MOPAC

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

Mayor Jules Pipe
Chair of London Councils

MOPAC15012016-22245

27 January 2016

Dear Jules

London Councils Grants Consultation

I am writing to you following the publication of the latest results of London Councils Grants Consultation earlier this month and the commencement of your further consultation. I feel that we have made significant progress for London over recent years due to the successful aligning of the Mayor's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2013-17 and commissioning programme with London Councils grant programme and I hope that MOPAC and London Councils will continue to build on this strong foundation in the next funding period.

I particularly wanted to express my support for the proposals to continue to fund Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services that are closely linked with services funded by MOPAC. For example, our pilot on Harmful Practices is delivered by agencies that are also supported through the London Councils Grants Programme. This joint approach has been beneficial to the sector and I strongly support your continued funding of these specialist VAWG services, so that MOPAC and London Councils can continue to work together to support victims/survivors in London.

I am particularly pleased to see that you are minded to fund specialist refuge provision. At a recent meeting of the London Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Board, which includes representatives of London Councils and which I co-chair, we discussed the gaps that the London Councils funded UK Refuges Online data has identified in specialist refuge provision for some of the most vulnerable victims of VAWG. The gaps included those with no recourse to public funds, those with complex needs and those aged 16-18. I would urge you to continue to fund this data collection as well as specialist refuge provision, as it will further support the endeavours of the Board in developing a strategic approach to specialist provision and so ensure these gaps are filled.

I am also pleased that you have acknowledged the links between domestic violence and homelessness and would like to inform you of some further work that the VAWG Board has recently agreed to take forward. The Board has agreed to work together to ensure that the links between homelessness and domestic violence are examined in detail, that local housing options for those who have experienced VAWG are understood, and to work through how we could support local areas in the way they handle these cases. As a member of the Board, we will work with London Councils to take this work forward.

Finally, while I do understand the pressures of forthcoming funding reductions and the resulting indication that you have given that capacity building of the third sector is unlikely to be considered as a priority in general for the Grants Programme going forward, I would

encourage you to reconsider this in the specific context of sexual and domestic violence. The sector is in a very precarious position and in serious need of support to ensure that organisations have diverse income streams, good fundraising strategies, strong governance and financial controls. It was immensely sad to hear that Eaves had to close and I fear that without this kind of support, further agencies will end up in the same position.

I hope you will agree that its important for our two agencies to continue to work together to fund specialist services for victims/survivors of crime in London and hope that you will take these views into account when making further decisions about the grants funding programme.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Greenhalgh
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

P.S. A pleasure to work with both you and Lib on these important matters.

Cc: Cllr McGlone, Chair of London Councils Grants Committee