

Councillor Leanne Werner
Chair, Community Safety Scrutiny Commission.
Overview and Scrutiny
Corporate Strategy and Partnerships

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A call for Evidence: Violence Against Women's and Girls (VAWG)

Southwark Council's Community Safety Scrutiny Commission is concerned with Violence Against Women's & Girls (VAWG) in the borough. Recent media coverage has highlighted worrying levels of sexual harassment and abuse of girls, nationally, and we want to play our part in tackling this locally.

The Commission is contributing to the new administration's commitment to develop a strategy to combat this by conducting a review into VAWG. Part of this will involve an investigation into the approaches taken by Southwark schools to effectively tackle abuse and promote Safe and Healthy relationships, in order to understand how the council and other partners could assist.

We have devised a short survey that we would be grateful if your school could complete.

The questions are focused principally on your Safe and Healthy Relationships curriculum and safeguarding practices to tackle harassment and abuse:

<https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/corporate-strategy/87d5dc83>

We would also like to conduct focus groups with young people; asking girls and boys (separately) about their concerns and solutions. Please get in touch if your school is willing to facilitate this.

The Commission will be holding its next meeting on the evening of 5th February at 7pm at the council's main offices on 160 Tooley Street, SE1. This will hear from the police on this topic, as well as outside experts on Modern Slavery and Child Trafficking, to inform the review. The meeting is open to the public and we would welcome input from teachers. Please get in touch if you would like to contribute.

The results of the survey, focus groups and the evidence taken at the meeting will inform the review report, due to be completed in the spring, and a current consultation on a new sexual

and reproductive health strategy. The final review report will then go to the council cabinet, NHS, and police with recommendations. We will send you a copy if you indicate interest in the survey.

I hope your school will be able to contribute. If you have any queries contact Julie Timbrell, scrutiny project manager, on email julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk or telephone on 0207 525 0514.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Leanne Werner
Chair, Community Safety Scrutiny Commission.