

1) Name, Job Title and quick summary of role:

Aisha Graham-Sharif, Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Programme Manager, MOPAC.



I am part of the Violence Against Women and Girl's (VAWG) team which sits in the Criminal Justice and Commissioning Directorate in MOPAC. We have responsibility for developing policy, programmes of work and commissioning services that deliver on Mayoral commitments as set out in London's Police and Crime Plan and the London Tackling VAWG Strategy.

In my role, I manage a variety of organisations from National Health Service England partners to specialist voluntary sector providers delivering on a range of critical interventions aimed at providing much needed support for victims and survivors and tackling VAWG more broadly.

One day I may be speaking to Carnival organisers about strategies and policy around sexual violence and harassment, the next, visiting providers to meet survivors and hear about how the services we fund have helped them to rebuild their lives and stay safe from violence and abuse.

2) What is your background and what brought you to City Hall?

Ending VAWG has always been a passion of mine and I have worked in this area in various guises for nearly 20 years. I have developed and embedded training and policy frameworks for local authorities and national organisations to ensure they are best placed to identify and respond to VAWG, I have developed and delivered recovery programmes for survivors who have fled abuse and most recently led a national initiative to transform the response to domestic abuse in the housing sector.

This has provided me the opportunity to develop a mix of skills on a strategic and operational level and to also understand the issues on the frontline for survivors and the organisations that support them.

I am an activist at heart and have been involved in successful lobbying campaigns to change responses for survivors of VAWG. I am also a Londoner at heart so coming to City Hall was a (total no-brainer!) full circle opportunity for me to be able to tie together my passion to tackle and ultimately end VAWG with my political interests and I feel incredible privileged to be able to do this in and for a city I love.

3) What keeps you here?

Watching the news, we can often feel helpless and at a loss at what to do or where to start to effect positive change that will benefit people on a large scale.

Working at MOPAC allows me to do just that – It is an amazing opportunity to feed into crucial decisions affecting national and local policy, specialist support provision for victims and survivors and help steer the conversations about how we respond to VAWG and wider issues around violence in general in the capital.

It also helps to be working alongside some of the most knowledgeable, positive and passionate people I have ever met who bring in great food most days!

4) Why should people come and work at City Hall?

It is a total honour to be able to work in such an iconic building alongside a mix of colleagues all working to improve London and outcomes for its inhabitants and visitors.

You cannot beat a riverside view with your choice of eateries and places of interest steps away. Wandering into visiting children singing for the Mayor or impromptu mini-cabaret workshops are also pretty hard to beat too in terms of brightening up a hard day!