

SEFTON

SEFTON DOMESTIC ABUSE NEEDS ASSESSMENT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

V2.2

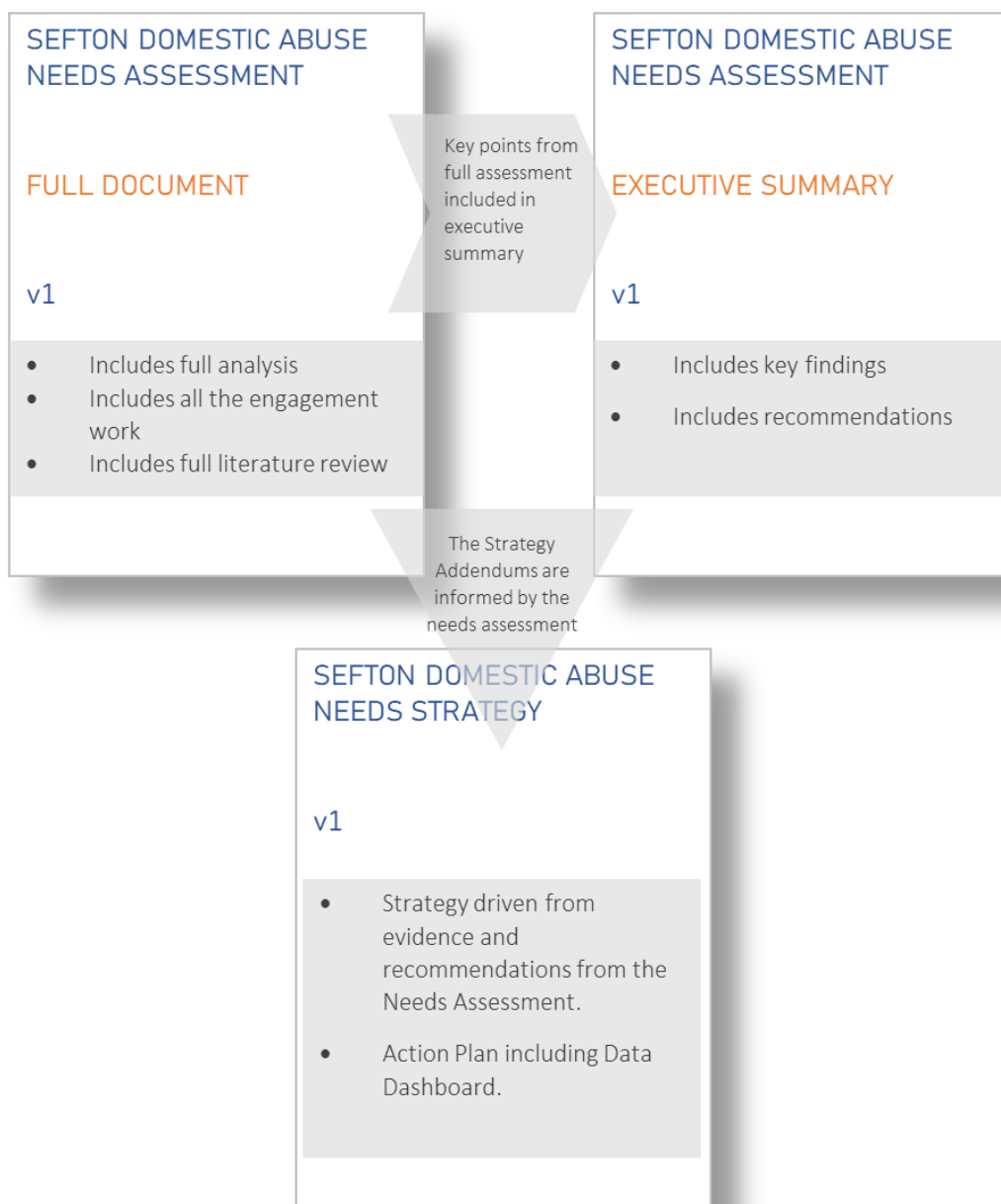
NOTE ON THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

S Squared Analytics were commissioned by Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council on behalf of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to undertake a Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment as required by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in relation to the statutory duties outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act.

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council has a statutory duty to complete a Needs Assessment on Safe Accommodation relating to victims/survivors of Domestic Abuse. In addition to meeting this statutory duty, this Needs Assessment covers the wider gap analysis of Domestic Abuse across Sefton.

A full needs assessment was completed and delivered in the summer of 2022. The Full Needs Assessment is a comprehensive document from which the key findings and recommendations will feed and drive the Domestic Abuse Strategy for Sefton.

In addition to the Full Needs Assessment, this Executive Summary document has been developed which condenses the key findings and key findings into a more concise and easy-to-read format suitable for a wider audience.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The following section details the recommendations of this Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. The structure we have used pulls out the key findings from the needs assessment, looks at their impact on domestic abuse need in Sefton, and shows the evidenced-based recommendation.

In addition to the recommendations, we also include a summary of the stories and feedback that we received from domestic abuse survivors within Sefton. The lived experience of survivors in Sefton should be used to inform commissioning and strategic decisions as the domestic abuse response is developed.

SURVIVOR RESPONSE

As part of this needs assessment, we received feedback from survivors with first-hand experience of the domestic abuse response within Sefton. There were a range of experiences provided and these are contained in full within the document (page 38)

Here is a summary of some of the key issues faced by survivors locally. These responses do not cover all areas or services, but they do give insight into what is important to those navigating services because of being a victim of domestic abuse.

It is important that progressing with the development of the domestic abuse response within Sefton, the views of those with lived experience of domestic abuse are sought and valued.

- Court processes are difficult and can be overwhelming and, in some cases, can serve to perpetuate the abuse.
- The police have a key role, as first responders, in providing protection and support in often complicated and difficult situations. Their response can be a key factor in whether a victim takes an abusive incident further.
- All practitioners whose role overlaps with survivors of domestic abuse have to be aware of the complexities of the issues involved and the way that available services can help.
- The reasons that survivors have for not reporting domestic abuse must be understood and considered by practitioners.
- The impact of domestic abuse on children is still not fully understood.

BEST PRACTICE/ GUIDANCE

Throughout the document we have included the best practice and guidance from the [Domestic Abuse: draft statutory guidance framework](#). The tables located at the start of each chapter provide an overview of the relevant best practice for the service area and the approach and opportunities in Sefton.

These examples can be used to inform the partnership-wide domestic abuse response in Sefton.

DEMOGRAPHICS

KEY FINDING

There are variances in the age profiles of the wards in Sefton. For example, 65% of the population in Cambridge are over the age of 45 compared to 39% in Linacre.

The age profile of the wards will have a bearing on the prevalence of domestic abuse.

IMPACT

Different wards will have a different type of domestic abuse need based on their age make-up.

Older people can be particularly vulnerable to certain forms of abuse, including abuse by a carer and financial abuse. Older people may be dependent on the person abusing them, which is a barrier to accessing specialist services.

RECOMMENDATION

The varying age demographics of different wards suggests that a tailored approach based on age may be required.

Staff working in areas with a high older person population will need additional training and awareness raising to ensure they are able to recognise all types of abuse.

KEY FINDING

Research and our analysis highlight a correlation between deprivation and the risk of intimate partner violence.

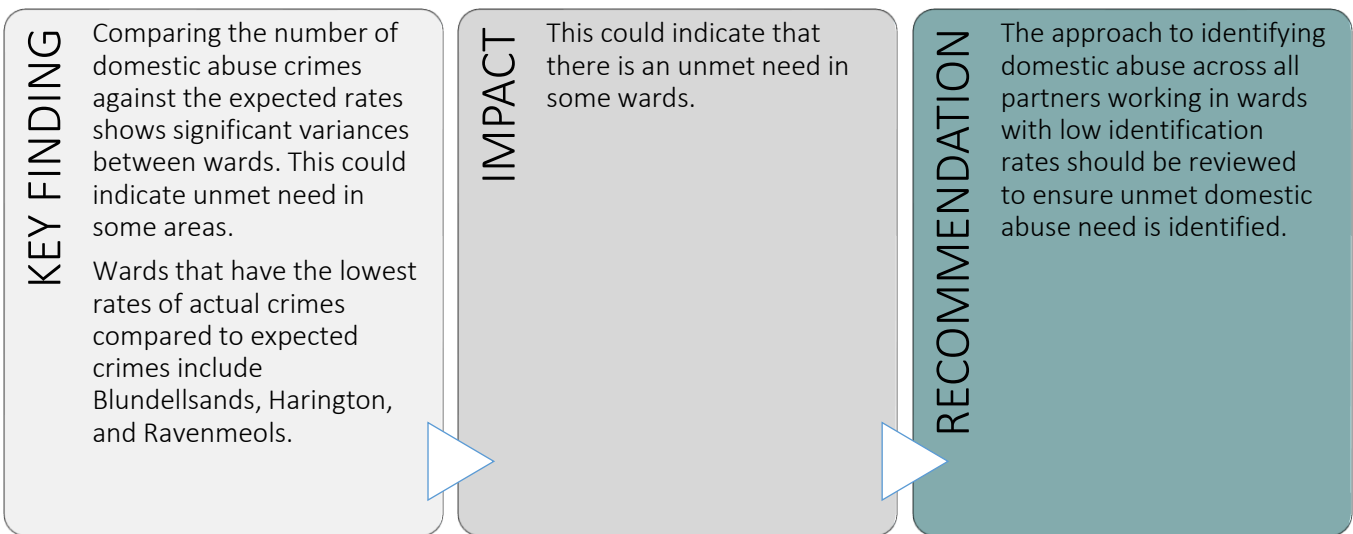
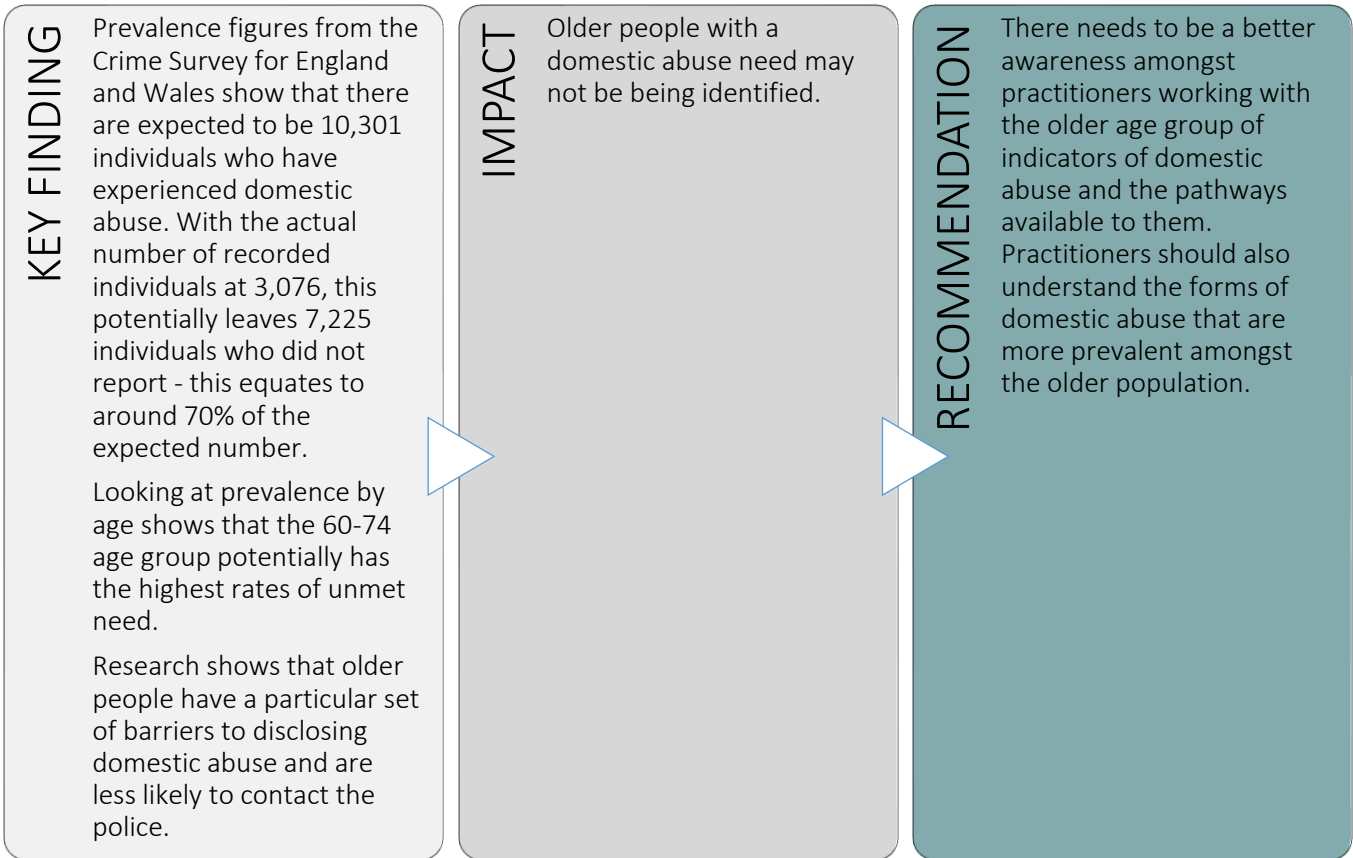
IMPACT

There are wards in the south of Sefton where there is likely to be a greater prevalence of intimate partner violence.

RECOMMENDATION

To address this increased need, services will need to consider increasing their resources in areas of high deprivation.

Additional domestic abuse training for all front-line practitioners working in these areas of high deprivation should also be considered to ensure that there is robust identification of need. Appropriate and sensitive routine enquiry must be standard practice across all services that women with experience of abuse come into contact with. Staff in services outside the domestic and sexual abuse sector must also be appropriately trained.



WARNING – For the above recommendation, due to the different format of the data provided at Ward level, it was not possible to look at unique individuals with a flagged domestic abuse crime to the police. The recommendation is based on crimes so there will be duplication of individuals; however this analysis has been included as it still provides an overall picture of potential unmet need.

HOUSING

KEY FINDING

The rate of 8.7% of households owed a duty is one of the lowest when compared to the CIPFA nearest neighbours (for example Redcar and Cleveland, East Riding of Yorkshire, and Northumberland all have rates between 17.9% and 21.8%).

IMPACT

It is not clear whether the lack of suitable specialist emergency accommodation precludes people from approaching housing options services when they are survivors of domestic abuse or if survivors of domestic abuse are being diverted to other services before becoming homeless.

RECOMMENDATION

The reasons for the low rates need to be explored further.

KEY FINDING

There is no complete data showing the areas where Sefton residents access refuges.

IMPACT

Continuity of care for when residents come back into Sefton is made more difficult.

RECOMMENDATION

More information is required in relation to which areas Sefton residents use when they require emergency refuge accommodation.

KEY FINDING

There are sometimes difficulties in placing Sefton residents in properties outside of Sefton using the Property Pool Plus process.

IMPACT

Delays in housing people in appropriate accommodation can increase the risk to the victim.

RECOMMENDATION

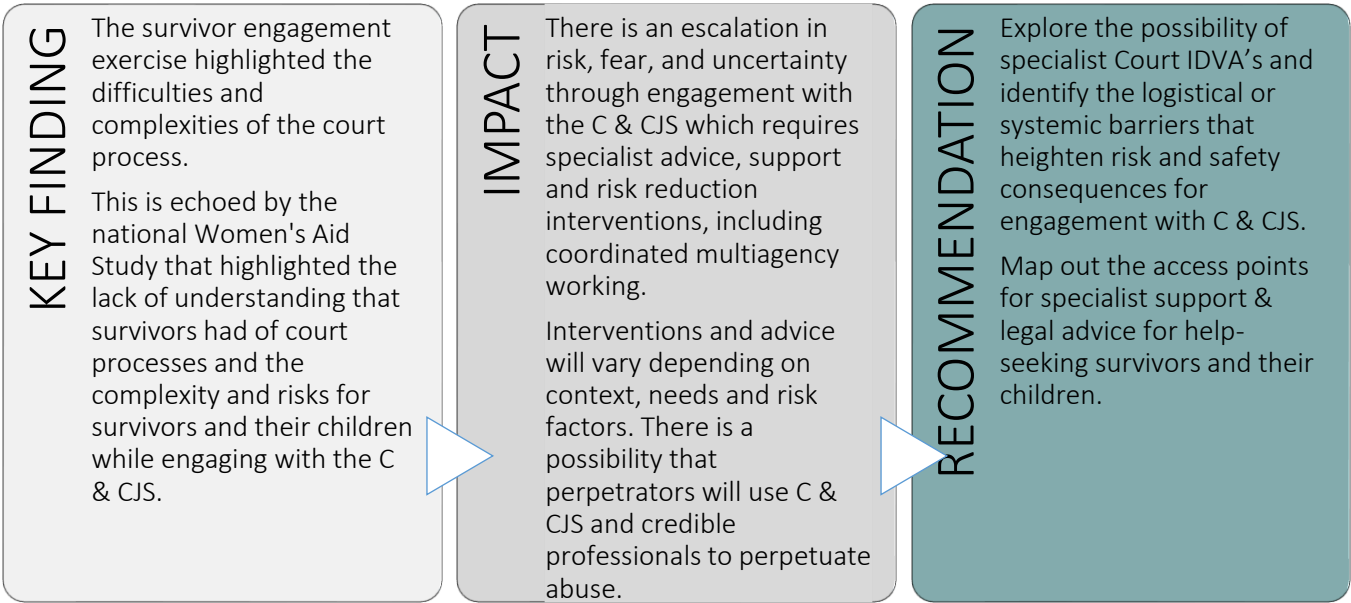
Where MARAC risk assessments identify a need for victims to be placed outside of Sefton, this should happen in a timely manner.

<p>KEY FINDING</p> <p>There is no refuge property in Sefton, although there is a plan for a 5-unit property within the borough.</p> <p>Using the Council of Europe calculation of 1 bed space per 10,000 of the population there is a minimum requirement for 28 bed spaces in Sefton.</p> <p>There is no specialist domestic violence accommodation ('safe accommodation') in Sefton.</p>	<p>IMPACT</p> <p>Individuals who approach the Housing Options Team for assistance potentially placed in bed and breakfast properties. These properties are not suitable for survivors of domestic abuse, particularly those with families.</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>The safe accommodation offering in Sefton should be improved.</p> <p>Bed and breakfast should not be used to house those affected by domestic abuse.</p>
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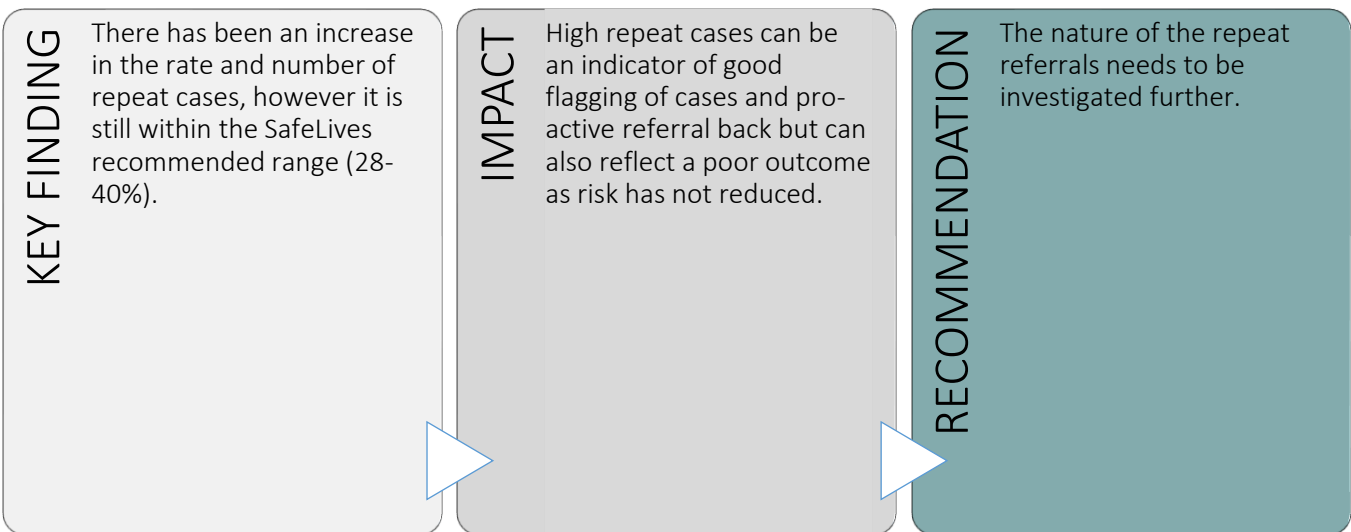
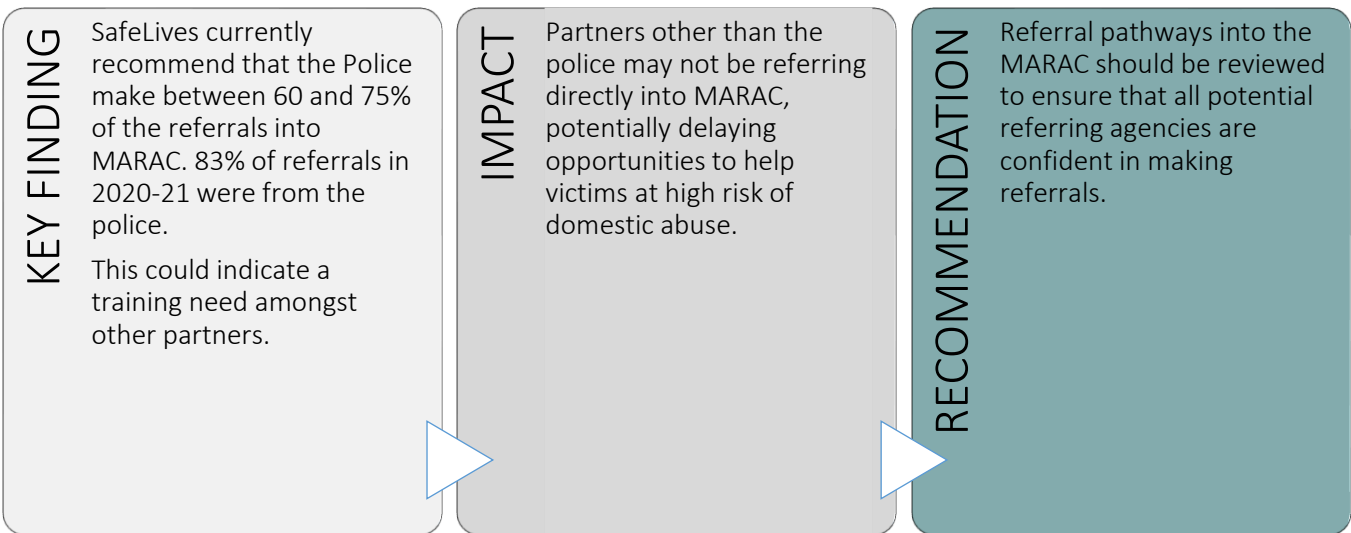
<p>KEY FINDING</p> <p>Sanctuary scheme data shows a decrease in the number of households supported. In 2018-19, 29 households were supported, compared with 10 in 2021-22.</p> <p>Domestic abuse incidents have increased in this time period.</p>	<p>IMPACT</p> <p>There are less people being supported by the scheme.</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>The scope of the scheme is widened to increase the numbers supported.</p>
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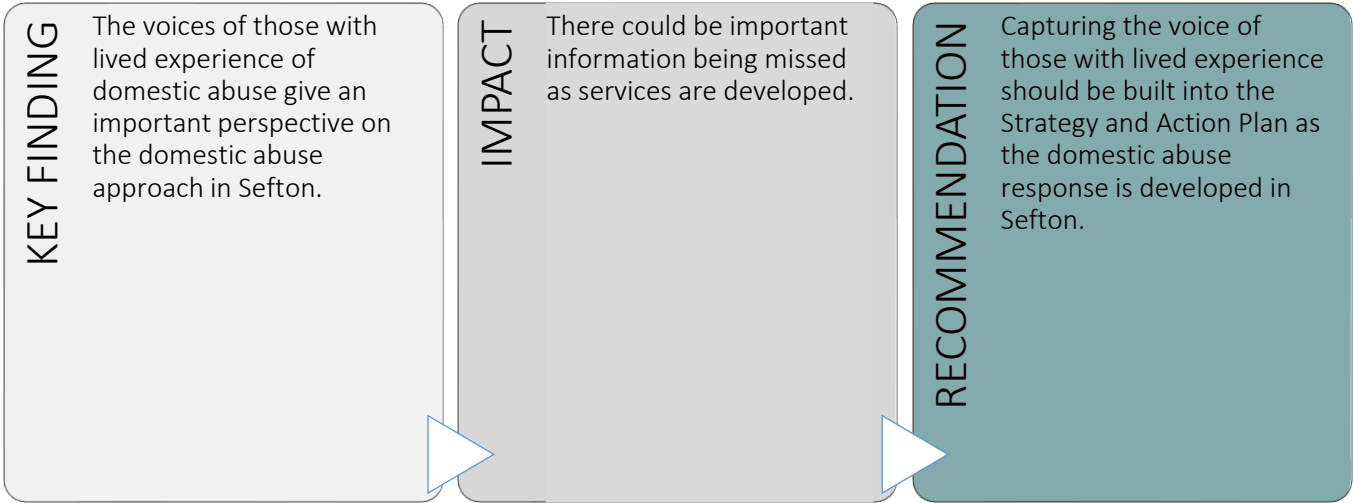
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

<p>KEY FINDING</p> <p>Police data shows that there has been an increase in the number and rate of male victims reporting incidents to the police in comparison with September 2019.</p> <p>The new SWACA male domestic abuse service will help meet the need of the male victims being identified by the police and other partners.</p>	<p>IMPACT</p> <p>The increase in identification of male domestic abuse victims is likely to impact on the demand for specialist male services.</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>Locally, there needs to be more information gathered on how males access services and what support male victims require when they do access services, including accommodation support.</p>
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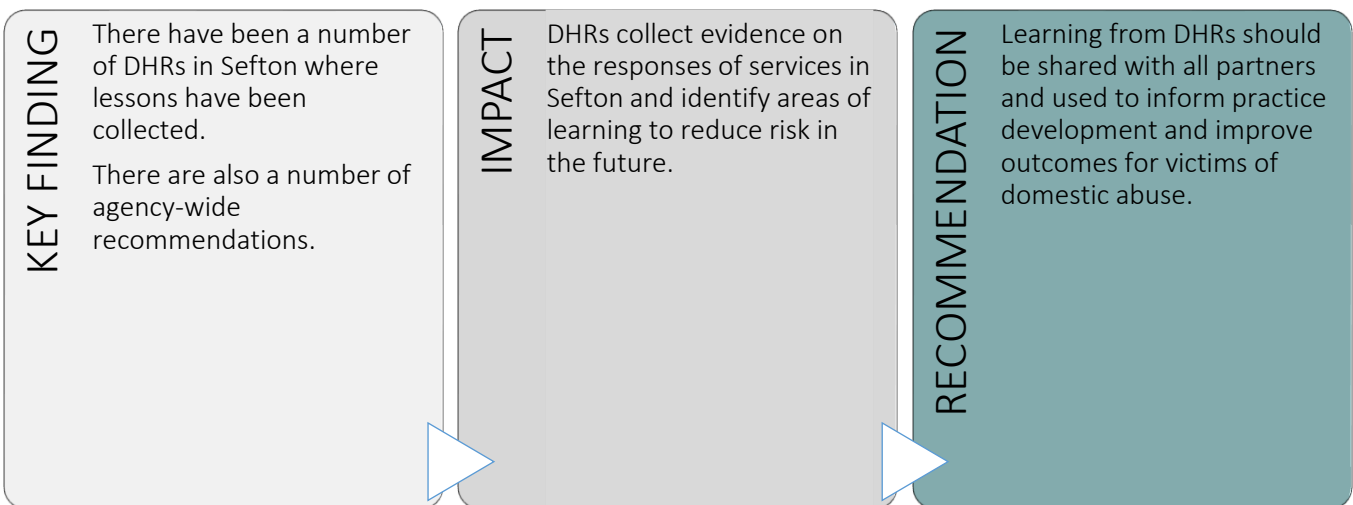
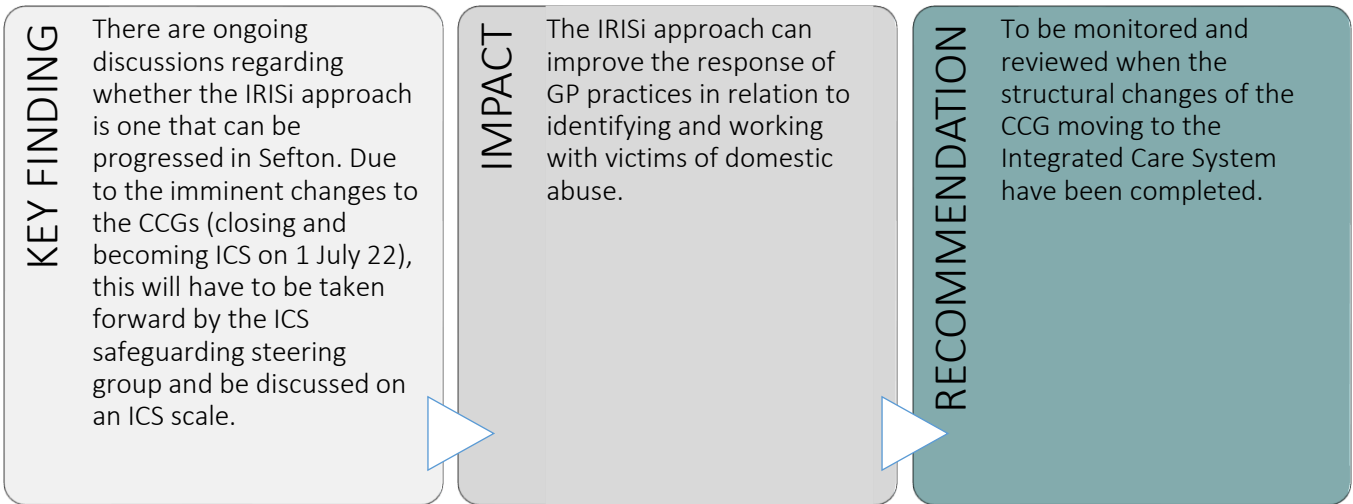


PROVISION





HEALTH



KEY FINDING

From April 2022, patients with online accounts such as through the NHS App will be able to read new entries in their health record. In Sefton, this app is due to be available in July 2022.

IMPACT

The nature of the primary care medical record means it sometimes contains information that is confidential and sensitive, be it information about a 3rd party which the patient must not see, or if the medical record was viewed by someone other than the patient.

The ease of accessing GP data could create a risk for victims of domestic abuse who are still with their abusive partner.

RECOMMENDATION

In such cases of a vulnerable adult, the importance of safeguarding the patient from further harm is paramount, and it may be appropriate to redact or prevent specific information entered into the GP medical record from being shared within the patient's access and view.

In response to these concerns, the Royal College of General Practitioners is updating its patient online toolkit, in collaboration with safeguarding experts. This will cover situations where safeguarding concerns may arise, and the steps clinicians could take to mitigate these risks.

Partners need to be aware that this law is changing and keep up to date on guidance.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

KEY FINDING

The Sefton early intervention response is developing to include a reducing parental conflict programme and a promoting healthy relationships programme.

IMPACT

There is likely to be a cross over between these programmes and programmes and services offered by the domestic abuse specialist providers.

RECOMMENDATION

It is important to ensure that referring practitioners are aware of the remit of the programmes to avoid minimising domestic abuse behaviours and/or inadvertently increasing risks.

GEOGRAPHY

KEY FINDING

The analysis shows that across the multiple datasets, the south of Sefton exhibits the highest rates for domestic abuse-related referrals and cases.

Engagement and research highlights the links between deprivation and domestic abuse, however the analysis also raises questions about potential unmet need in the central and north of the borough.

IMPACT

This could indicate unmet need in the central and north of the borough.

RECOMMENDATION

The reasons for the differences in the identification of domestic abuse victims between the south of the borough and the other two localities will have to be explored further.

Reasons highlighted in the engagement exercise, such as a physical office space for SWACA, will have to be tested further.

DATA RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDING

SWACA do not record disabilities.

SWACA, YMCA etc have no ethnicity data.

Recording of ethnicity is patchy across the whole system

Recording of mental health issues can be improved.

Both IDVA and MARAC record mental health needs under disabilities.

IMPACT

This is an Intelligence gap and impacts on service planning and development.

RECOMMENDATION

This should be developed and monitored as part of the new monitoring system.

KEY FINDING

Low rates of LGBT for MARAC. Their performance report states – “Future consideration will be given as to how to increase the number of LGBT cases identified through MARAC, which may include liaising with both local and regional LGBT forums etc.”

There is a variation in the size of the LGBT population, however the current estimate from PHE stands at between 2.5-5.8%.

IDVA rates are also low.

IMPACT

There could be an unmet need in relation to LGBT victims.

RECOMMENDATION

Explore options to increase rates.

Analysis of police data.

KEY FINDING

There has been an increase in male victims across a number of datasets. However, there is a disparity between high rates in police data and other datasets.

IMPACT

Police are an agency that are involved when a relationship has reached a point of crisis. There may be other agencies who can identify domestic abuse need involving male victims at an earlier stage.

RECOMMENDATION

The recording of male victims should be improved.

PATHWAYS

KEY FINDING

Practitioners fed back that sometimes the pathways into specialist services were not clear.

IMPACT

This could mean that those requiring help are not referred into services.

RECOMMENDATION

Pathways and mechanisms into specialist domestic abuse services should be reviewed.

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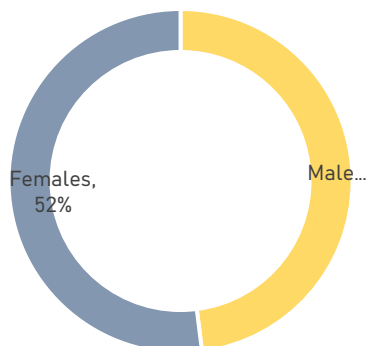
PICTURE IN SEFTON

POPULATION

POPULATION

275,899

The latest available ONS Mid-Year estimates provide a figure of 275,899 for Sefton. Since 2014, the population has grown by 2,043 residents, equating to less than 1%.



There are slightly more females than males in Sefton.

MEDIAN AGE

47

The median age across Sefton has increased from 45 years of age in 2011 to 47 in 2020.

There are variances between the wards. For example, 65% of the population in Cambridge are over the age of 45 compared to 39% in Linacre. The age profile of the wards will have a bearing on the prevalence of domestic abuse.

BAME

2.6%

The 2011 census data shows that 2.6% of the population in Sefton are from a BAME background, however the rate is now likely to be higher.

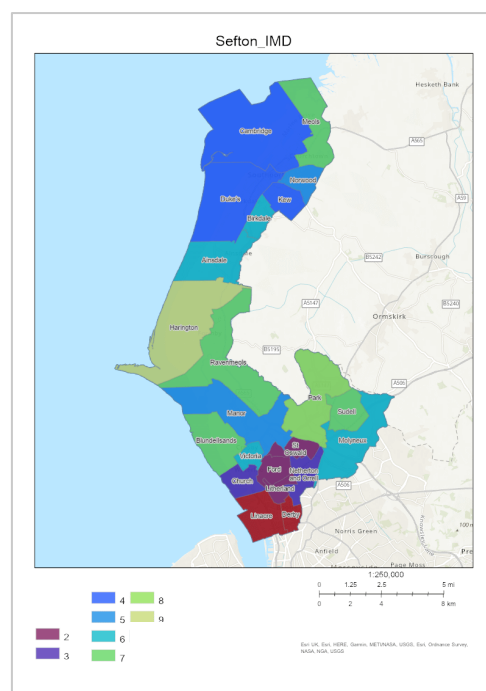
The 2020 school census data shows a higher rate of 4.8%, however this only takes into account school records.

DEPRIVATION

The following map shows the IMD decile by ward, where 1 is the most deprived (most deprived 10%) and 10 is the least. The map shows that there is significant polarisation of deprivation between the wards.

Combining the IMD along with other factors such as age may help to understand prevalence.

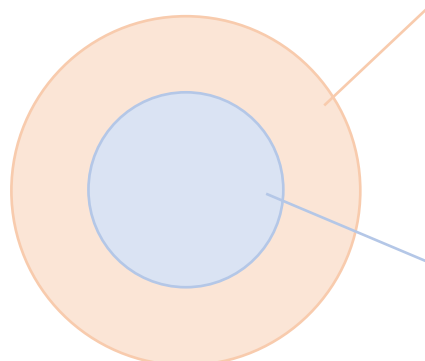
Correlation by Ward of deprivation against domestic abuse flagged crimes, IDVA referrals, and MARAC referrals show a strong correlation.



PREVALENCE

EXPECTED PREVALENCE - OVERVIEW

The following expected prevalence uses the findings from the Crime Survey of England and Wales applied to the population by age across Sefton. The expected number is based only on age and does not take into account other factors such as ethnicity and deprivation.



EXPECTED NUMBER OF DOMESTIC ABUSE INDIVIDUALS: 10301

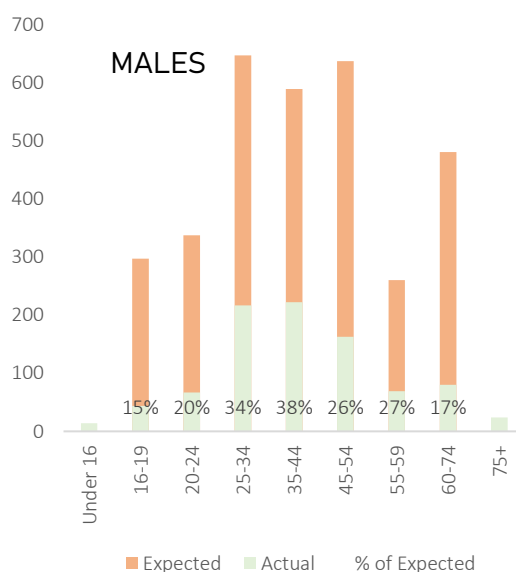
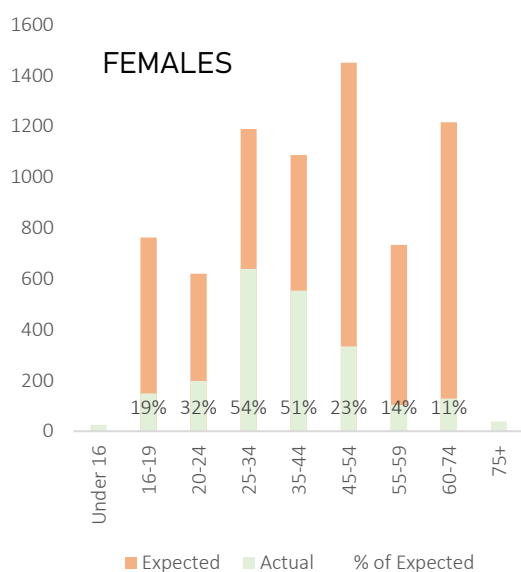
RECORDED NUMBER OF DOMESTIC ABUSE CRIMES (INDIVIDUALS): 3076

Using the expected prevalence by age and gender and applying the rates to the Sefton population gives a figure of 10,301 individuals. With the actual number of recorded crimes at 3,076, this potentially leaves 7,225 cases that were not reported. Note however that the 3,076 is based on reported individuals with an incident that resulted in a crime being recorded

EXPECTED PREVALENCE - AGE

The following chart shows the expected and actual prevalence of domestic abuse by gender and age group.

The older age groups, in particular the 55-59 and the 60-74 groups, show potentially the highest rate of unmet need. Research shows that older people have a particular set of barriers to disclosing domestic abuse and are less likely to contact the police.









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ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT

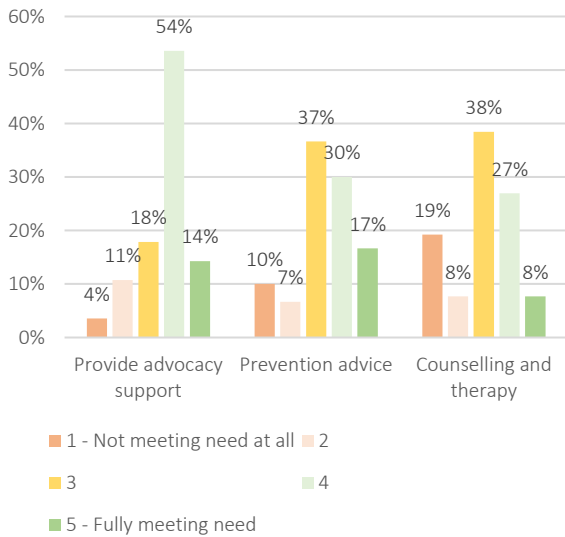
As part of this needs assessment, we completed a comprehensive engagement exercise with survivors of domestic abuse and practitioners working with those who experience domestic abuse.

The full analysis can be found in the full document.

	<p>PRACTITIONER SURVEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed to key partners and hosted on the Sefton MBC website. • Covered key areas such as service response, response to those from protected characteristics, how support is meeting need. • 33 responses
	<p>COMMUNITY SURVEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed to key partners for promotion among their service users and hosted on the Sefton MBC website. • Covered key areas such as experience of service and barriers to services. • 29 responses
	<p>PRACTITIONER FOCUS GROUPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended team meetings with SWACA and IDVA services to understand what is working well and the areas that require development in Sefton.
	<p>SURVIVOR INTERVIEWS AND GROUPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed survivor interviews with the assistance of SWACA. • Gave an understanding of the self-identified need of survivors of domestic abuse and their experiences of services in Sefton.
	<p>KEY PRACTITIONER INTERVIEWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed 1-2-1 interviews with key practitioners to understand services response to domestic abuse in Sefton. • Captured information on what is working well and areas that need to be developed.
	<p>DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP BOARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the needs assessment process, we presented findings and draft versions of the needs assessment to the local partnership board, enabling us to develop the assessment.

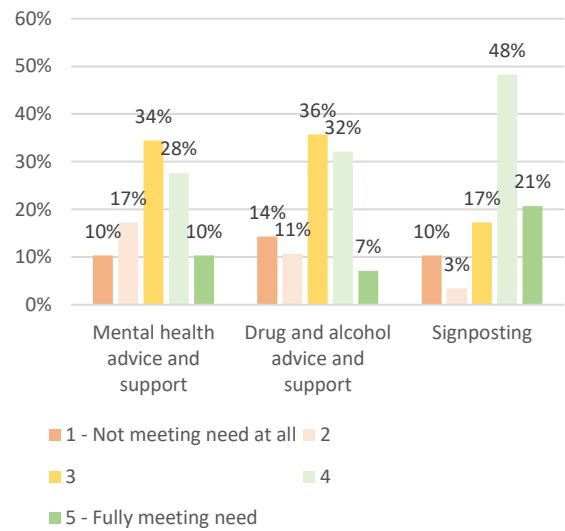
PRACTITIONER SURVEY – SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

Respondents were asked if services were meeting needs in the following areas. There was good feedback for advocacy support.



PRACTITIONER SURVEY – SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS WITH UNIQUE OR COMPLEX NEEDS

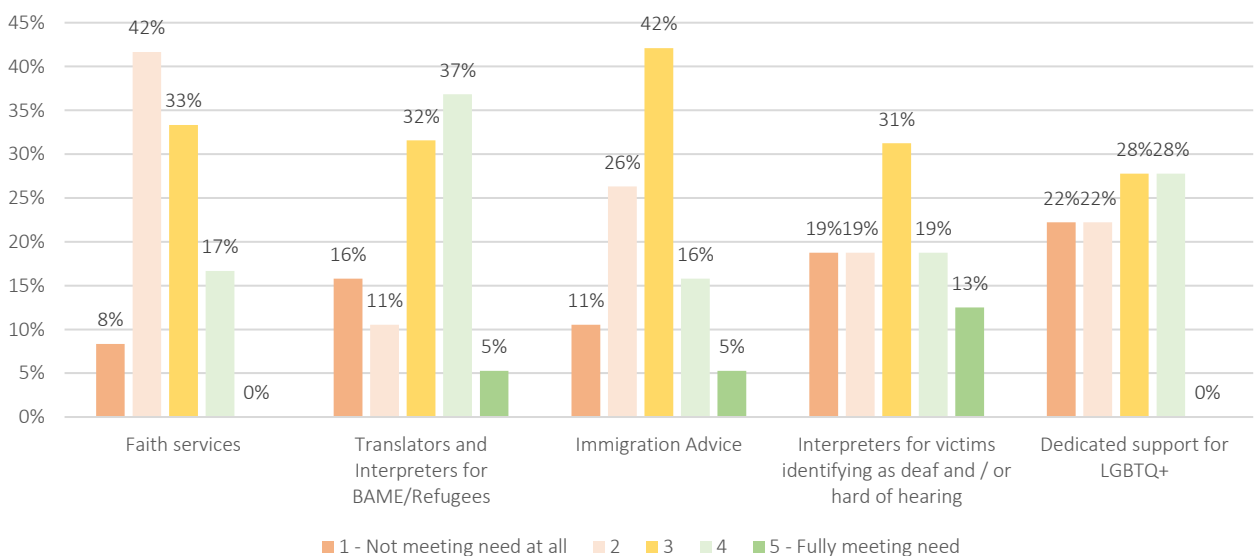
Respondents were asked if services were meeting needs in the following areas. There was good feedback for signposting support.



PRACTITIONER SURVEY – SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

Respondents were asked if services were meeting needs for those with protected characteristics.

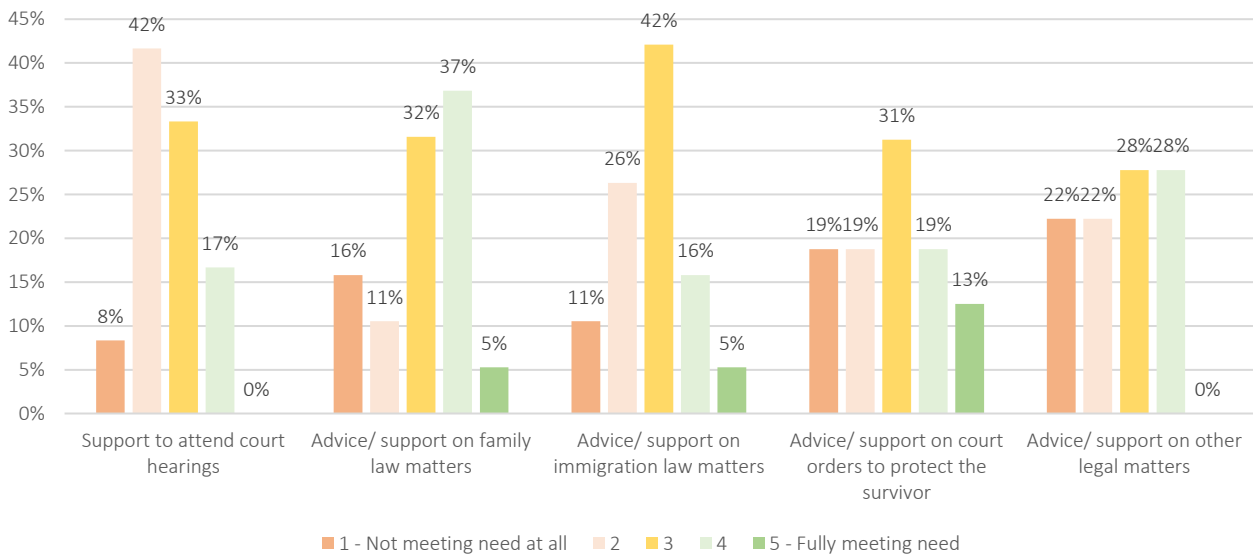
Faith services, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ received low scores relating to meeting needs.



PRACTITIONER SURVEY – CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

In relation to criminal justice services, respondents were asked if services were meeting needs.

Responses indicate that needs are not being met in relation to supporting people to attend court hearings.



PRACTITIONER SURVEY – FREE TEXT COMMENTS

What needs to be improved in Sefton?

For survivors with learning needs, is there access to support for them, so they can process what is happening and express it? Is there skilled advocacy or intermediary support for them?

Health Practitioner

Greater knowledge around the work undertaken by organisations that provide support. Possibly some joint work with those agencies. Consideration of greater cooperation from Children and Families services with Adult services.

Adult Safeguarding Practitioner

Gaps in Sefton

Flexible and specific safe temporary and long-term housing for individuals and families who are suffering domestic abuse.

Safeguarding Practitioner, Sefton MBC

Not enough housing, not enough refuge, not able to respond quickly enough to survivors, CS not having the knowledge around DA in order to safeguard and protect the survivor and children.

IDVA, Sefton MBC

SURVIVOR FEEDBACK

"I had an IDVA who was amazing and really helped to support me throughout my court process.

"I feel it would have been useful to have been offered an IDVA prior to court as it may have prevented the further abuse which led to going to court to get a non-molestation order, however once she was involved, I was grateful to have some support and understanding."

Female, 30-39 years old

"We needed a lot of this support but despite police records and a non-molestation order, I was not believed by social care about the abuse and was instead accused of being emotionally abusive myself."

Female, 30-39 years old

"The abuse didn't seem to be a police matter, and I'm not sure they'd have taken it seriously. I am fairly sure they'd have dismissed it, as most abusers apparently are male, so when called they automatically become aggressive toward me. So why would I trust them?"

Male, 50-59 years old

"Because the first time I reported an incident to the police, they told me I shouldn't make a complaint as it was 'just a push', I felt that they felt I was wasting their time. I did not tell them about the rapes even though I was pregnant from the last rape.

"Then I later reported again and I felt they didn't even really bother to investigate it and initially treated me like a time waster again.

"They left him a PIN in his letterbox which terrified me as I was really scared this would just escalate his behaviour.

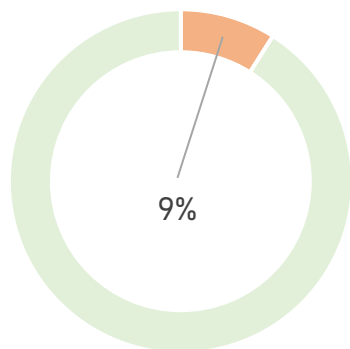
"Another time they just passed me to NCDV after taking a report and never followed up with me. I would probably tell someone not to bother with the police as all that happens is they make it worse and no action is ever taken and often you are treated with contempt for wasting their time."

Female, 30-39 years old

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HOUSING

HOMELESSNESS



HOMELESSNESS APPROACHES

For the 12 months to June 2021, there were 9% households assessed and duty owed with the reason being domestic abuse. Based on the 12 months to June analysis across 3 years, the % of households assessed as owed a duty due to domestic abuse has remained stable. However, in terms of actual numbers, this has increased due to the overall higher number of households assessed.

This rate is significantly lower than the CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

REFUGE

REFUGE SPACES

Using Council of Europe calculation with minimum recommendation of one space per 10,000 population, this equates to 28 for Sefton. The Council of Europe is based on the local population and does not take into account cross-border movement. For example, residents of Sefton requiring refuge are unlikely to be placed in Sefton itself.

At the time of this Needs Assessment, there were no refuge spaces in Sefton as the service provided by SWACA has been closed since March 2020.

A new refuge is in the pipeline and will include 5 self-contained units and a communal kitchen.

SEFTON POPULATION	RECOMMENDED SPACES	CURRENT SPACES
275,899	28	0

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

RELIEF STAGE

2019-20

2020-21

2020-21^a

NUMBERS AT RELIEF STAGE

280

524

628

WITH DA FLAG

9.6%
(27)

9.3%
(49)

12.7%
(80)

MAIN DUTY STAGE

2019-20

2020-21

2020-21^a

NUMBERS AT MAIN DUTY STAGE

24

45

48

WITH DA FLAG

20.8%
(5)

4.4%
(2)

8.3%
(4)

OUTCOMES

12

20

32

SANCTUARY SCHEME

PROVISION

-  PERSONAL ALARMS
-  LIGHT TIMERS
-  LOCK CHANGES
-  WINDOW ALARMS
-  DOOR WEDGES
-  DOOR BOLTS

ACTIVITY – HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED

2018-19
29



2019-20
26



2020-21
7



2020-21
10
(not full year)

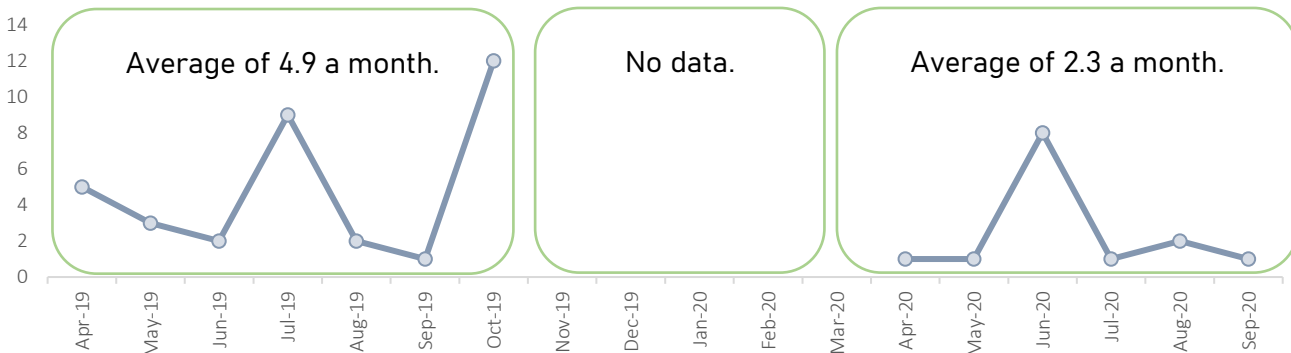


MERSEYSIDE DOMESTIC ABUSE RAPID ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

The project is delivered by YMCA Liverpool and provides safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse as an alternative to refuge provision alongside emotional and financial support.

The hope is that accommodation solutions are provided for people that can become their home and a place that they can settle and rebuild their lives, free from domestic abuse.

The programme is open to anyone over 18 in Merseyside who is impacted by domestic abuse, regardless of gender or family set-up.



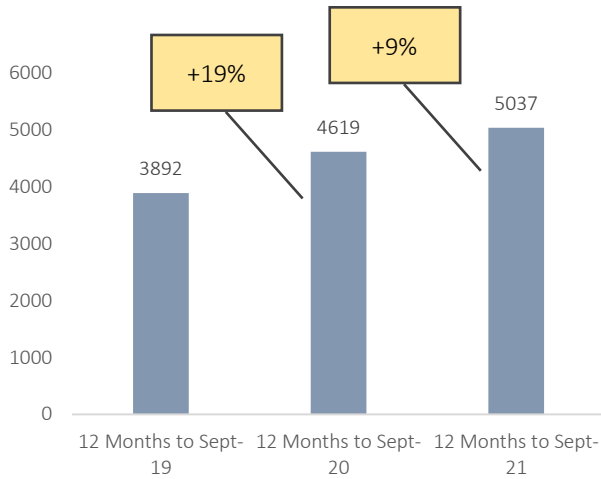
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CIVIL AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM, POLICE,
COURTS
AND CPS

POLICE

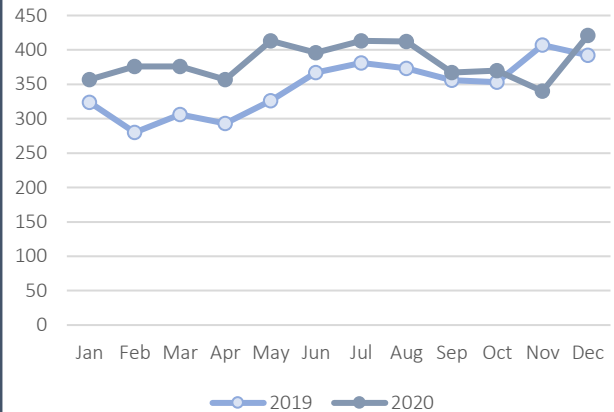
GENERAL TRENDS

The analysis looking at the 12 months to September 2021 against the previous two years show an increase.



COVID-19

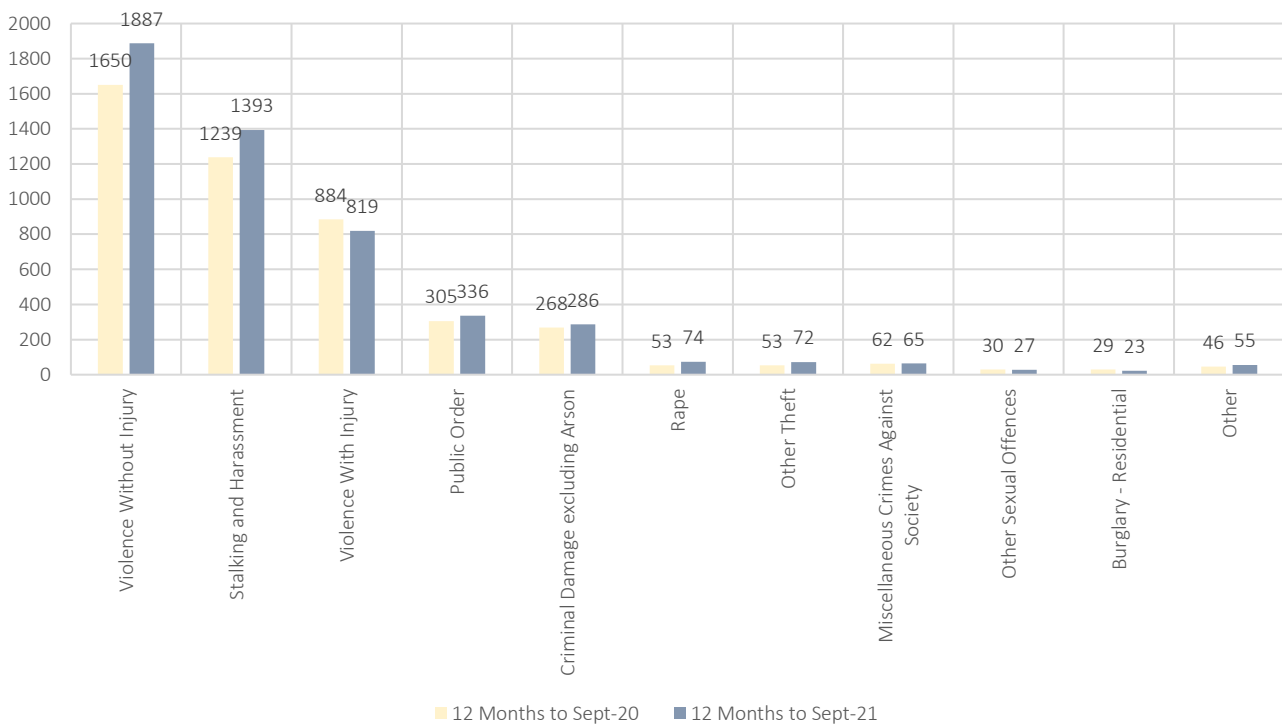
The following looks at how 2020 compares to 2019, broken down by monthly figures. The chart shows that the early part of 2020 had a higher number of crimes in comparison to 2019.



CRIME TYPES

The top 5 offence type accounts for 94% of the domestic abuse flagged crime types, with Violence Without Injury, and Stalking and Harassment accounting for a high rate.

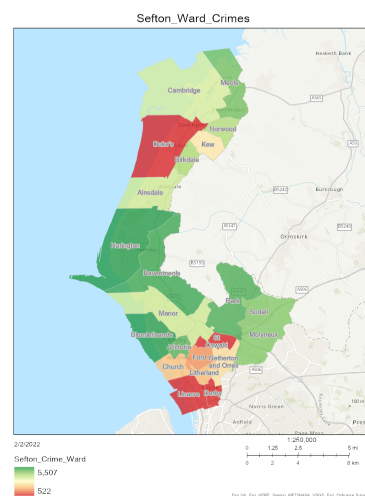
Comparing the 12 months to September 2021 against the previous year, most offence types saw an increase. Exceptions to this include Violence with Injury which saw a decrease of 7%.



GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

The map shows the rate of Domestic Abuse flagged crimes in 2020-21 per 100,000 population by ward.

With the exception of Dukes, the wards with the highest rates are clustered towards the south of Sefton.

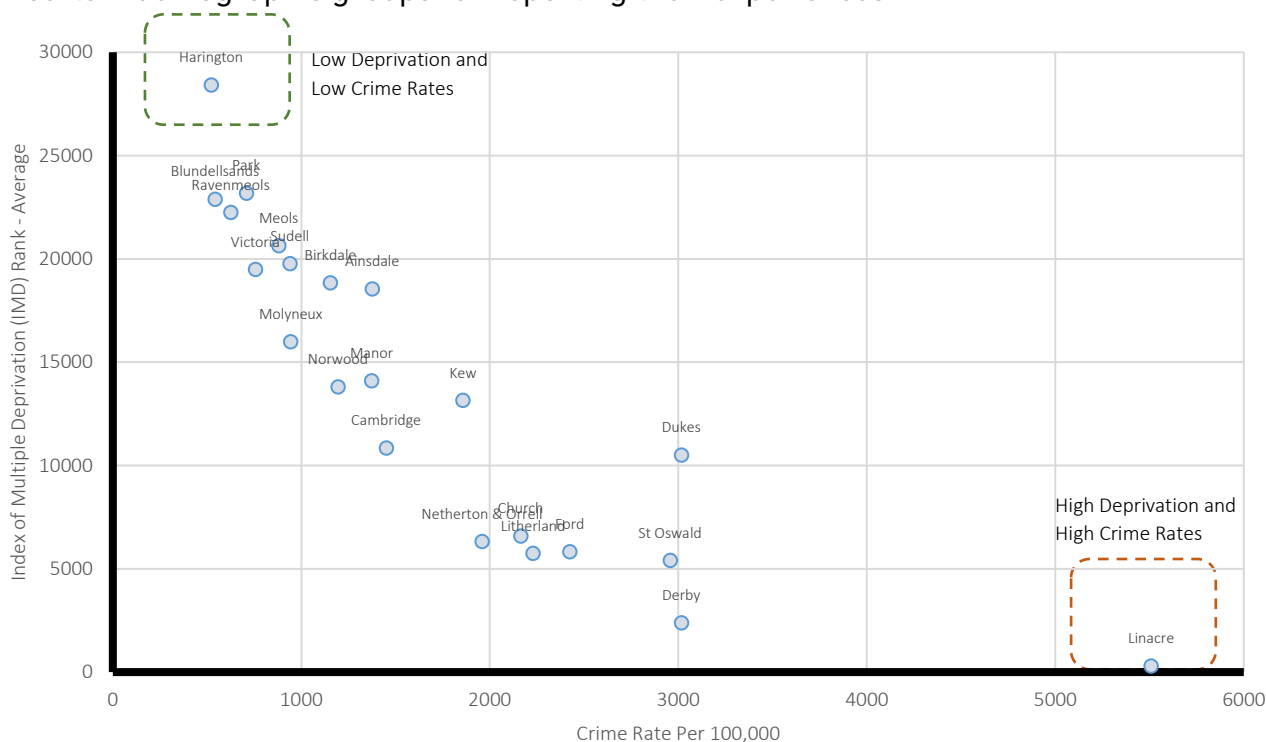


DEPRIVATION

Analysis of the correlation of Domestic Abuse incidents recorded by the police and IMD by ward gives a result of 0.85, which is very strong correlation.

Below plots by ward the crime rate per 100,000 population against the IMD rank (closer to 1 being more deprived). Linacre shows high deprivation and also the highest crime rate per 100,000 population. In contrast, Harington shows low deprivation and low crime rates.

Whilst research shows that there is a link between deprivation and domestic abuse crime rates, there is the issue around hidden need which is not linked to high rates of deprivation. This includes certain age groups being more likely to report domestic abuse, and barriers for certain demographic groups for reporting their experiences.



RELATIONSHIPS

As part of the police dataset, a field records the offender's relationship to the victim/survivor.

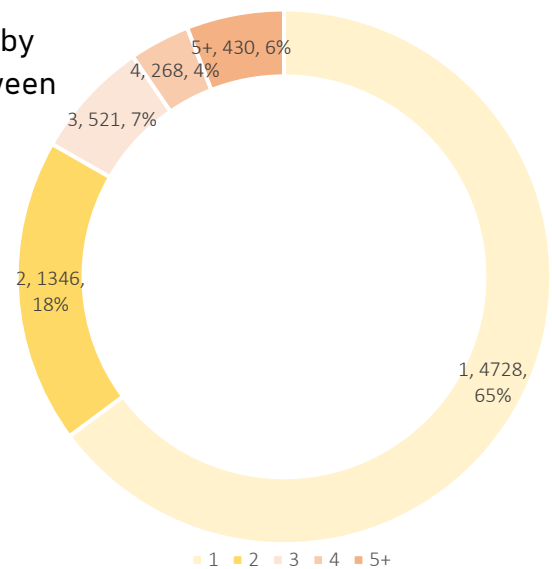
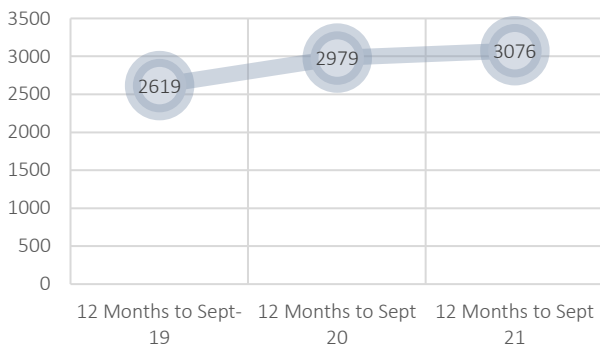
The fields cover a wide range of relationships including partners and family member types.

The vast majority of the relationships fall into the partner and ex-partner categories, however there are still notable numbers around child to parent violence. SWACA have started providing a service in this area.

Below provides the percentage of the total domestic abuse crimes for the 12 months to June 2021 for selected relationships.

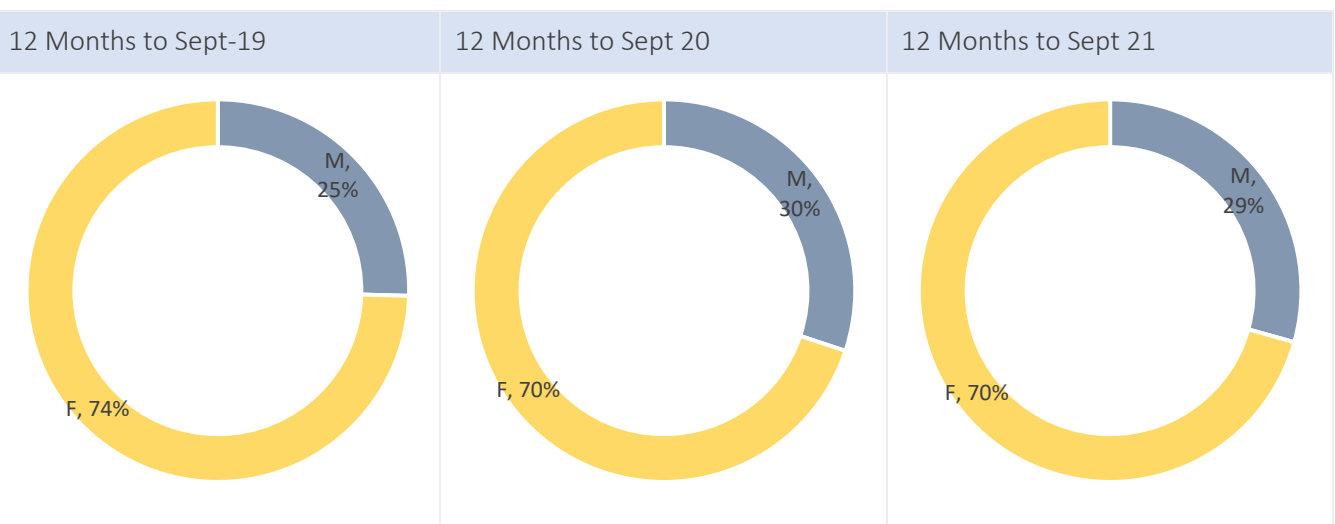
VICTIM/SURVIVORS: REPEAT CASES

Below shows the unique number of victim/survivors by year and the number of repeat victim/survivors between October 2018 to September 2021.



VICTIM/SURVIVORS: GENDER

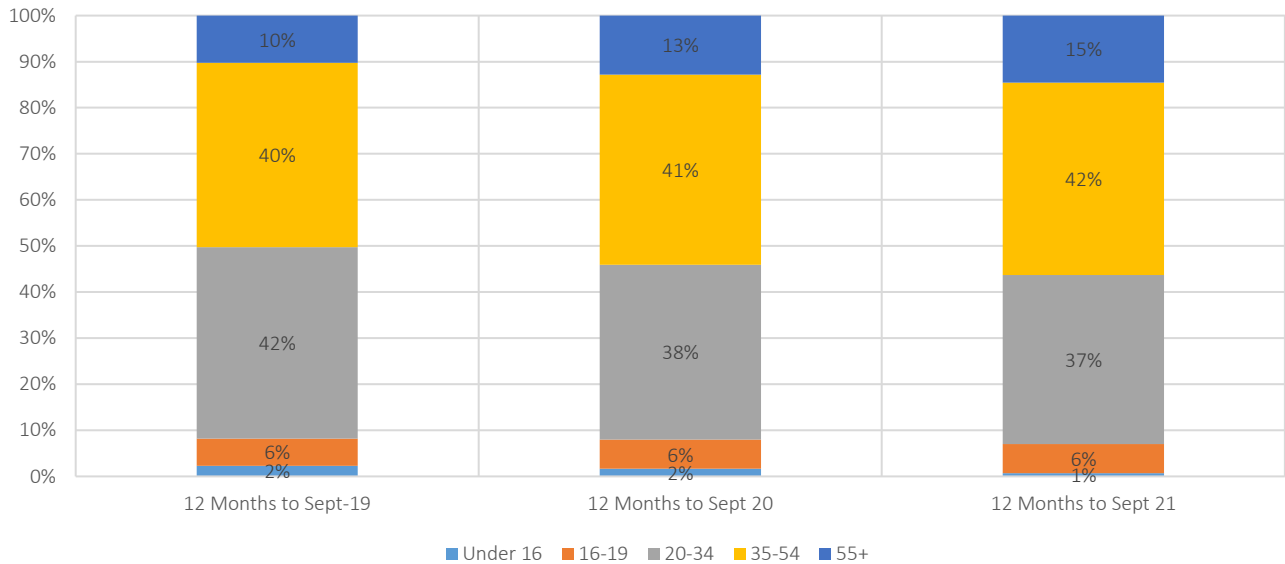
Below shows a breakdown of unique victim / survivors by year and gender.



VICTIM/SURVIVORS: AGE

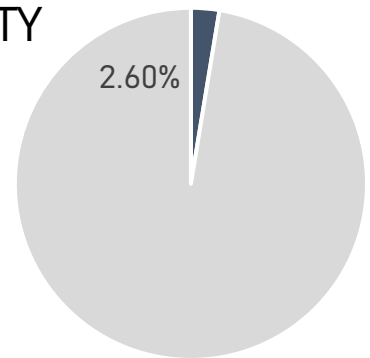
Below shows a breakdown of unique victim / survivors by year and age group.

For the 12 months to September 2019, the 20-34 age group accounted for the highest proportion out of all the age groups. Over the last two years, this age group has since seen a decrease in terms of the proportion of the total victim/survivors. This has seen offset by the older age group, with the 55+ cohort seeing a notable increase.



VICTIM/SURVIVORS: ETHNICITY

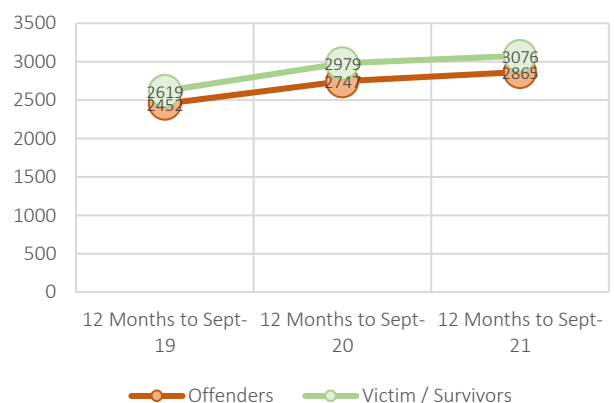
The 2011 census data shows that 2.6% of the population in Sefton are from a BAME background, however the rate is now likely to be higher. The 2020 school census data shows a higher rate of 4.8%, however this only takes into account school records.



PERPETRATORS

Below charts the relationship between the number of victim/survivors and perpetrators. Across the 3 years, both groups show a similar rate of increase.

Full analysis including age and gender can be found in the full Needs Assessment.

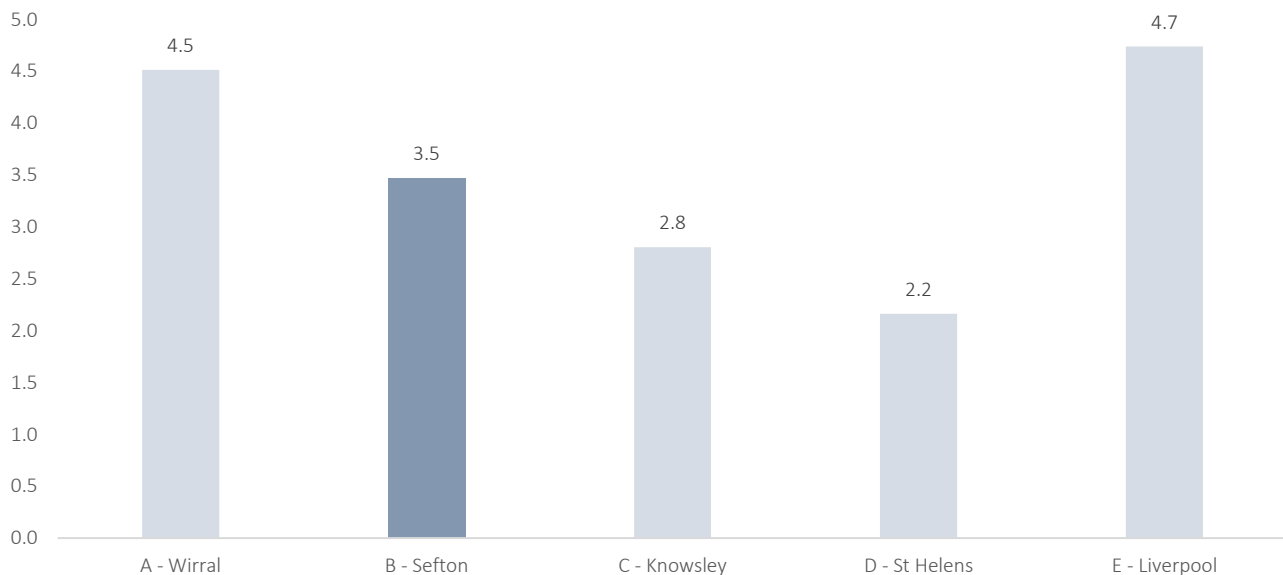


PROSECUTIONS

Data relating to Evidence Led Prosecutions were obtained for this Needs Assessment. Between September 2020 and August 2021, there were a total of 17 Evidence Led Prosecutions in Sefton.

For comparative purposes only, the following chart shows how Sefton compares against other Merseyside areas when using the calculation of: (number of ELP divided by domestic abuse volume) x 1000.

Using this metric, Sefton falls within the median range of the five areas.



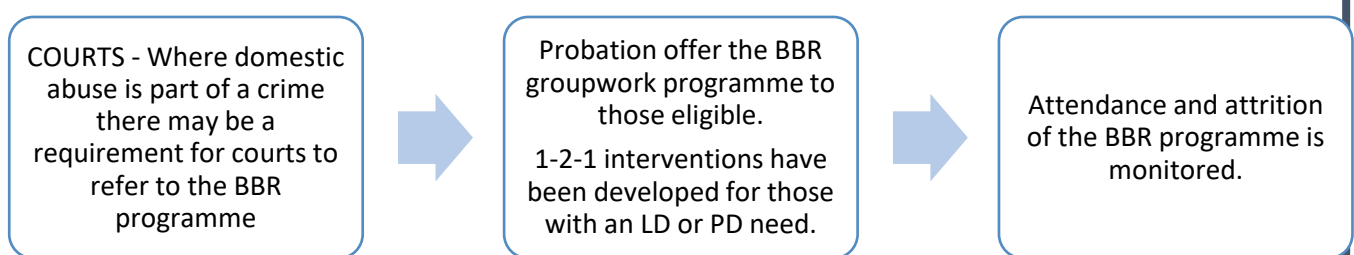
PROBATION

SUMMARY

The work of probation overlaps greatly with domestic abuse. Probation interventions and functions related to domestic abuse include:

- GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT
- IDENTIFYING DOMESTIC ABUSE
- DATA AND INFORMATION

The Probation Service are also required to refer to and provide the Building Better Relationships Programme:



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PROVISION

SERVICE OVERVIEW



SERVICE:	HELPLINE
PROVIDER:	SWACA
DESCRIPTION:	SWACA run a domestic abuse helpline Monday to Friday.
SERVICE:	IDVA SERVICE
PROVIDER:	SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
DESCRIPTION:	Specialist team providing one-to-one crisis support to high-risk victims of domestic abuse
	STRUCTURED ADULT GROUP WORK PROGRAMME (THE MIRROR PROJECT)
PROVIDER:	SWACA
DESCRIPTION:	The Mirror Project looks at the impact domestic abuse has on a woman as a person and as a parent as well as the impact on children and young people living in an abusive environment. It aims to support and empower mothers to develop further understanding in these areas.
SERVICE:	COUNSELLING
PROVIDER:	SWACA/ VENUS CENTRE/ SWAN WOMEN'S CENTRE
DESCRIPTION:	Counselling (Venus Centre) sessions can be person-centred, psychodynamic or cognitive behaviour therapy. SWACA also run a counselling service in conjunction with Swan Women's Centre.
SERVICE:	ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT FOR ADULTS
PROVIDER:	SWACA
DESCRIPTION:	Caseworkers provide one-to-one support.
SERVICE:	ACCESS TO LEGAL ADVICE
PROVIDER:	SWACA
DESCRIPTION:	SAWCA run surgeries with solicitors.
SERVICE:	SUPPORT WHEN ATTENDING STATUTORY MEETINGS
PROVIDER:	SWACA
DESCRIPTION:	Caseworkers provide 1-2-1 support.
SERVICE:	MARAC
PROVIDER:	SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
DESCRIPTION:	Multi-agency partnership to help keep high-risk victims of domestic abuse and their families safe. IDVAs advocate for and support individuals through the MARAC process.

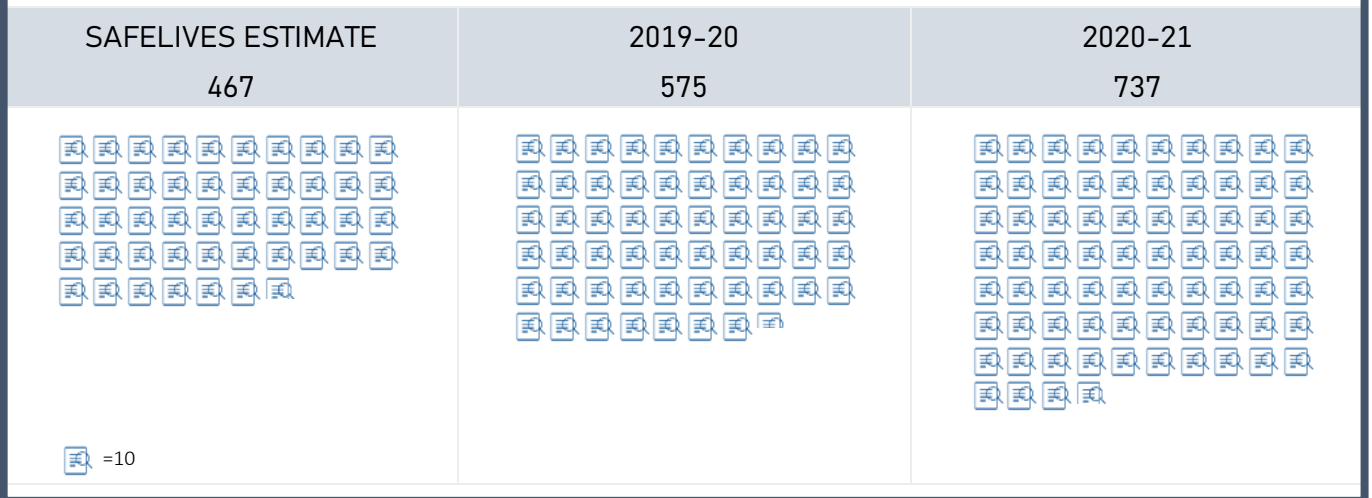
MARAC

REFERRAL NUMBERS

SafeLives estimate that there are 40 high-risk cases per 10,000 adult women. This equates to 467 in Sefton.

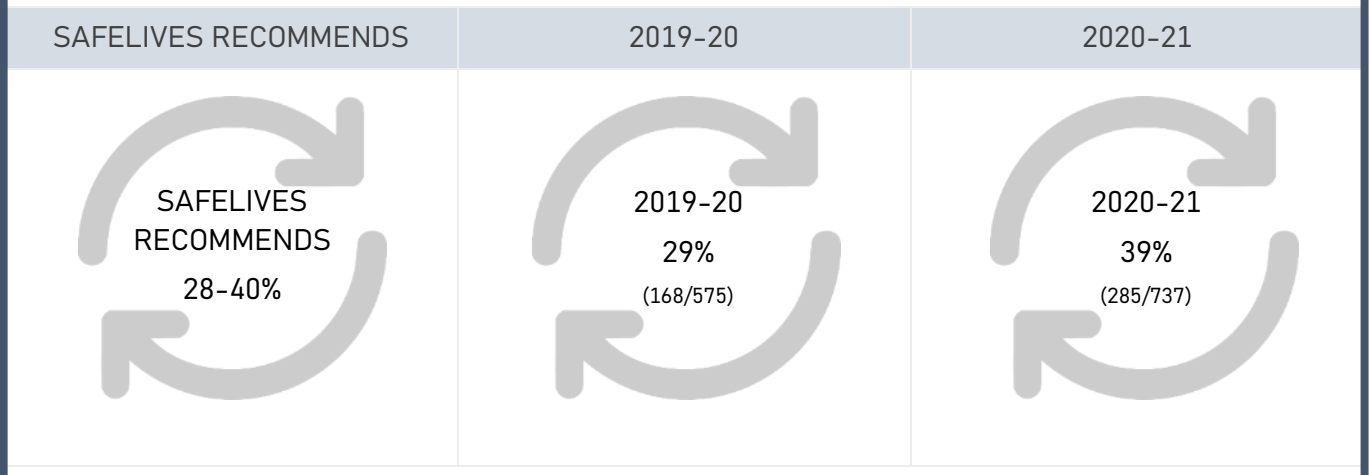
The actual number in 2020-21 was 737 referrals. This is a 28% increase on 2019-20 and is 58% greater than the SafeLives estimate.

Although the actual number far exceeds the SafeLives estimate, only a low number of cases referred was using Professional Judgement.



REPEAT CASES

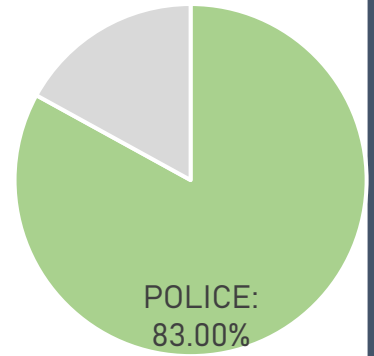
2020-21 has seen a significant increase in the rate of repeat cases. It has been highlighted that “the majority of repeat referrals have been received from Merseyside Police. This may be due to the fact that they are now following the SafeLives National Guidance for repeat referrals which has led to an increase in the number of repeat incidents being identified which meet the criteria to be returned to MARAC as a repeat case.”



REFERRAL SOURCES

SafeLives recommend that the Police make between 60 and 75% of the referrals into MARAC.

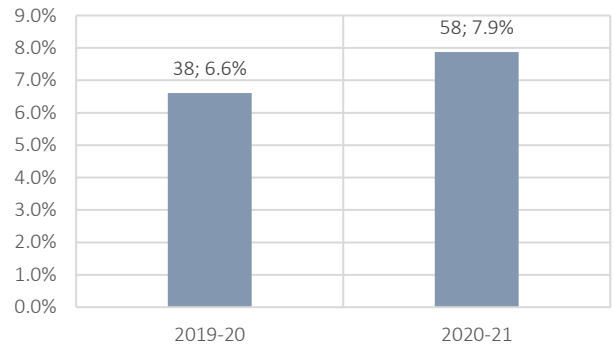
83% of referrals in 2020-21 were from the police. Although this is a slight increase on the 81% in 2019-20, in terms of actual numbers, this represents an increase of 145.



GENDER

SafeLives recommend that male victims should make up between 5% and 10% of a MARAC caseload.

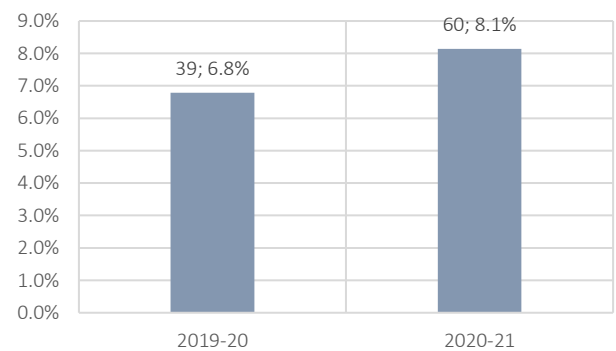
A total of 58 male referrals were received in 2020-21, equating to 7.9% of the total. Both the number and the rate are an increase on the previous year.



ETHNICITY

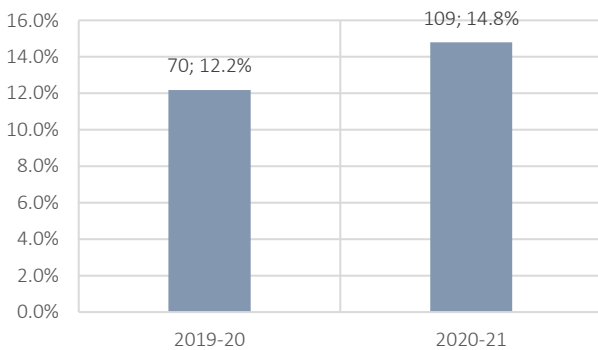
SafeLives recommend that BAME cases should make up approximately 8% of a MARAC caseload, however this is based on national trends.

In Sefton, the 2011 census data shows that 2.6% of the population in Sefton are from a BAME background.



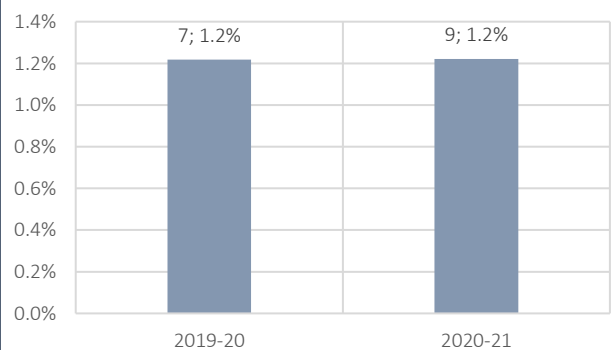
DISABILITIES

RECOMMENDED: 19%



LGBT

RECOMMENDED: 2.5-5.8%



REFERRAL NUMBERS

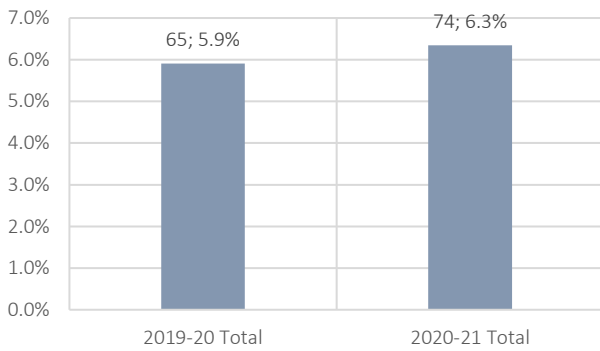
2019-20

2020-21

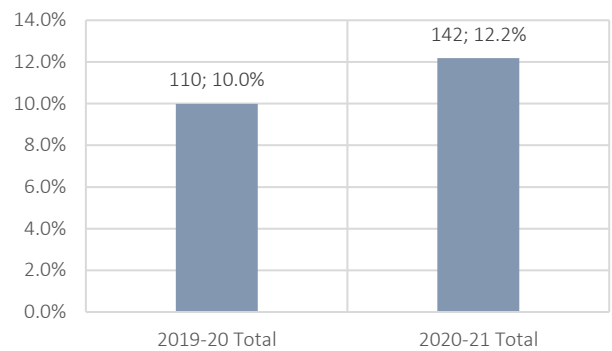
1101

1167

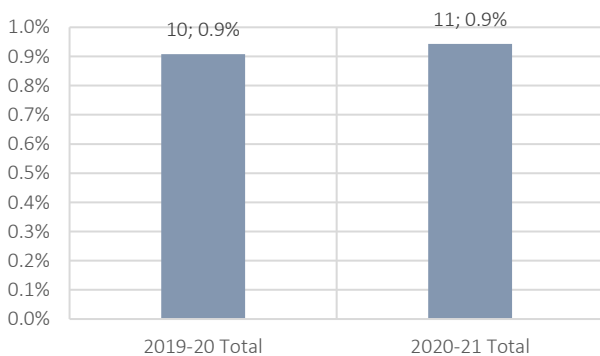
ETHNICITY



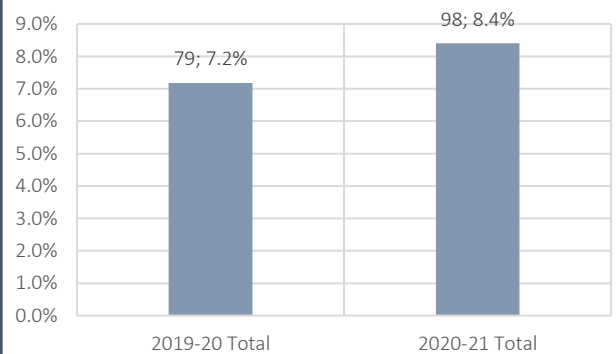
DISABILITIES



LGBT



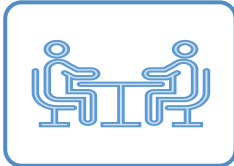





GENDER (MALE)



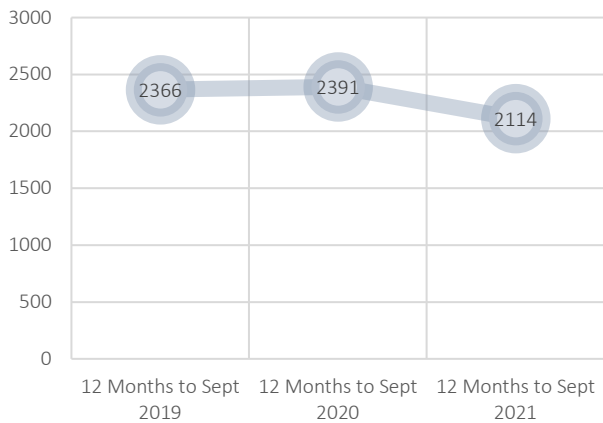
SEFTON WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S AID

OVERVIEW

Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA) provide a range of community-based specialist domestic abuse provision. SWACA provide:

- **1-2-1 CASEWORK**
 - Caseworkers support and advocate for survivors of domestic abuse.
- **GROUPWORK**
 - The Mirror Project - A 7-week programme looks at the impact domestic abuse has on a woman as a person and as a parent as well as the impact on children and young people living in an abusive environment.
- **COUNSELLING**
 - A counselling service is run in conjunction with The Swan Women's Centre
- **CHILD TO PARENT VIOLENCE**
 - The Child on Parent Violence/Abuse Service provides a safe place to talk about worries and concerns relating to experience of abuse or violence a parent is experiencing from their child.
- **HEALTH OUTREACH**
 - There are some plans in place for SWACA to set up a health outreach service which will see four specialist roles who will directly work with health partners regarding domestic abuse issues. At the time of this assessment, a Domestic Abuse Sefton Health Outreach Team Proposal is currently being consulted on.
- **REFUGE PROPERTY**
 - The refuge property in Sefton closed in March 2020. A new 5-unit refuge is planned for 2022.

REFERRAL NUMBERS

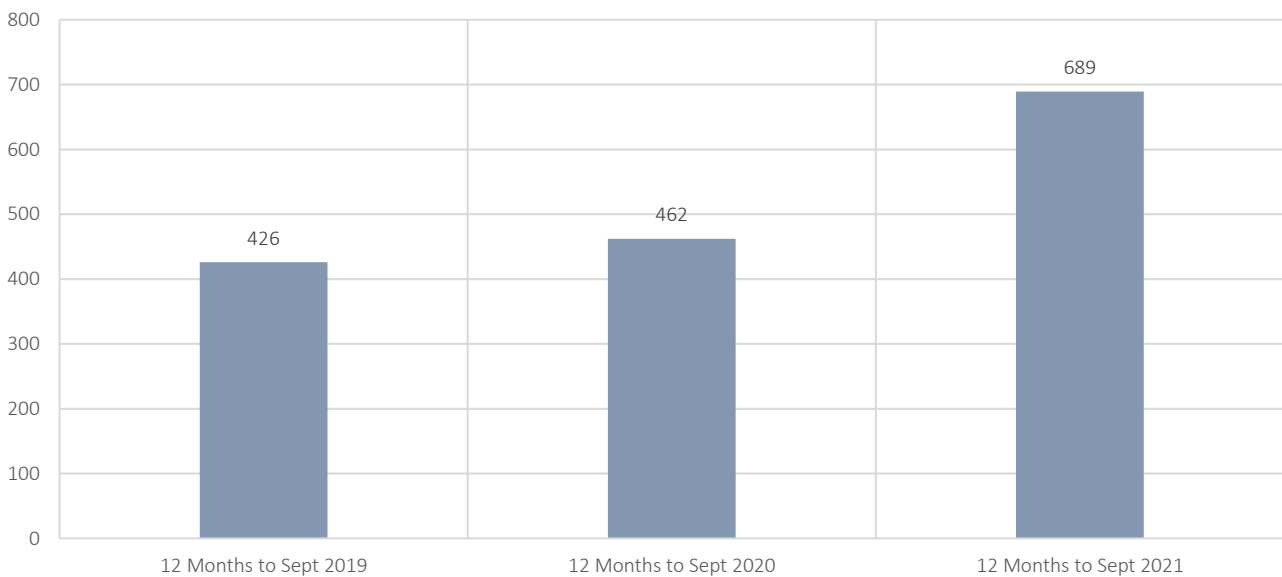


REFERRAL SOURCES

- 62 DIFFERENT REFERRAL SOURCES.
- THE TOP 3 REFERRALS SOURCES ACCOUNTED FOR NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE REFERRALS.
- THE POLICE FAMILY CRIME INVESTIGATION UNIT (FCIU) ACCOUNTED FOR THE HIGHEST PROPORTION.
- SELF-REFERRALS ALSO ACCOUNT FOR A HIGH NUMBER.

CHILDREN SPECIFIC

For the 12 months to September 2021, a total of 689 children were supported by SWACA. This represents an increase of 50%.



PERPETRATORS

OVERVIEW

The following perpetrator programmes are run in Sefton:

PROBATION LED INTERVENTIONS (HELP)

- Probation provide HELP course (non-statutory).

PROBATION LED INTERVENTIONS (BUILDING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS)

- BBR not run in Sefton, but perpetrators can attend courses in other areas.

PROBATION LED INTERVENTIONS (COMMUNITY SENTENCE TREATMENT REQUIREMENT)

- Being piloted in Sefton.

PROGRAMME FOR LOW TO MEDIUM RISK PERPETRATORS

- Commit 2 Change Programme

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HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN SEFTON

SEFTON HEALTH SERVICES	
CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS	
NHS Southport and Formby CCG	Made up of local doctors, nurses and other professionals
NHS South Sefton CCG.	Made up of local doctors, nurses and other professionals
NHS FOUNDATION TRUSTS	
Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in centre services (Litherland Town Hall) Adult services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult MH and LD services • adult substance misuse (Ambition Sefton) • Adult forensic services • Community mental health assessment teams (16 years +) • Transition team (CAMHS to adult services) • Criminal justice liaison team (10 years +) • Early intervention in psychosis team (16 years +) • Hospital liaison team • Adult community nursing services are also provided within Sefton.
Alder Hey Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paediatric emergency (ED) and community paediatrician services (>16). • CAMHS Tier3 and inpatient Tier4 • Children's therapy services (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language, dietetic). • Rainbow Centre - specialist sexual assault and referral centre (SARC) and medical examinations following alleged physical abuse or neglect.
Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective and emergency care services for those aged over 16 years across 3 hospital sites, Aintree University Hospital, Royal Liverpool University Hospital and Broadgreen Hospital. • Specialist services provided include major trauma, hyper acute stroke, complex obesity (including bariatric surgery), regional head and neck surgery, upper GI cancer, hepatobiliary and liver and specialist endocrine services. • Services provided in community settings include diabetes, rheumatology, ophthalmology, alcohol services and sexual health services across Liverpool, Knowsley and Cheshire.
NHS FOUNDATION TRUSTS	
Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A&E • Intensive care • Range of medical and surgical specialities • Women's and children's services, including maternity and sexual health services for Sefton.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

EARLY HELP

OVERVIEW

Sefton have an Early Help Partnership group which governs the delivery of Early Help across Sefton. The partnership is vast and includes representatives from SWACA & CVS who provide victim support within Sefton. Currently there are 13 Family Wellbeing Centres (3 of these are provided within schools).

Early help practitioners fed back that domestic abuse is an issue commonly raised by those seen at Early Help Services.

The Early Help offering is:

PARENT AND CHILD PROGRAMMES

- 13 centres provide joined up support for children and young people aged 0-19 years.
- They provide a range of interventions for individuals to help and promote families to thrive, adopting a whole family approach.
- The Family Wellbeing Centres available for families to access are broken into the North, Central, and South localities.

SIGNPOSTING ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

- Sefton has a vast amount of community services; established commitment from Sefton CVS enables partnerships and accessibility for families who require advice, guidance and signposting for housing, debt, health, education, training or employment.

TARGETED SUPPORT

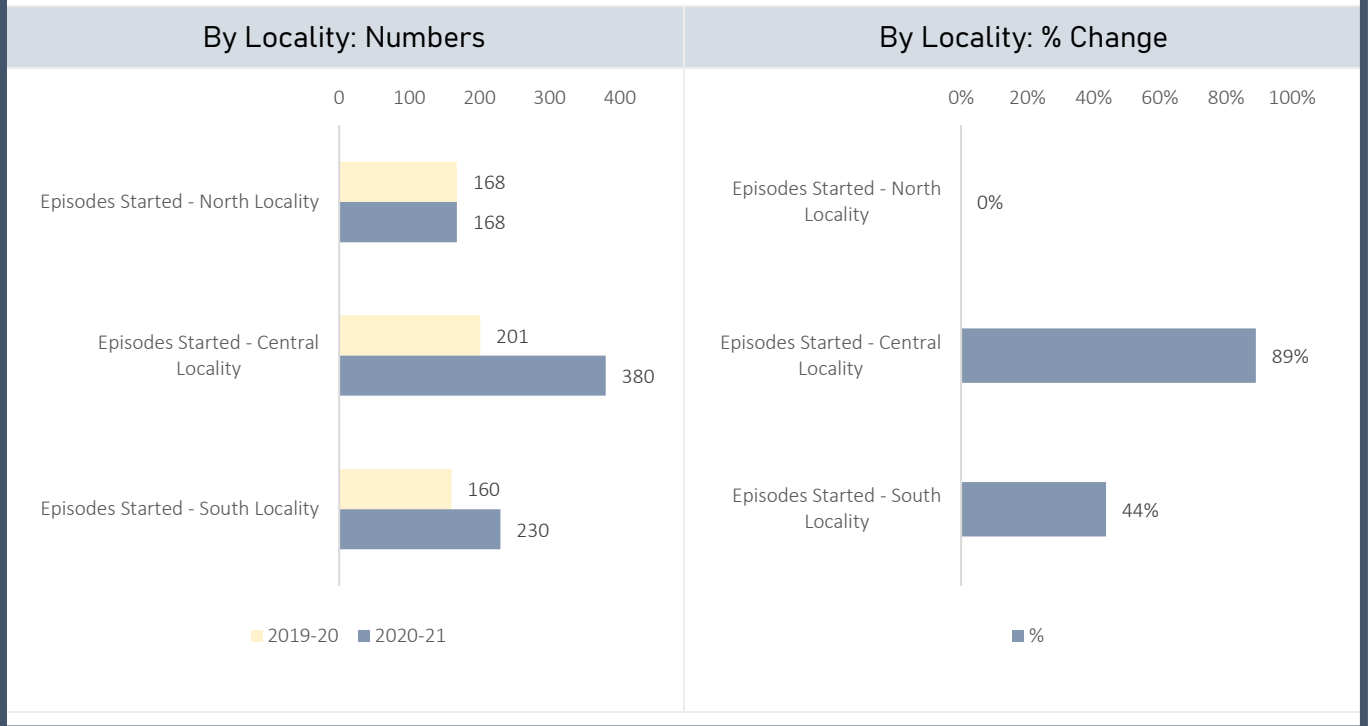
- Families are referred to Early Help where it is identified there are additional support needs. An Early Help Assessment is completed to understand the strengths & needs of the family; this forms the basis of an Early Help action plan. A family will be supported through a team around the family approach.

EPISODES STARTED

A total of 778 episodes were started in 2020-21, representing an increase of 47% in children referred to Early Help due to domestic abuse in the home.



BY LOCALITY

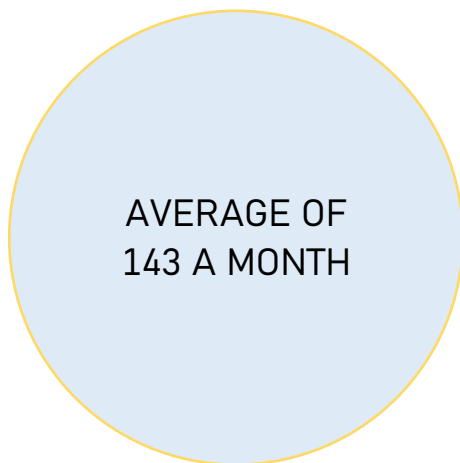


OPERATION ENCOMPASS

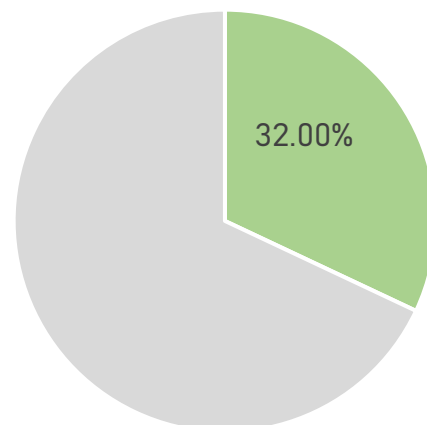
OVERVIEW

- Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse.
- The use of Operation Encompass for notifications for those under four years old went live in December 2021 in Sefton. This process is still being embedded and training for frontline officers is planned in February/ March 2022.
- An information sharing agreement has been drafted by Merseyside Police and is currently with the Sefton legal team for their input.
- The process for the early years sector is slightly different to schools. Quality Improvement Officers are the Single Point of Contact (SPOC). There is a dedicated email address for Operation Encompass that is monitored daily.

DA INCIDENTS WITH CHILDREN



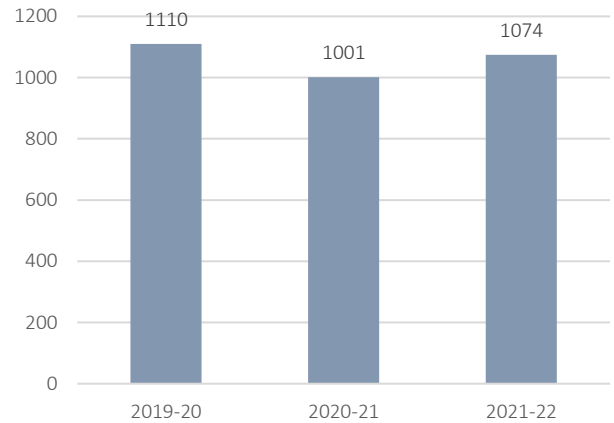
% OF DA INCIDENTS WITH CHILDREN



CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE

ASSESSMENTS

- The data relates to the number of assessments completed where domestic abuse was a factor.
- Following a decrease of around 10% in 2020-21, the number of referrals in 2021-22 has increased to just below 2019-20 levels.



GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

- The following shows the referrals in 2021-22 as a rate per 100,000 (0-18) population by locality.
- Breaking down the data by localities shows that the South area had more than double the rates of the North and the Central.

