



Bailiwick of Guernsey Community Advisory Group Meeting Tuesday 7th September 2021

A meeting of the Bailiwick of Guernsey Law Enforcement's Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting was held at 1900 hours on Tuesday 7th September 2021. The aim of the CAG is to facilitate two-way discussion between the community and law enforcement, the sessions revolve around themes, to allow thoughts and feelings around issues to be drawn out. The theme of this meeting was: Violence and Intimidation against Women and Girls (VIAWG).

The meeting was well attended by members of the CAG. Ahead of the meeting, BLE publicised the upcoming meeting and asked for any interested parties to contact BLE to get involved with CAG and attend the meeting. The following is a summary of the meeting along with BLE next step actions:

The meeting was opened by Head of Law Enforcement, Chief Officer Ruari Hardy who welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support through this engagement. He introduced the topic in focus at this meeting and acknowledged the recent high profile events such as the murder of Sarah Everard which had put a spotlight on this issue. He acknowledged the broader issues around attitudes and behaviours within our communities and what is acceptable and what should be called out. He noted that BLE didn't have all the answers, and couldn't "arrest it's way out of the problem" – but that it would be important to work together across the community to address this.

Ruari Hardy introduced the changes that the introduction of The Sexual Offences (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 will bring about when it is implemented. He explained that it will introduce new sexual offences broadly based on those contained in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 of England and Wales:

New Sexual Offences (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020:

Defines "consent"

Introduces four new non-consensual offences:

- Rape
- Assault by penetration
- Sexual assault
- Sexual coercion

Non-consensual offences against children under 13, are strict liability offences.

Sex offences which can be committed against children under 16:

- sexual touching of a child
- causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity
- engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child, and
- causing a child to watch sexual activity.

Further offences of sexual communication with a child

- grooming for sexual conduct with a child, and
- meeting a child following communication

Offences in relation to the sexual exploitation of children, and criminalises the possession of "prohibited items", including child sex dolls.

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Familial child sex offences:

- criminalises sexual touching of a family member under 18, or
- inciting a family member under 18 to engage in sexual touching.

Criminalises sexual penetration of, and consenting to sexual penetration by, an adult relative.

Offences in relation to adults who are in positions of trust over children and persons with a mental disorder.

Offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (also described as "revenge porn").

Criminalises trafficking of people for sexual exploitation (in any part of the world) and allows the detention or forfeiture of a relevant vehicle used for the purposes of trafficking.

Criminalises preparatory conduct.

Introduces offences of voyeurism and voyeurism towards a child under 16 (which includes "upskirting", and more generally observing or recording persons doing private acts).

Re-enactment of the Protection of Children (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1985 with relevant updates.

The Head of Law Enforcement outlined the strategic direction of Government, talking about the proposed Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). He talked about how BLE works with partners and introduced key stakeholders and invited them to talk about their roles:

Fiona Richmond

Domestic Abuse Strategy Coordinator

www.gov.gg/domestic-abuse

Fiona provided an overview of the Domestic Abuse Strategy and how it came into being. She explained the services that the funding for the strategy provided:

- An Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service
- A perpetrator programme
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)
- Domestic Abuse and Relationship Education in Schools
- Multi-Agency Training
- Better data collection
- A domestic abuse strategy coordinator to oversee the work and commission services.
- Supervised Contact at the Child Contact Centre

Fiona provided an overview of the scale of the problem, based on 2020 stats and outlined what is in store for the future: The Strategy is due to go back to the States this year. The Committee for Home Affairs is seeking additional funding from the States to pilot sexual violence services over this States term, and to increase the amount of work that can be done with perpetrators. Additional funding has also been requested for existing services due to the increases in demand.

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Naomi Wood

Service Manager, Safer

www.safer.gg

Safer is a local domestic abuse charity which supports adult and child victims of any gender across the Bailiwick. Naomi provided an overview of the work undertaken and support provided by Safer, explaining the IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service) and the KIDVA Service (Children and Young People's Domestic Violence Advisor). She also discussed the impact of lockdown on service demand and the need for education and greater awareness.

Nicole Thomas

Detective Sergeant, Public Protection Unit (PPU)

www.guernsey.police.uk/PPU

Nicole provided an overview of the PPU team. PPU take the lead from a policing perspective on issues relating (but not limited) to domestic abuse, child protection, neglect and abuse, elder abuse, the protection of vulnerable adults, facilitation of the Multi-Agency Risk Conferences (MARAC), and the management of dangerous offenders (MAPPAs).

She described the multi-agency work undertaken by PPU and how the close working is a benefit within our small island communities. She noted that legislation has been a hindrance to the officers who work in this area and this has contributed to the difficulties around gaining the confidence of the public to come forwards to the Police, which is why a SARC may be beneficial for the community, so that evidence could be preserved for a later time. She described the facilities available in the current suite for victims of sexual offences, where medical examinations can take place, and ABE (video) interviews can be conducted and compared this to what facilities and processes would be available through this new.

Ruari Hardy opened the floor for questions and discussion. The Group discussed a variety of topic areas including:

- the conviction rate in relation to sexual offences and how these may or may not affect public confidence in Law Enforcement
- the decision making around whether to prosecute offences and whether this could be more transparent
- how to note concerns of harm and the sharing of non-conviction data
- whether elder abuse is prevalent
- how to support young people with additional needs
- whether there were concerns around 'incel' groups following incidents such as the recent Plymouth attack
- how the community can show their support for the development of a SARC,
- what can be done to address peer-to-peer harassment and violence within schools,
- how to develop education and awareness, safeguarding and how to deal with porn and sexualised culture
- issues present in Guernsey's night-time economy, particularly night clubs, and what could be done to address these.

As part of the discussions, the representatives from CrimeStoppers drew the group's attention to www.fearless.org (a crimestoppers website aimed at young people to enable them to anonymously pass on information about crime).

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As part of the discussions, Tim Barker, the Dean of Guernsey and a Director of the Social Investment Fund encouraged the charitable organisations present to consider if there were initiatives they wanted to take forward, and that would require funding, to make application to funding boards, such as the SIF or Guernsey Community Foundation to enable the important 3rd sector partnership working to continue and be further developed.

During the meeting, BLE committed to undertaking the following actions:

Actions:

1. Guernsey Police to pilot proactive initiatives activity within the night-time economy – working with partner initiatives to draw attention about particular behaviours and the need to challenge those behaviours (CAG members to be updated about this work as it develops)
2. Guernsey Police to work with CAG members to develop an awareness campaign (potentially using drinks coasters in pubs etc.) to tackle issues like groping, de-sensitisation of the porn culture (“think – this could be your sister” etc.)
3. Guernsey Police to assess whether certain conditions can be stipulated through licensing conditions (for example around the training of door staff)
4. For Guernsey Police Communications to offer advice and feedback to support the efforts of third sector organisations working in this space and to, where appropriate, use the BLE social media platforms to publicise.

In closing, Ruari Hardy asked the Group to suggest topics for future CAG meetings. The topic of internet and online safety (including online exploitation) was requested.

BLE Community Advisory Group

Contact us at: Community@guernsey.pnn.police.uk