 

**Tender Specification**

**VAWG Project**

1. **Introduction** 
   * + Addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a key priority of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Simon Foster. There has been a strong response from the community on this issue and it has been acknowledged nationally with the introduction of the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021.
     + We know that women and girls in our community are at disproportionate risk of a wide range of crimes; this is unacceptable and our response seeks to ensure that women and girls feel safe in the West Midlands.
     + Through this specification the PCC seeks to appoint a partner organisation who will deliver the management (through the appointment of a VAWG Coordinator) of the OPCC awarded Safer Streets 3, Violence Against Women and Girls Fund project.
     + The specification requires the provider to oversee, pursue and progress set targets as requested in our agreement with the Home Office.
     + This is an opportunity for a consultancy/organisation with policy, research, strategic planning and performance management experience as well as expertise in the VAWG agenda to work with the West Midlands PCC and the West Midlands Victims Commissioner to shape the regional response to the VAWG agenda.
     + The agenda will be closely aligned with the existing workstreams in the OPCC/VRU and alongside local and regional partners you will have strong communication and partnership working skills, with an ability to bring people together to achieve common goals.
     + This project is being delivered across the West Midlands Metropolitan region including Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell, Solihull, Birmingham and Coventry.
     + Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls is a key priority for the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Foster as detailed in the recently published Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025.
2. **Background** 
   * + Given the hidden nature of VAWG measuring its impact can be difficult. Taylor and Shrive (2021) sought to understand its true scale in the UK and found that of the 22,419 women who responded to their consultation, 99.7% of had been repeatedly subjected to violence including assaults, harassment and rape. In the vast majority of cases reported, women were subjected to multiple crimes and the perpetrators were overwhelmingly male.
     + The human cost of VAWG is high. Experiences of abuse have serious psychological, emotional and physical consequences and may contribute to multiple disadvantage, or a chaotic lifestyle involving substance misuse, homelessness, offending behaviour, gang involvement, sex work or mental health problems.
     + The findings from a UK case study (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2014) are that the cost of: intimate partner violence against women is more than £11.5 billion and the cost of gender-based violence against women more than £24.3 billion.

**2.1 In 2021, public outcry led to the question; how do we best protect women and girls in public spaces?**

* + - WMOPCC/WMP created an online public survey; Women and Safety in 2021. 1819 (91%) of 2006 respondents identified as female. The top two areas where respondents felt most unsafe were local town/city centre and on a bus. Sandwell’s Sexual Assault and Abuse public survey also reflected these trends; 144 participants said they felt most unsafe – 1) Town centres, 2) Public transport and getting off public transport.
    - In the regional survey, 80% had experienced sexual harassment in a public place, 49% had experienced sexual harassment, sexual assault or rape. Only 7.5% and 19.4% respectively reporting these crimes.
    - These findings are in line with national reporting data.
    - Responses included;

“When I am out and about by myself I am often approached by men, and some react badly when I dismiss them, making me feel I might be in danger. In general, in Birmingham city centre I feel unsafe due to my surroundings….”

“Being flashed by male when at a bus stop by myself, he was waiting at the stop also. Nowhere to go to get away. Only saved by bus arriving. He did not get on.”

* + - West Midlands PCC, VRU, VAWG Specialist providers, and Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) collaborated on a bid to the Home Office Safer Streets 3 – Violence Against Women and Girls fund and were successfully awarded funds to deliver a multitude of programmes and elements aiming to reduce and prevent harm both in public places and empower wider societal change in attitudes towards gender inequality and discrimination.

1. **Policy context**
   * + A number of national strategies within the VAWG arena have been published in the last few months.
     + The Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls strategy 2021 sets out the governments approach to combatting crimes which are disproportionally directed towards women.
     + Round One and Two of the Safer Streets Fund were designed to prevent neighbourhood crimes such as burglary, robbery and theft. Totalling £45 million (£25 million for Round One in the 2020/21 financial year and £20 million for Round Two for the 2021/22 financial year), these two rounds of funding have provided PCCs and Local Authorities the opportunity to invest in areas disproportionately affected by neighbourhood crimes, implementing both physical and community-based interventions proven to prevent these crimes before they occur. These interventions include improved street lighting, reinforced home security, alley gating and increased CCTV coverage.
     + Whilst these interventions are proven to prevent and reduce neighbourhood crimes, the evidence regarding their effectiveness against VAWG crimes is less explored. This third round of funding seeks to build this evidence base to inform future policy and funding decisions. Through encouraging innovative approaches from those seeking to make use of this funding, this third round of funding also seeks to improve the evidence base of what works to prevent these crimes outside of traditional Safer Streets Fund interventions.
2. **Strategic outcomes**

* To coordinate, develop and manage the West Midlands response to the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda.
* To influence and bring innovation to the region’s response to tackling VAWG
* The VAWG Coordinator will be based within the OPCC working across all teams, local and regional partners, (including police, probation, health services, the voluntary and community sector as well as local residents and victim/survivors) to drive forward this agenda.

1. **Investment over the course of the project and timescales for implementation**

* £35,000.00 is available for a period of 6 months January – June 2022.

1. **Outcomes / Impact**

* To work with the West Midlands Victims Commissioner to develop, coordinate and manage all aspects of the multi-agency partnership response to violence against women and girls.
* To manage and operationally lead on specific areas of the VAWG portfolio, ensuring there are robust, affordable operation plans in place to deliver the Safer Streets 3 budget.
* Raise awareness of the issues surrounding VAWG and its implications across key partner agencies.
* Effectively manage and oversee the VAWG Education Intervention Advisor roles (EIA 2 x FTE) and the Young Person’s Advisor Male Pilot workers (YPA sessional) in conjunction with the leading providers.
* Develop and manage all elements of the pilot and programme-based work being delivered as part of the WMPCC Safer Streets 3 fund.
* Effectively engage and develop partnerships with community groups, local initiatives and community leaders and local residents to achieve the aims of the pilots.
* Lead on the development and roll-out of the pilots and oversee the training delivery and evaluation (in conjunction with the Home Office)
* Develop the West Midlands Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Alliance as an appropriate strategic and regional multiagency forum.
* Take ownership of the VAWG delivery plan and maintain regular oversight to join strategic partners together to oversee the work embedding the region’s approach to VAWG.
* Develop the partnership strategy for the Alliance setting out the regions approach to VAWG, and the Action Plan in response to the agenda that has clear deliverables, measures and milestones.
* Provide monitoring information and data to the Home Office in quarterly returns.
* Provide update reports to the Strategic Policing and Crime Board and other strategic forums as required.
* To include good practice throughout the project for consulting with experts by experience and using co-production to improve and develop further service delivery and subsequent projects.

1. **Performance monitoring**

* All monitoring will be submitted to the OPCC and will be stated within the Grant conditions.

1. **Equality**

* The West Midlands region is a vibrant and diverse part of the country and the Police and Crime Commissioner is committed to equality and diversity and as such welcome’s applications from organisations of all backgrounds. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a good understanding of diversity and human rights, and a personal commitment to promoting diversity and racial equality.

1. **How to apply**

* Please apply by sending a CV and a supporting statement (no more than 4 sides of A4) setting out your knowledge, skills and experience that make you qualified to fulfil this role. Please address the specifics in the specification and return to Chelsea Lloyd [**chlesea.lloyd@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk**](mailto:chlesea.lloyd@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)by COP Tuesday 7th December 2021.
* Given the short timescales on this piece of work, please contact Jennifer Alder with any queries related to the specification on [**j.alder@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk**](mailto:j.alder@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)
* The project steering group will invite applicants who meet the quality threshold to interview week commencing 13th December 2021 with the successful applicant being informed before COP 17th December 2021. Deliver is anticipated to start from week commencing 3rd January 2022.