

### **The Council notes:**

Across the United Kingdom misogyny, harassment and violence towards women and girls is endemic. Many of our residents suffer harassment and abuse every single day. A 2021 YouGov national survey on behalf of UN Women UK found that among women aged 18-24, 97% said they had been sexually harassed, while 80% of women of all ages said they had experienced sexual harassment in public spaces.

The Office of National Statistics reported that last year alone 618,000 women were victims of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault by a man.

In the year to March 2020, just 1.4% of rape cases recorded by police resulted in a suspect being charged (or receiving a summons).

The Law Commission is currently reviewing all current hate crime legislation to consider whether any additional characteristics, including misogyny, should be granted legal protection, and is due to report back to Parliament.

Currently since last Autumn Police Forces have been recording misogyny as a hate crime on an 'experimental basis', following years of Campaigning from Women's Groups and campaigners.

We are proud to have in both Chorley and across Lancashire active campaigning and support organisations, who have continually fought for the safety and protection of women.

Studies have shown that the intersectional nature of discrimination means that women with additional protected characteristics, such as those who are from Black, Asian or Ethnic Minority communities, disabled or LGBT+, are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse.

### **The Council resolves:**

To ensure that Chorley Council continues to do everything in its power to build a borough free of misogyny and violence against women and girls.

That this Council recognises that it is vital that women's and girl's voices are heard; and that the Council will bring forward a process through our Equalities forum so that, it proactively encourages and listens to women's voices across the borough. This task force will seek to involve all women Councillors as community leaders and champions

This Council will call upon the Government to listen to the lived experience of women and girls across our country and to urgently act on any recommendations the Law Commission makes to strengthen the law on hate crime, and to reform legislation around harassment to recognise it as an offence

This Council will also call on the Government to provide the resource and funding for police forces across the UK to effectively tackle harassment, misogyny and domestic abuse.

The Council further calls on Lancashire Police to continue beyond the 'pilot' period to record harassment of women as a hate crime.

Chorley Council also will formally request that the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner seek make the tackling of Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls a priority, including the delivery of additional funding to support both the wider strategy and improved services locally

That the Council Leader writes to our Members of Parliament requesting that they write to the Home Secretary asking that the government takes action to support the #notjustanother campaign asking that all Domestic Abuse and stalking deaths are counted and investigated.

And to promote Chorley Council as an Accredited White Ribbon Organisation and work towards becoming a White Ribbon town.

Cllr Julia Berry

Cllr Karen Derbyshire