


LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Camden Women's Safety Public Realm Action Plan	
REPORT OF: Director of Community Services	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Licensing Committee	DATE: 7 th December 2022
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report sets out and details Camden Women's Safety Public Realm Action Plan. It has been developed in response to ongoing challenges with regards to Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) related issues reflecting the Camden Community Safety Partnership's commitment towards prioritising women's safety.</p> <p>The report provides an overview of the Women's Safety Public Realm Action plan in the context of licensed venues in the Borough.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Shaheda Rahman Community Safety Manager 5 Pancras Square N1C 4AG Tel: 020 7974 4425 shaheda.rahman@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>That the Licensing Committee consider and note the activities of the Camden Women's Safety Public Realm Action Plan.</p>	

Signed: 

Date: 22nd November 2022

1. Background

- 1.1 Instances of sexual harassment and other forms of misogynistic behaviour in public spaces and other public realm settings are unfortunately an everyday occurrence for women and girls. Recent tragic events continue to highlight the prevalence of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and have continued to inform the national debate concerning gender-based violence and misogyny.
- 1.2 The Camden Women's Safety Public Realm Action Plan has been developed in response to ongoing challenges regarding violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Action Plan forms part of a wider cross Council approach towards tackling gender-based violence, harassment, and misogyny.
- 1.3 The development of the Women's Safety Public Realm Action Plan is being overseen by the Camden Community Safety Partnership (CSPB) the statutory crime and disorder partnership established in line with the provisions outlined with the Crime and Disorder Act. The Camden Community Safety Partnership Board consists of representatives from Camden Council, Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Service, Probation Service, and the Camden Safer Neighbourhood Board.
- 1.4 Consideration has been given to the work currently being undertaken by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the wider work being undertaken across London as part of the Mayor of London's Women's Safety Charter. Camden Council are a signatory to the Charter. The Charter is part of the London Mayor's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and London's commitment to the United Nations Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces global initiative.
- 1.5 The Community Safety Partnership Board has identified three priority areas as the fundamental principles to make Camden a safer environment for our female residents, workers, and visitors:
 - Tackling Offending Behaviour
 - Licensing and the Evening & Night-Time Economy (ENTE)
 - Public Space Management
- 1.6 One of the priorities identified within the action plan is the risk to women both visiting and working within Camden's evening and night-time economy (ENTE). Whilst the Camden ENTE has important economic and social benefits, we are aware that the safety of women is a concern in this area. Initial baseline data collated from the Police indicates that a proportion of sexual harassment occurs within the ENTE, however, gender-based harassment remains largely unreported and there is a gap.
- 1.7 The Licensing Committee has committed to supporting work on Women's Safety. At a meeting of the Licensing Committee that took place on 25th November 2021, the Committee recommended that Council approve an Interim Statement of Licensing Policy that included the addition of an appendix

detailing a set of principles the authority expects licensed premises to adopt to prioritise women's safety. The Interim Policy was agreed by Council on 24th January 2022.

2. Evening and Night Time Economy and Women's Safety Strategy

2.1 The Council has committed to develop an 'Evening and Night Time Economy' Strategy to articulate a long-term vision for an inclusive, safe, and diverse ENTE offer that celebrates what makes the borough special, while respecting and responding to the different needs and interests of residents, businesses, ENTE workers, and visitors.

2.2 The Council is currently undertaking a wide-ranging community and stakeholder engagement process to understand the lived experiences, ideas and challenges associated with the borough's evening and night time. This includes face-to-face community workshops, targeted engagement with key stakeholders, and online engagement via a Commonplace Site.

2.3 Given the complexity and breadth of policy and regulatory matters related to the ENTE, the Strategy is being developed with close consideration of the Council's other relevant strategies and policies including:

- The Council's licencing policy review which is taking place alongside the ENTE strategy engagement and development process. Officers are working together to ensure that the two processes are aligned thus adding value to the number and diversity of voices engaged in the licencing conversation.

The two workstreams will share data collection and analysis focusing on cross-cutting issues related to the Special Policy Areas in Camden Town and Seven Dials. This will facilitate consideration of broader questions about how Camden's current licensing policy impacts the diversity of licensed venues across the borough.

- Women's Safety in the Public Realm Action Plan
- Other key intersecting workstreams including Camden's arts and culture offer and programmes, Camden's strategy for diversity in the public realm, high streets regeneration, transport, business engagement and planning policy.

2.4 The Council are aware that the safety of women within the ENTE and Licensed venues is of particular importance and continually learning on how to keep women safe and understanding the trigger points of danger i.e. spiking drinks, leaving a premise to travel home and being familiar with surroundings.

3. Camden Safety Hub & Key areas of activity

3.1 Camden are creating a night-time safety initiative specifically focusing on Women's Safety within the evening and night-time economy on a Friday and Saturday evening.

- 3.2 This is a partnership scheme that provides support for individuals who have found themselves in a vulnerable state or feel unsafe. In addition to offering support to vulnerable people, Camden Safety Hub will also provide educational resources to those visiting at the start of the evening to promote a safe and fun night out. This will allow for early engagement and intervention.
- 3.3 The Camden Safety Hub will operate from a fixed premise provided by one of the Council's partners, Labtech at the heart of Camden Town's ENTE area. The Camden Safety Hub will be staffed by Council employees and volunteers who will engage with patrons and users entering the area to encourage a safe and fun night out. It will also provide support to those leaving the evening and night time economy by way of providing advice on transport routes, assisting in arranging for a taxi, hydrating and phone charging.
- 3.4 Initially the Hub will operate from 19:00 until midnight every Friday and Saturday with a view to extending the operational hours to 02:00am. This will be subject to review as we monitor trends and demands of the Hub.
- 3.5 On a localised level the Camden Safety Hub volunteers will offer assistance to Camden's Licensed premises to support them with those individuals who have found themselves in a vulnerable situation in instances where they would need to either call the police or the ambulance service. The aim is to manage the situation and avoid using the emergency services which will reduce the pressure on these overstretched services. It is important to have a visible presence within the evening and night time economy to continually promote a safe night out and have the Hub staff on the street to engage with people and allow the opportunity for early intervention.
- 3.6 To measure the success of the project, on duty officers will monitor the number of emergency services call outs regarding vulnerable women within the evening and night time economy. Specifically, ambulance call outs and A&E admission and Police calls to venues and reports of assaults on women.
- 3.7 Officers will collate data on the volume of referrals and analyse referral sources and reason for referral. This will help to identify those premises where referrals are not forthcoming and support will be offered.

4. Key Areas of Activity and Measures of Success

- 4.1 A number of key areas of activity have been identified to address women's safety concerns which involve:
- Safely challenging perpetrators to reflect on their behaviour
 - Educating staff at different businesses/premises to identify and respond to inappropriate behaviours and offer support when needed
 - consider the safety of women in all aspects of our work e.g., lighting, parks and landscaping
- 4.2 To support the key areas of activity the Late Night Levy (LNL) funding agreement between the Council and the Police has been updated to include

the funding of two new town centre policing teams which are now fully operational and offering a high visibility presence in the Camden Town and other evening and night time (ENT) areas to support the work being undertaken around women's safety.

- 4.3 Camden is also working with partners, including licensed premises, to develop a joint communication campaign which looks to address issues associated with the challenges faced by women and young people when utilising the ENTE. The aim is to highlight and promote services available such as the 'Ask for Angela' campaign and encourage businesses to support these schemes. It will also link in and promote relevant sister campaigns such as 'White Ribbon Day' (charity working to prevent violence against women and girls) to ensure a cohesive approach.
- 4.4 Furthermore, Community Safety in partnership with Licensing and the Police are developing and delivering a co-designed training and awareness programme known as 'WAVE' – Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement to continue to make aware and educate those working within our venues.

5 Performance and measures of success

- 5.1 Based on the key areas of activity set out above, a set of 'performance indicators' have been identified to measure the success of the work being undertaken and to ensure that the action plan is demonstrating positive outcomes. These can be summarised as follows:
- A significant increase in the number of gender-based crimes within the public realm reported to police both within the ENTE and on a day-to-day basis.
 - 85% of all on-licensed premises to sign up to the national 'Ask for Angela' campaign.
 - The number of people accessing the Camden Safety Hub
 - A sustained increase in tackling offending behaviour by way of enforcement action both by Police and Council Officers.
 - The number of applications for a new or variation to a premises licence that have consideration for women's safety and that this is conditioned the same on the licence.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that the performance measures/indicators will be reviewed on a quarterly basis in response to any changes to offending trends and/or local intelligence data which will inform the delivery of the action plan.

6. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 6.1 There are no material financial implications concerning this report. The Director of Finance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to add.

7. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 There are no material legal implications concerning this report. The Borough Solicitor has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to add.

8. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

9. Appendices

None.

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