider social harms these crimes can cause. This is further compounded by the nature of VAWG, which is typically long term and repetitious, e.g. recurrent physical and sexual violence. The lasting impact of repeated harm often results in deep rooted trauma for victims of VAWG and branches into [three clinical conceptualisations](#): developmental trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and complex traumatic stress.

Furthermore, trauma experienced as a result of VAWG, is both a cause and a consequence of social exclusion, as well as a cause and consequence of offending. For example, [studies](#) have indicated a series of correlations between experiences such as homelessness, drug addiction, poor mental health and engagement in prostitution.

In addition to the human cost, VAWG has a significant financial cost to tax payers, including health and criminal justice services, which is [estimated at £3.9 billion per year](#).

## Prevalence and relative risk of VAWG across populations

It is important to note that the experience of crime is not homogenous across populations.

### Women experiencing social exclusion:

According to [Amnesty International](#), sex workers are “at heightened risk of a whole host of human rights abuses including; rape, violence, extortion and discrimination”. Likewise, [research by Crisis](#), the homelessness charity, found that 58 per cent of women sleeping rough had been intimidated or threatened with violence and force in the past year. We know, from the accounts from Revolving Doors Agency’s own Lived Experience forum members, that the majority of vulnerable women are significantly less likely to report these crimes to police, due to their adverse experiences within the criminal

justice system and their distrust of and poor relationships with the police.

**Non-heterosexual women and girls:** are a group who are often overlooked within statistics on VAWG. [Official euro-centric figures from 2014](#) indicates that 23 per cent of non-heterosexual women (those who identified their sexual orientation as lesbian, bisexual or other) had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by both male and female non-partner perpetrators, compared to 5 per cent of heterosexual women.

**Disabled women and girls:** Disabled people, as defined by [s6 of the Equality Act](#) experience [twice the rate](#) of sexual assault, domestic abuse and stalking than non-disabled people. These figures are further compounded when gender is introduced, with over one in ten disabled women having experienced [domestic abuse in 2012-13](#). Disabled people also experience domestic abuse over longer periods of time, with the frequency and severity of the abuse often being more severe than for non-disabled people.

### Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME)

**women and girls:** While there is more [information published on the scale](#) of FGM, data on FM and HBV more widely are limited, and the statistics are reliant on cases reported to different organisations. It is thought that even if more data were to be collected and published, they would still not provide a complete picture of the scale and nature these crimes, as they often go unreported. Language barriers, lack of access to resources, community pressure, adverse experiences and distrust in the criminal justice system are thought to contribute to chronic underreporting. Women from BAME communities are also more likely to experience VAWG as a result of [a double jeopardy of gender and racial inequality](#). Given the significant [increase in incidences of hate crimes](#), it is critical that police responses reflect the multiple and intersecting forms of violence and abuse.

## The legal and political landscape

In the 25 years since the United Nations first published its declaration on the elimination of VAWG, the British government have taken consistent steps towards tackling it. In 2010, under the then Home Secretary Theresa May, the government first published its '[Call to End Violence against Women and Girls](#)', which placed emphasis on the role of localism in understanding the context and prevalence of VAWG. The strategy was amongst the first to highlight the importance of PCCs' leadership and involvement in tackling VAWG at the local level.

In 2016, the Home Office [published a new VAWG strategy](#), which set VAWG as a national priority and reinforced the government's ambition to end VAWG by 2020. The strategy focuses on reducing the number of victims of VAWG by; increasing the reporting of offences, adopting an early intervention and prevention approach, ensuring women can access the right support at the right time and working with perpetrators to change their patterns of behaviour.

In recent years a number of key legislative developments have taken place. These include:

### **Domestic Violence and Abuse:**

In March 2014 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) were rolled out to all 43 police forces in England and Wales which allow practitioners to enact protective measures for victims of domestic violence. In the same year the government also introduced [the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme](#) (commonly referred to as 'Clare's Law') which gives any member of the public the right to ask the police if their partner may pose a risk to them.

In March 2015 [The Serious Crime Act \(2015\)](#) came into power, creating the offence of 'controlling or coercive behaviour in intimate or familial relationships' (s76) and closing a gap in the law in the fight against domestic

abuse by addressing patterns of behaviour in ongoing relationships.

In 2017, the Government announced its intention to introduce [a draft Domestic Abuse Bill](#), the aim of the bill will be to increase victim confidence in the justice system and encourage them to come forward. The bill will also establish a domestic violence and abuse commissioner and define domestic abuse in law.

**Human Trafficking:** In 2015 [The Modern Slavery Act](#) came into effect, increasing sentencing powers and strengthening protections for survivors. As part of the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), which was first set out by the Home Secretary in 2012, PCCs are responsible for ensuring that sufficient capabilities are in place to tackle the threat posed by serious and organised crime. Since human trafficking is a form of serious and organised crime it remains a mandatory priority area for PCCs across the country.

**FGM:** In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, [the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003](#) made the practice of FGM and failure to protect a girl from FGM illegal. The Act also introduced Civil FGM Protection Orders, allowing for those who are at risk, or know someone at risk of FGM, to make an application to the Family Court to have the breach dealt with as a contempt of court.

**Forced Marriage:** The offence of Forced Marriage was introduced under s121 of the [Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act in 2014](#). It is defined as a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor.

## The role of PCCs

At the local level, the Home Office VAWG Strategy demands that elected representatives across the country demonstrate the effective leadership, political will and accountability to bring about real change. This is a space in which PCCs now firmly sit as they cut across a range of local public services with an ever-widening remit. PCCs, under their responsibilities for local policing and crime prevention strategies, are expected to improve the local response for victims and survivors of VAWG, who often require support from multiple services. PCCs can achieve this by supporting public and voluntary sector provision and creating multi-agency partnerships.

In 2016, the Home Office created a [VAWG Transformation Fund](#), which offered £15 million for local services to tackle VAWG across the country for a period of 3 years. The purpose of the VAWG Transformation Fund is to aid, promote and embed best local practice across the country, alongside encouraging better collaboration between PCCs, local authorities and health commissioners.

Amongst the successful applicants for the Home Office VAWG Transformation Fund have been 14 PCCs, each of which is pioneering innovative large-scale projects to tackle VAWG in their force areas.

However, our recent [review of police and crime plans for multiple and complex needs](#) found that only 35 per cent of PCC police and crime plans had established VAWG/ domestic abuse as a priority. Signaling that more can and must be done to address VAWG at the local level and we hope that, through highlighting some of the innovative work currently being undertaken by PCCs, we can provide a platform of good practice for PCCs to draw from.

## Examples of promising practice

### Sussex, Essex and South Wales PCCs: The Drive Project

The Drive Project is a ground-breaking response to domestic abuse that aims to reduce the number of child and adult victims by deterring perpetrator behaviour. The initiative has been spearheaded by Sussex PCC Katy Bourne from inception and has since flourished with the support of PCCs from across the country. A core aim of the project is to strengthen the evidence base for perpetrator focused initiatives.

The initiative is based on the observation that whilst support arrangements are often in place for victims, there are rarely well-established options to tackle perpetrator behaviour and therefore the root cause of the cycle of domestic abuse.

Currently, only one per cent of perpetrators get access to a specialist intervention that might prevent future abusive behaviour, and as a result there is a high level of repeat victimisation. The Drive Project focuses on the ex/partners of victims who are referred to MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conferences) and provides intensive support via Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). This particular group consists of priority (high-harm or serial) perpetrators who carry the greatest risk of serious harm and engage poorly in available services.

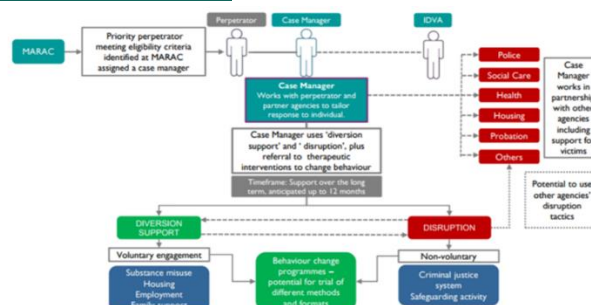
The first phase of the project began in April 2016 with the launch of three Drive Project pilots, which are designed and delivered by Safe Lives, in partnership with the PCCs for Sussex (Katy Bourne), Essex (Roger Hirst) and South Wales (Alun Michael).

The project is scheduled to run for three years and is being supported by funding from Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales, the Tudor Trust, Essex County Council and the PCCs for Sussex, Essex and South Wales across three pilot sites.

The University of Bristol conducted a detailed analysis on 30 of the perpetrators who completed the Drive Project in the first year. Initial analysis revealed that the perpetrators in the sample group had multiple needs, including: 65% drug use, 62% alcohol misuse, 68% poor mental health and 82% housing needs. The University of Bristol also analysed possible change in a range of behaviours including physical abuse, sexual abuse, stalking and harassment, and jealous and controlling behaviours by the perpetrators in the Drive Project. Their case review suggested a stabilisation in 'high severity' abuses. Drive case managers also found significant risk reduction in 32% of cases, whilst the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors judged this to be true in 53% of cases.

Moving onto the next phase of the project, Drive will work with a further 100 perpetrators annually on each pilot site and engage with more domestic abuse survivors to feedback into the initiative.

[A logic model visually illustrating the Drive Project can be viewed here:](#)



## Northumbria PCC: The Northumbria Building Capability Project

The Northumbria Building Capability Project (NBCP) was granted funding from the Home Office VAWG Transformation Fund in 2017. The project covers four strands of work, one of which is 'Women's Diversionary Support' which is being developed to support victims of violence in the Northumbria force area who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

A key driver behind the project is the desire to reduce the number of women going to prison, due to the elevated vulnerability of this particular demographic. These vulnerabilities can include; heightened risk of self-harm, histories of domestic violence and sexual abuse and separation from their children.

In July 2017, a new conditional caution was developed in Northumbria for dealing with low-level, low-risk female offenders. As part of this Women Specific Caution (WSC) participants are required to comply with a rehabilitative condition which includes a mandatory needs assessment at a pre-arranged time and in a women-only space (such as women's hub).

As part of the NBCP, the Women's Diversionary Support strand of work provides women in the early stages of offending with a gender specific pathway.

It does this by ensuring that those issued with a WSC undertake a mandatory assessment of their needs by an experienced practitioner at Women's Hubs that exist across the force area. This is further bolstered by on-going engagement work between the practitioner and participant (outside of the conditions of the WSC) who will encourage contact with a range of appropriate supportive services. By diverting vulnerable women away from the criminal justice system, Women's Diversionary Support ensures that the needs of victims of domestic violence (no matter how complex) are met with in the right place (Women's Hubs) at the right time.

This intervention is provided in partnership with Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) who have well established Women's Hubs in each of the six local authority force areas and work alongside their preferred provider 'Changing Lives'. The hubs are similar to 'one stop shops' for women's services and if the required services are not delivered from the hub premises, the staff will signpost and support the women to initiate contact with the appropriate agency

## Staffordshire PCC: The Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Project

Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office (OPCC) is in the early stages of delivering an initiative to tackle FGM across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, after securing £250,000 from the Home Office VAWG Transformation Fund.

The project aims to raise general awareness of FGM, as well as develop appropriate and sustainable responses to the practice. Key audiences to be targeted will include children at risk of FGM and their families; victims of FGM; communities where a high proportion of the population originate or have links with countries where FGM is practiced; and professionals from a wide range of agencies.

The project will be delivered in three pilot locations in Staffordshire - Stoke-on-Trent Central, East Staffordshire and Stafford. It will consist of four core components:

**Specialist support:** The OPCC and its partners will work closely with the national FGM centre and learn from the existing good practice and evidence base. On the ground, this will involve dedicated specialist support delivered by key workers to potential and current victims, their families and professionals affected by FGM. They will work across populations, undertake educational case work with children, carry out preventative case work with families, and provide on-going support and training to professionals, who come into contact with FGM cases.

**Community champions:** The provider will work closely with local communities and build capacity to foster changes in attitudes and practices. Their plans include recruiting community champions, peer mentors and youth advocates, who will work with local communities in a culturally informed way.

**Co-production:** Survivors and professionals will co-produce annual campaigns, which will culminate in a regional conference in the final year of the project. The conference will enable knowledge-sharing, learning and planning across agencies. An accredited training programme for key professionals is also planned to improve knowledge and understanding of FGM.

**Therapeutic support:** Victims and potential victims of FGM will be offered access to appropriate one to one counselling/ therapeutic support with a victim-centred approach to address the current and historic needs of women and girls, who have undergone or are at risk of FGM.



## Gloucestershire PCC: Healthy Relationships, Families and Communities

'Healthy Relationships, Families and Communities' (HRFC) is a programme delivered by the *Stroud Beresford Group*, a local service provider that has been supporting domestic abuse victims through providing accommodation and advice for over 40 years. Gloucestershire PCC, Martin Surl, has been supporting the work of Stroud Beresford since 2013 and has recently awarded them a further grant of £40,000 to deliver the programme over the next four years.

The project aims to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse through a comprehensive programme of workshops, building on previous joint workshops on 'Healthy Relationships, Healthy Families' and cyber-crime.

The programme has three key priorities: prevention, early intervention, and intensive support within refuges:

**Prevention:** To reduce the number of incidences and harm caused by domestic abuse, the HRFC programme will develop and deliver a series of workshops in educational settings. A key strategy in these prevention workshops is understood as promoting respectful, nonviolent and healthy relationships, communicating the impact of domestic abuse on children and knowing how to get help. The workshops will especially focus on emerging areas of vulnerability (e.g. the role of the internet in allowing perpetrators to coerce and control victims).

**Early Intervention:** The second part of the programme will focus on early identification and intervention to reduce harm to women experiencing domestic abuse. Previously, the Stroud Beresford Group ran 12-week programmes for women experiencing domestic abuse, which had lower attainment rates than originally anticipated. The Group found that women needed to establish trust and receive encouragement to consider attending the first course, and many did not have the time or resources to stay the full length of the programme. This highlighted the need for a more flexible and tailored approach. Building on this learning, the HRFC programme now plans to develop and deliver a new programme of short courses that are tailored for each individual's needs and expectations, so that more women can attend the courses, and benefit from the support available.

**Repeat Victimization:** In order to reduce the impact of harm on repeat victims of domestic abuse, the HRFC will develop a new workshop programme focused on repeat victimisation. This will help participants to explore the patterns of these relationships and look at previous family relationships to see how they affect current behaviours. HRFC will also work with women to provide assertiveness training where appropriate to combat the unhealthy familial and social relationships that many domestic abuse victims struggle with.

## North Yorkshire PCC: Respect Young People's Programme

The North Yorkshire PCC, Julia Mulligan, has commissioned the Respect Young People's Programme, which will work with young perpetrators of domestic abuse. Harnessing the power of early intervention, this programme offers young perpetrators the chance to turn their lives around before they spiral into the revolving door of the criminal justice system. The programme builds on the successful three-year pilot and is funded through the Community Safety Fund with a view to scale up across the county throughout 2018.

The programme is delivered by the Independent Domestic Abuse Service, who provide services to young perpetrators of domestic abuse. It works with children and young people aged between 10 to 16 who either show early signs of, or already perpetrate abusive behaviour and promotes mental wellbeing and behavioural change, in an effort to divert them away from the criminal justice system.

RYPP is a structured programme that combines a range of theoretical models, alongside a Cognitive-Behavioural approach, and provides a range of interventions addressing both the offending elements of the young person's behaviour and the difficulties within their immediate environment that cause or perpetuate the abusive behaviour.

The service accepts referrals from many different agencies and involves an assessment of the needs of children and young people. It also provides person-centred support, working closely with both the young person and their families to minimise harmful behaviours and challenge negative thought patterns. The programme provides a flexible response to meeting individuals' needs, ranging from crisis intervention, motivational interviewing, sign-posting, referrals, as well as ongoing emotional and practical support, which extends even after they move on from the programme.

The flexible and tailored approach of the programme has resulted in the successful engagement of children, young people and their families, giving them access to a range of support available within the wider community.

## Surrey PCC: Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum

Surrey PCC, David Munro, is continuing to fund the Active Communities Project, which will be led by the Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum (SMEF) over the next three years. The overarching aim of this project is to empower ethnic minority communities and to ensure their voices are heard on the issues that affect them. The project will strengthen the partnership between the local BAME communities and Surrey OPCC, and benefit the wider population.

In May 2017, the Forum organized their first People's Assembly which brought together representatives from across BAME communities in Surrey. At the Forum, members set out priorities and explored how they could work together with the local BAME population.

As part of this work, Surrey OPCC will be working closely with SMEF to both raise awareness of and remove the barriers that make it hard for women to tell others about their experiences of violence. To do this SMEF has trained ten Victim Support Volunteers from diverse communities in Surrey who have all gone through training on; Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse and Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP).

Currently, SMEF is organising a free two-day training course to inspire community members to become 'Volunteer Champions'.

The 'Volunteer Champions' will share this learning with their friends, family, neighbours and colleagues, with the wider aim of challenging myths, stereotypes and victim-blaming attitudes in their community. They will also learn how to respond to disclosure and the expert services they can signpost people to for help.

The role of the Volunteer Champions is fundamental to developing initiatives that strike at the root of social problems like Domestic Abuse and HTP. This is because, in the experience of SMEF staff, women can be victims as well as perpetrators where HTP is concerned. SMEFs work around HTP enables communities to organise and work together to identify their own needs and aspirations.

To support women in the wider community, Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum plans to create safe spaces for women both digitally and within the local community (such as shops and cafés), so that they can access advice and information from a person they trust with ease.

Further sessions on FGM, 'honour' based violence and forced marriage are planned, with a key aim to reduce the stigma victims often experience as a result of VAWG and support them to seek help. The sessions will be attended by specialist service providers as well as survivors and will be delivered in Woking, Reigate and Banstead, Spelthorne, Guildford and Surrey Heath.

## Bedfordshire PCC: Vulnerable Adults Risk Assessment Conference

Bedfordshire PCC, Kathryn Holloway, has commissioned the Vulnerable Adults Risk Assessment Conference (VARAC) to identify the most vulnerable individuals over the age of 18 who do not meet high risk thresholds, but whose vulnerabilities place them at risk of harm or becoming victims or perpetrators of crime. The initiative is being funded by the Bedfordshire PCC Grant Fund.

VARAC, which will be implemented in 2017/18, will enable partner agencies to share information, risk assess individuals and provide targeted support to

mitigate the risk posed to themselves and others.

This will be accomplished in co-operation with a range of key partners throughout Bedfordshire, including the local authority, health, drug and alcohol-support services. Each Vulnerable Adults Risk Assessment Conference enables partner agencies to share information in order to risk assess individuals appropriately, with different agencies taking lead responsibility for individual cases to own and ensure the right support is put in place

## Conclusion

Violence against women and girls covers a range of serious crimes which require robust and multi-agency approaches that recognise the underlying causes; specific gender inequalities, racial and ethnic discrimination and social exclusion. National and local strategies to tackle VAWG, in all of its forms, need to address patterns of abuse, rather than single incidents of violence.

Revolving Doors Agency welcomes subsequent governments' prioritisation of VAWG in their crime prevention and harm reduction strategies. However, we are still far from realising the ambition to end violence against women and girls.

Police and Crime Commissioners have an important role in realising the ambitions of national policy and legislative changes in their localities. The National Statement of Expectations recognises this important role and expects local areas to publish detailed data on the level of need in their area and commission services to meet that need. There are already plans to build on inspection arrangements that reflect the multi-agency nature of VAWG provision.

This Spotlight briefing brings together examples of PCCs demonstrating the necessary leadership and political will to bring about real change. Using their powers to convene a range of public services and third sector organisations, they are improving service responses for women and girls, who are at risk of, or are experiencing, VAWG offences. Using their local knowledge, they are working with community and voluntary sector organisations to identify needs, working across disciplines and getting the backing of people in communities to establish a shared commitment to prevent and tackle VAWG.

In examining how PCCs have sought to tackle VAWG, our review has found that the following key themes have emerged as essential for good practice:

**Prevention and early identification:** Universal and targeted prevention strategies can make a measurable difference to the prevalence and severity of VAWG. This approach has been illustrated by the PCC for Bedfordshire, who is leading a multi-agency approach to provide targeted support for individuals who do not meet high risk thresholds to mitigate the risk posed to themselves and others.

**Early intervention and diversion:** Early action against VAWG can limit the trauma experienced as a result of crimes and coming into contact with criminal justice system, and thereby, reduce the risk of being caught in the revolving door of crime and crisis. This approach is key to the North Yorkshire PCCs Respect programme, which supports children and young people in an effort to divert them away from the criminal justice system. Similarly, Northumbria PCC is developing a Women's Diversionary Support initiatives to support victims of violence who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

**Building community capacity:** Is critical to help communities to identify VAWG as an important issue and empower them to find and embed ways to tackle it in their communities. Building on community capacity can also show PCCs, local police forces and social services how to make better use of existing knowledge and resources in communities. Surrey PCCs minority ethnic forum (SMEF) works alongside communities and delivers language appropriate and culturally sensitive specialist support to tackle VAWG.

**Deterrence to address repeat victimisation:** Whilst support arrangements are often in place for victims, there are rarely well established options to tackle perpetrator behaviour- the root cause of the cycle of domestic abuse. This approach is best demonstrated by Sussex, Essex and

South Wales PCCs who support a multi-agency project, Drive, to address the multiple needs of high harm and serial perpetrators and change their behaviours.

**Provision of intensive specialist support:** Is a common theme throughout the case studies outlined in this spotlight. VAWG crimes can leave victims with multiple psychological, physical and emotional needs that require sometimes lifelong support. These needs often cut across local services and initiatives that bring together these services from the criminal justice, health and social sectors. When these services come together they provide victims with the best chance of successfully navigating the long road towards recovery. Initiatives such as Gloucestershire PCCs Healthy Relationships, Families and Communities programme, as well as Bedfordshire PCCs Vulnerable Adults Risk Assessment Conference initiative demonstrate how local services can work towards a triaged response for victims of VAWG.

## Further resources

**Revolving Doors Agency, *Under the Spotlight: reviewing police and crime plans for multiple complex needs, and transition to adulthood.*** Available here: <http://www.revolving-doors.org.uk/why-were-here/our-publications>

**Revolving Doors Agency, *Spotlight on women in contact with the criminal justice system.*** Available here: <http://www.revolving-doors.org.uk/file/1839/download?token=3dYnDnMM>

**The T2A pathway programme** is delivering interventions to young adults in six locations across England over three years, including one that includes a specific focus on young adult women. Further information available here: <http://www.t2a.org.uk/pathway/>

**The Home Office: *Strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020.*** Available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020>

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