The Executive Office has been mandated to lead the development of the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (EVAWG). This process has included a programme of research and engagement, and the publication of Call for Views Summary Report in August 2022. Our engagement with stakeholders continues and at present, this is at co-design stage.

Stakeholders have reflected the information below during EVAWG engagement meetings and in their written responses to the EVAWG Call for Views:

- There has been rise in online abuse which includes online threats, coercion, cyber stalking, revenge porn and cyber flashing, leading to threats, uninvited messages, receipt of unsolicited images and harassment.
- Perpetrators using increasingly sophisticated technology for example software to produce deep fake images – this has culminated in instances of sextortion.
- The increase in the availability of online pornography has altered how boys perceive sex and how they view healthy relationships and consent.
- That the nature of comments online in both posts and comments are discriminatory, misogynistic, and threatening.
- Harmful sexual behaviour in schools can be manifested in non-consensual image sharing.
- Online abuse can happen anywhere that allows online communication, including social networks, text messages and messaging apps, email and private messaging, online chats, comments on livestreaming sites and voice or video chat in games. Perpetrators may also share abusive images, live streams and recordings with others online.
- There has been an increase in self-generated imagery as a form of abuse.
- There is a need for regulation to better reflect the cross-platform nature of many online risks - grooming can move from popular social networking sites to livestreamed abuse.
- Strengthening of safeguarding controls for children and young people to protect them from viewing online explicit material and engaging in harmful sexual behaviour using social media platforms.
- There needs to be parity in the level of support offered to children abused online as to those abused offline.

- The fast and ever-changing online space needs to be kept pace with as technology evolves.
- The raising of awareness among parents and guardians on the risks involved in the online space and equipping them with information to discuss those risks.