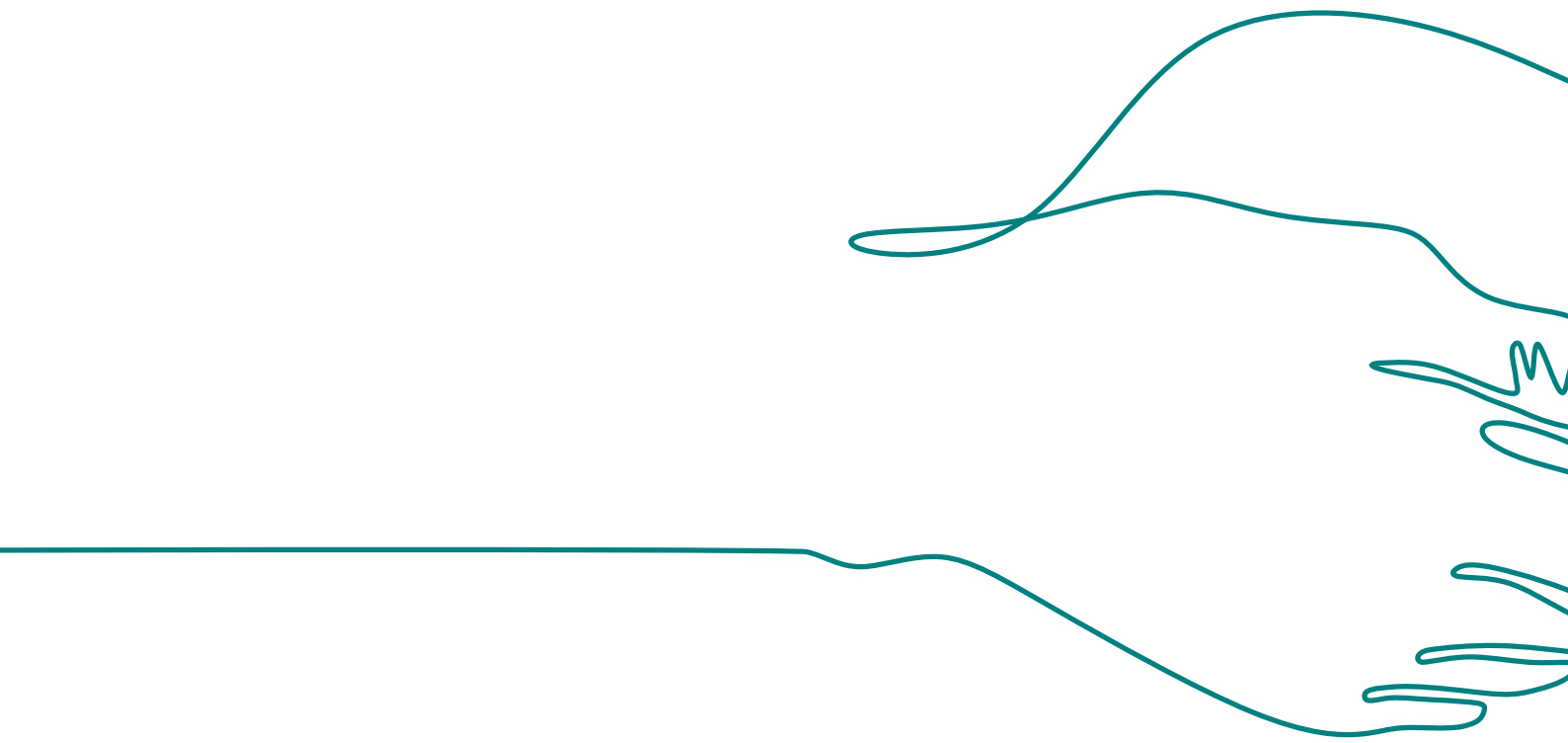




MERSEYSIDE
POLICE

Our commitment to
keeping women and girls
safe in Merseyside





Introduction

A programme of work has been developed for Merseyside Police to ensure we do everything we possibly can to support women and girls, target perpetrators and reduce violence.

It is a wide-ranging programme designed to provide better prevention activity in public places and online, relentless disruption of perpetrators, and the continued development of a culture, in society and within our force, which ensures that misogyny and sexism have no place.

The programme will continue to develop and will be consistently reviewed so that, working together, with our partners, we can help women and girls to feel safer and more confident across Merseyside.



Our Vision

To create an environment in Merseyside where women and girls are safe and feel safe to pursue their lives free from fear and harassment.

The programme of work will:

- Create safer public, private and online spaces for women and girls
- Collaborate with partners to support women and girls
- Increase the number of offenders who are brought to justice
- Increase victim satisfaction and confidence
- Improve the support available to victims through the criminal justice process
- Improve capability and capacity within our specialist teams dedicated to VAWG, such as the Online Indecent Images Team within the Child Exploitation and Abuse Unit
- Improve our policies and practice in consultation with women and girls
- Build our inclusive culture so women working with or for Merseyside Police have increased confidence to call out inappropriate or disrespectful behaviour, knowing it will be dealt with

What we have already achieved

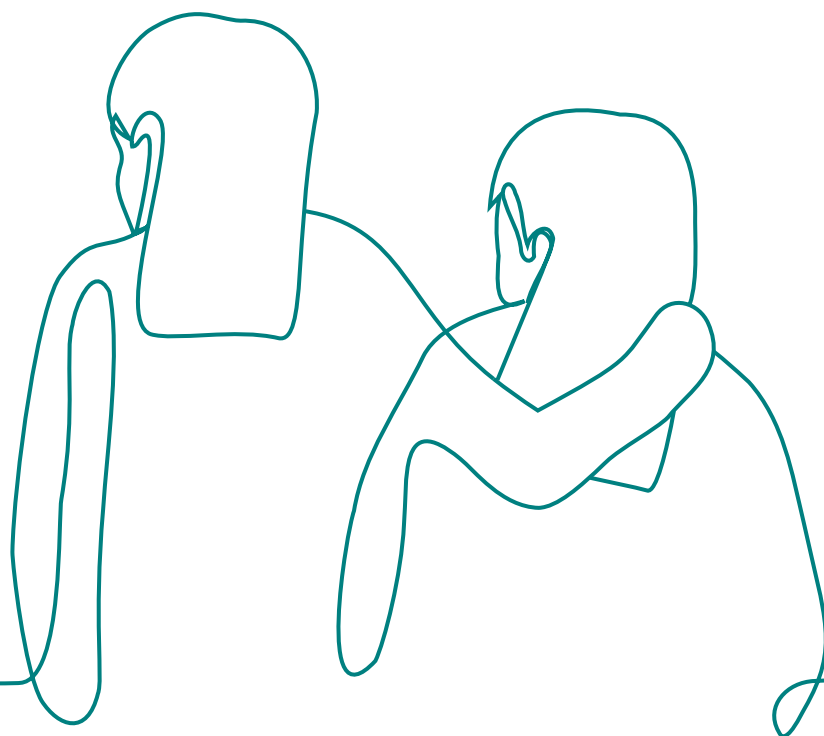
- Launched Operation Empower, which aims to prevent sexual violence within Liverpool city centre and town centres across Merseyside
 - Increased resources in our dedicated rape unit to better support victims and ensure that more cases reach court
 - Implemented a perpetrator programme to identify and manage domestic abuse perpetrators and work closely with partners to reduce harm
 - Used the information received from the 'StreetSafe' app, alongside our own data, to solve issues in public places where women and girls have felt or feel unsafe
 - Partnered with Liverpool and Knowsley councils to increase feelings of safety on public transport and to make the night time economy safer for women and girls
 - Listened to the voices of Merseyside Police officers and staff to take positive action in response to any concerns raised about inappropriate behaviours in the workplace
 - Established a dedicated dashboard to ensure that we can accurately measure our performance in relation to VAWG
 - Improved our response to domestic abuse incidents by enhancing supervision of VAWG investigations and identifying training requirements to improve the knowledge of officers
 - Communicated regularly to staff and officers about VAWG and the work we collectively need to deliver, in order to tackle it
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Our Strategy

We will deliver the objectives in the NPCC Framework and coordinate and oversee operational and organisational activity to tackle violence, abuse and intimidation against women and girls.

We will ensure that:

- the public are aware of what we are doing and the actions we are taking to ensure the safety of women and girls
- we prioritise and agree activity to effectively tackle and prevent VAWG
- working with our partners, we consult women and girls, on how we develop and deliver our work
- we provide governance, guidance and decision making to ensure the work that we do improves the safety of women and girls
- we monitor our work to ensure it makes a difference
- we have the right people in the right places to deliver the programme and provide specialist support to women and girls
- we develop our inclusive culture that values and respects the women who work within it and the women we come in to contact with on a daily basis



Our Approach

Our work is aligned to the three pillars of the NPCC VAWG Framework.

We have identified actions beneath each pillar to improve our response to violence against women and girls.

Build public trust and confidence in policing	Relentlessly pursue perpetrators	Create safer spaces
<p>We will take action to:</p> <p>Engage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• involve women and girls in our work to change and improve practice, including those who are minoritised or those who have lived experience <p>Monitor our performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• monitor and measure progress on reducing violence against women and girls and the effectiveness of activity commissioned in our programme of work <p>Behave ethically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• improve the internal culture of our force to respond effectively address sexism and misogyny and any breaches of the Standards of Professional Behaviour	<p>We will take action to:</p> <p>Improve Investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• better support victims through the criminal justice process and increase victim satisfaction and outcomes for victims of domestic abuse• work with partners to manage offenders, which includes education, prevention, diversion, disruption and enforcement tactics• identify and proactively pursue perpetrators who pose a risk of harm to women and girls• improve the capability and capacity in our investigation teams <p>Adopt a trauma-informed approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• take a preventative approach so officers and staff understand how the trauma of violent and abusive behaviours affect women and girls• ensure that officers and staff tailor their responses appropriately through a trauma-informed and victim-focussed approach to support women and girls	<p>We will take action to:</p> <p>Communicate effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• engage with our communities in the development of solutions• communicate our vision clearly and provide educational and informative messages to ensure everyone understands the importance of tackling VAWG• help men understand the part they have to play in eliminating violence against women and girls• address feelings of safety <p>Prevent violence and harassment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify and target unsafe online, private and public spaces• work with partners, including the third sector, to ensure a co-ordinated and effective response to prevent and tackle violence against women and girls





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