



Leicestershire County Council (LCC) – Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Duty

About SafeLives

We are SafeLives, the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good.

We work with organisations across the UK to transform the response to domestic abuse. We want what you would want for your best friend. We listen to survivors, putting their voices at the heart of our thinking.

We look at the whole picture for each individual and family to get the right help at the right time to make families everywhere safe and well. And we challenge perpetrators to change, asking ‘why doesn’t he stop?’ rather than ‘why doesn’t she leave?’ This applies whatever the gender of the victim or perpetrator and whatever the nature of their relationship.

Last year alone, nearly 11,000 professionals working on the frontline received our training. Over 65,000 adults at risk of serious harm or murder and more than 85,000 children received support through dedicated multi-agency support designed by us and delivered with partners. In the last three years, over 1,000 perpetrators have been challenged and supported to change by interventions we created with partners, and that’s just the start. Together we can end domestic abuse. Forever. For everyone.

Ending domestic abuse

Glossary

Abrev	Definition
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAHA	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance
Dash	Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Honour-Based Violence
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
HBV	Honour Based Violence
Idva	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
LA	Local Authorities
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LLR	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
LPB	Local Partnership Board

Abrev	Definition
Marac	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MSF	Most Similar Force (Police
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
RCC	Rutland County Council
UAVA	United Against Violence and Abuse
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

16

Ending domestic abuse

Contents

1. About this Project
2. Statutory Duty under the DA act 2021
3. Local Partnership Board
4. Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment
5. Safe Accommodation Provision
6. Survivor Voice
7. Conclusions and Recommendations
8. Appendices



1. About this project

Context

SafeLives have been commissioned by Leicestershire County Council (LCC) to support the authority in ensuring they are ready to implement the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and their statutory duties under the Act.

This report outlines our findings following a review and analysis of data provided by agencies and organisations across Leicestershire.

We are very grateful to everyone who participated in this needs assessment. Their willingness to share information and expertise helped us immensely in drawing together a myriad of detail.

22

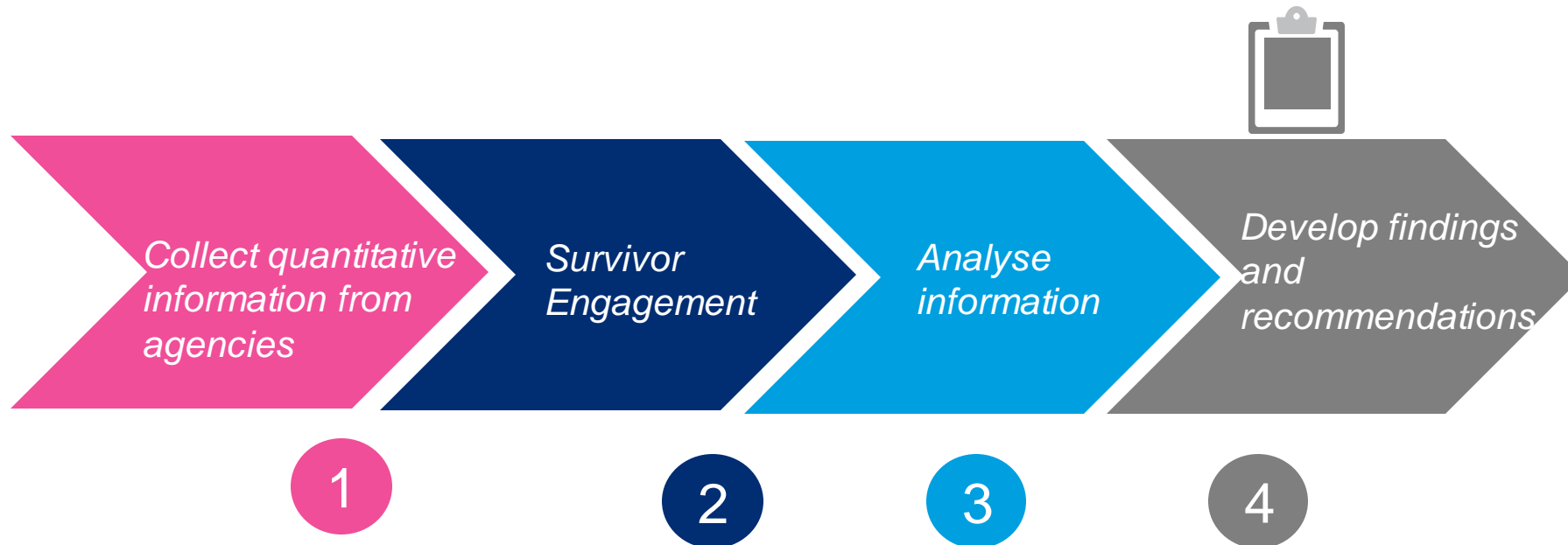
Project aims and objectives

The project aims were to support LCC and partners in gaining an understanding of the current landscape for safe accommodation to enable effective planning and commissioning.

Key objectives include:

- A mapping exercise and local needs assessment,
- Review and recommendations of local frameworks for delivery; and
- Support to identify appropriate membership for the Local Partnership Board..

Local data was collated and analysed using the MHCLG needs assessment tool, comparative data from sources such as SafeLives, the ONS and CSEW national data sets was used and analysed using a number of SafeLives tools including the prevalence tool.



A full list of agencies providing data is in appendix A



2. Statutory Duties under the DA Act 2021



Overview

The Bill completed its parliamentary passage and achieved Royal Assent on 29th April 2021.

For Local Authorities it places a statutory duty on Tier one local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within refuges and other safe accommodation.

Part 4 of the 2021 Act introduces a new statutory duty on local authorities.

This duty places clearer accountability on local areas to ensure the needs of victims within refuges and other forms of domestic abuse safe accommodation are met in a consistent way across England.

Under the new duty in the 2021 Act, Tier One authorities in England will be required to appoint a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

Ending domestic abuse

Provide advice to LCC about its functions under Section 55 of the DA Act

Local Authorities will be required to appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which will carry out a governance and consultative role as it performs certain specified functions.

- Core membership is set out in the DA Act and statutory guidance
- Authentic voice for both adult and child victims is essential
- Responsibilities are
 - Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support
 - Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment
 - Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions)
 - Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.



Needs
assessment

Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in Leicestershire, including those who require cross-border support

When: Every 3 years

How: Using the template provided gather data from local sources

Who: Tier 1 LA to carry out through DA Local Partnership Boards, others who must co-operate are Tier 2 LA, DA services, refuge services.

What: Mapping current provision for safe accommodation and support.
Mapping current need, who and how much need for safe accommodation and support



Strategy

Develop and publish a strategy for provision of support, using the needs assessment

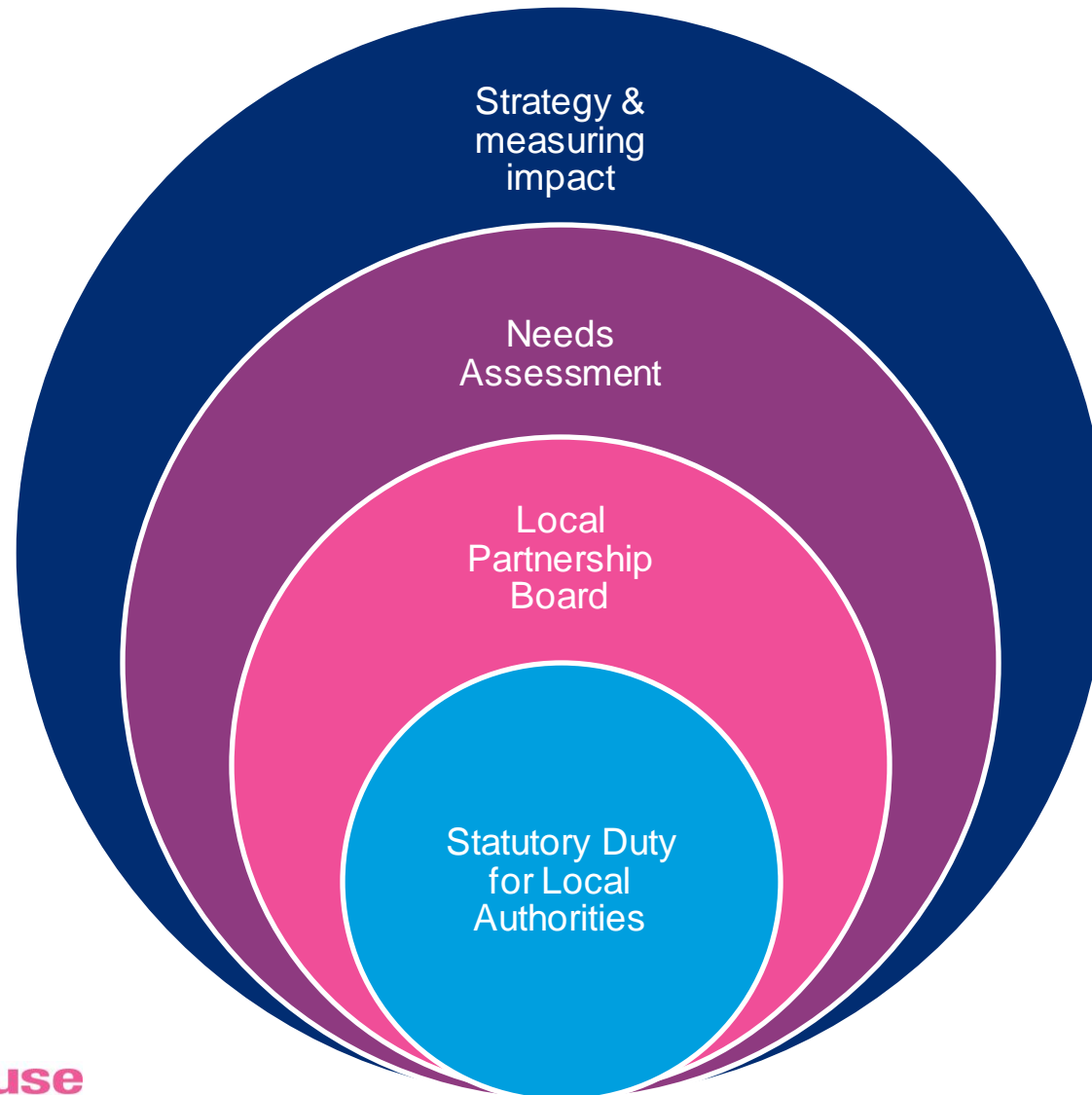


Measuring
impact

- Develop a domestic abuse strategy informed by the needs assessment
- Implement the strategy through commissioning
- Tier 1 LAs in England must send an annual report to the Secretary of State on how it is realising the strategy
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.

29

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021



Ending domestic abuse



3. Local Partnership Board

Local Partnership Board

LCC have commissioned SafeLives to support them with reviewing their membership and terms of reference for their LPB. This will form part of our next steps in the area along with continuing our Public Health Approach to Domestic Abuse work.

The **multi-agency** DALPB will play a crucial role going forward. Under the new duty in the 2021 Act, Tier One authorities in England will be required to appoint a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to support them in undertaking:

- Local needs assessments,
- Developing and monitoring local strategies,
- Mapping activities,
- Ensuring representation of marginalised groups and those who are underrepresented in local services.

Alongside the Statutory Duty to appoint and convene the DALPB the Act and accompanying Statutory guidance sets down that there must be specific representation.

The following slide provides an overview of what the key roles are and who the multi-agency DALPB members should be:

Ending domestic abuse

DA Partnership Board Membership

Membership	
Chair	Representative of the Tier One authority
Representative of Tier Two authorities within the Tier One authority area	Representative of the interests of adult victims of domestic abuse
Representative of the interests of children victims of domestic abuse	Representative of the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area
Representative of the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area (by & for Services)	Representative of the interests of persons who provide, or have functions relating to, health care services in its area
Representative of the interests of persons with functions relating to policing or criminal justice in its area	Representative for Housing Services

We recommended involving your commissioned child advocacy service in this process to provide a representative.

We recommend that there is a representative from a by and for victims service such as LGBTQ+, Black, Asian and Racially minoritised groups where possible.

We recommend involving your survivor network in this process to provide a representative.

New roles have been created in local communities through the NHS 10 year plan – social prescribers, Health Coaches, PCN Care Co-ordinators, all have great insight and can also support survivor voice

Ending domestic abuse



3. Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

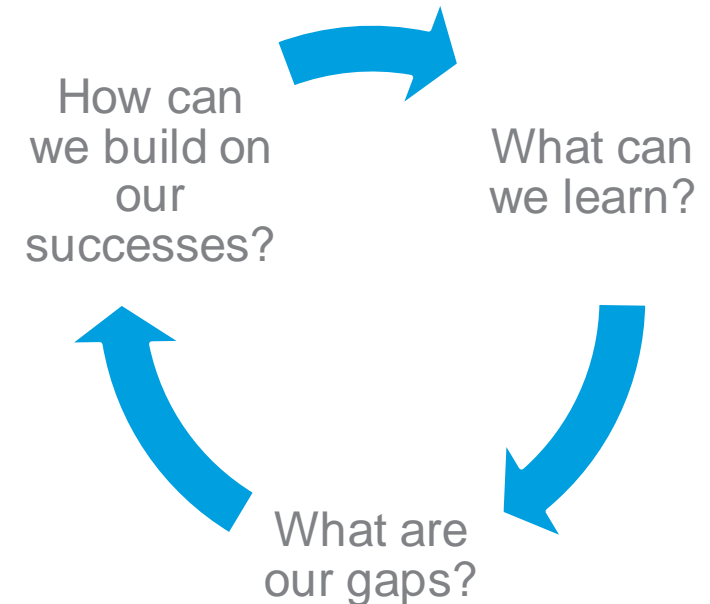
The Safe Accommodation Needs assessment is a comprehensive tool that enables you to capture data covering a range of themes relating to safe accommodation.

This needs assessment will inform your strategy, not only for safe accommodation but for the domestic abuse system as a whole.

It is important to view this in the context of a whole picture approach, not only doing what is necessary but thinking of the art of the possible.

Survivor voice is an essential component of this needs assessment and throughout the whole Statutory Duty.

By listening to the authentic, unmediated voice of victims and survivors, we truly understand the barriers, challenges and good practice they experience. This should be a continuous reflective process -



Ending domestic abuse

Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

Within this section we present the assessment for all victims accessing services. This is not inclusive of those accessing safe accommodation as this will be address further in the document.

Alongside the Tier 1 data provided by LCC the assessment utilises data submitted from Blaby, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, North West Leicestershire and Oadby and Wigston. Charnwood and Melton, did not provide data in time for it to be included in the overall analysis and therefore a summary analysis is included as **appendix A**.

No health services data could be made available for the needs assessment.

Children's Social Care (CSC) kindly provided us with two sets of data we have used the single assessment data as part of the overall needs assessment and have provided separate information regarding the first response data attached as **Appendix B**.

Leicestershire Police have provided victim demographic data for all DA offences. However, the demographic data does not include those victims whose contact with Leicestershire Police was classed as a DA incident, rather than a DA crime. As a result, there are several victims whose details have not been captured and, therefore, we cannot include those in our analysis. This means that the number of victims may be higher than identified.

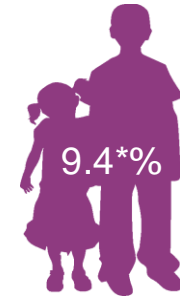
The data may also include duplicate counting as victims may have approached or been in contact with multiple services/agencies. A full list of agencies who supplied data can be found in **Appendix C**

Overview 2018 - 2019

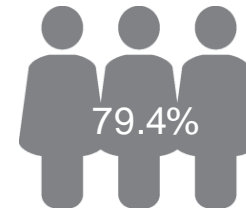


Total number of victims

Of these 8830 records



Under 18

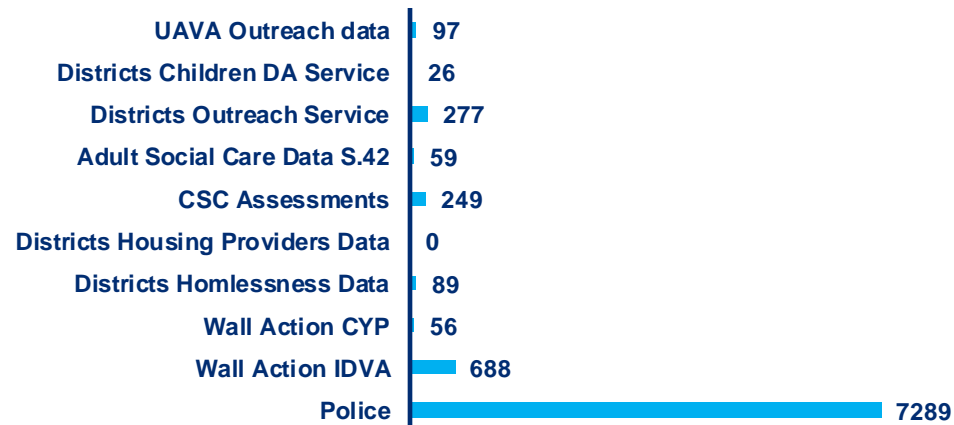


Age 18 - 74



Over 75

Identification by Agency 18/19



Ending domestic abuse

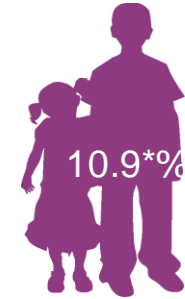
*Those age 16/17 may be child victims whose parents are in DA Relationships and/or victims of IPV.
Note: 9.9% unknown records on age.

Overview 2019 - 2020

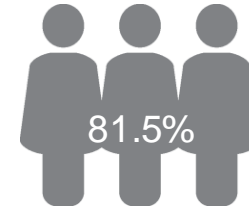


Total number of victims

Of these 9261 records



Under 18

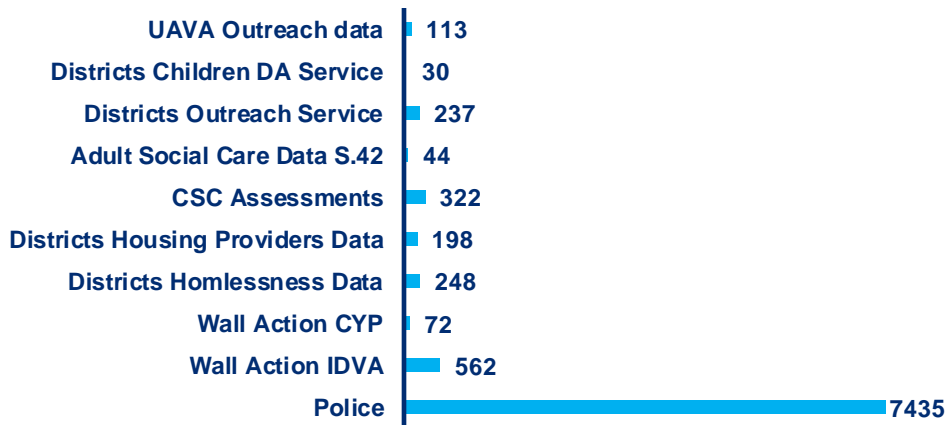


Age 18 - 74



Over 75

Identification by Agency 19/20



*Those age 16/17 may be child victims whose parents are in DA Relationships and/or victims of IPV.
Note: 6.2% unknown records on age.

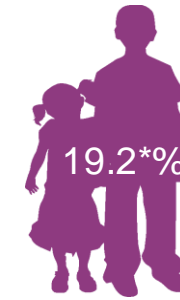
Ending domestic abuse

Overview 2020 - 2021

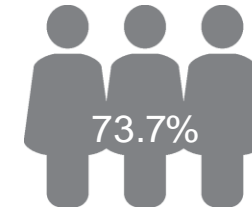


Total number of victims

Of these 9967 records



Under 18

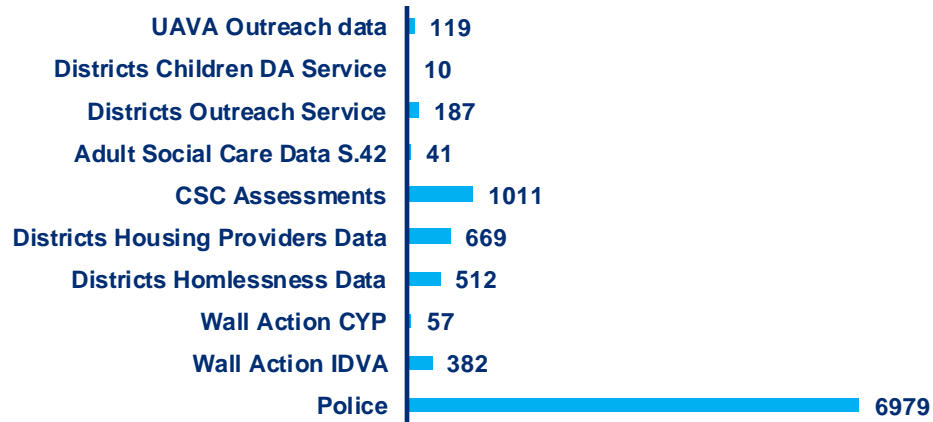


Age 18 - 74



Over 75

Identification by Agency 20/21



Ending domestic abuse

*Those age 16/17 may be child victims whose parents are in DA Relationships and/or victims of IPV.
Note: 5.7% unknown records on age.

Number of Victims:

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, developed in line with our research, it shows that **98,350** adults in Leicestershire have experienced Domestic Abuse at some point in their lives since the age of 16 with around **15%** experiencing both partner and family abuse.

It also highlights that **28,360** adult victims have experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year with around **8%** experiencing both partner and family abuse.

The number of victims identified in the data sets provided by services / agencies in the local area in each of the 3 years the needs assessment covers are:



The overall number of victims has increased year on year, with a **4.9%** increase in **19/20** and **7.6%** increase in **20/21** on the previous year.

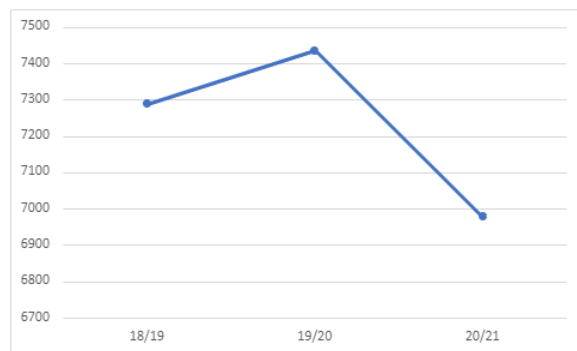
The increase in the 20/21 year can be attributed to a change in practice by the CSC assessment team to 'including other children in the family' as part of their case management records. This is welcomed and puts LCC in good stead to ensure they are gathering information to support them to respond effectively to the DA Act 2021 S.3(181) - "*Children and young people are deemed to be victims under the 2021 Act as a result of seeing, hearing or otherwise experiencing domestic abuse between two people where the child is related to at least one of them whether that be the victim or perpetrator*"

Ending domestic abuse

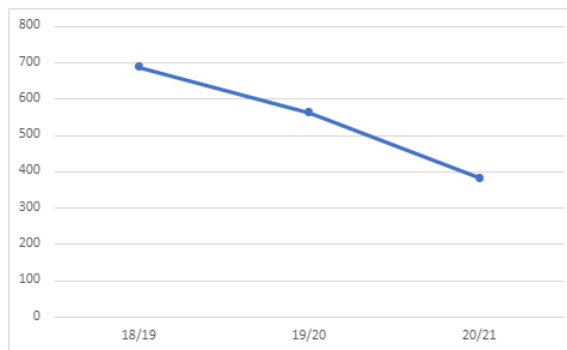
Victims contact with Leicestershire Services – Trends over the three-year period:



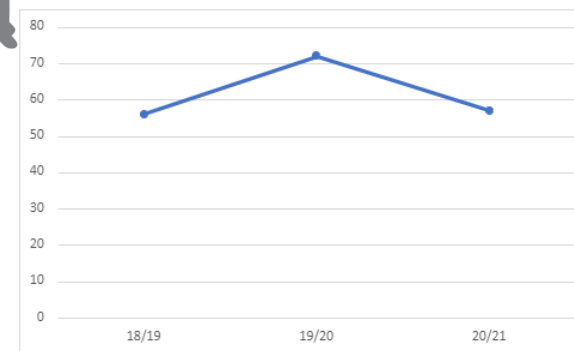
Police



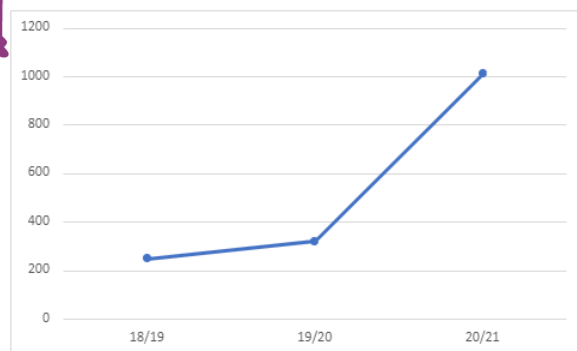
WALL Action IDVA



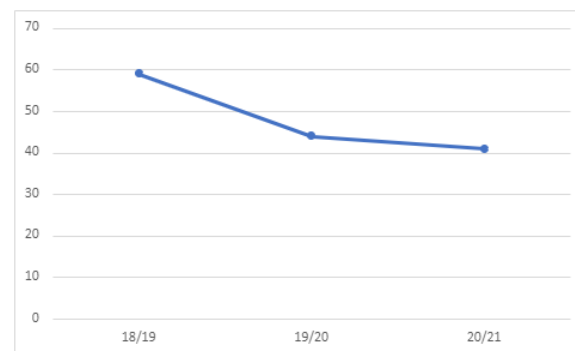
WALL Action CYP



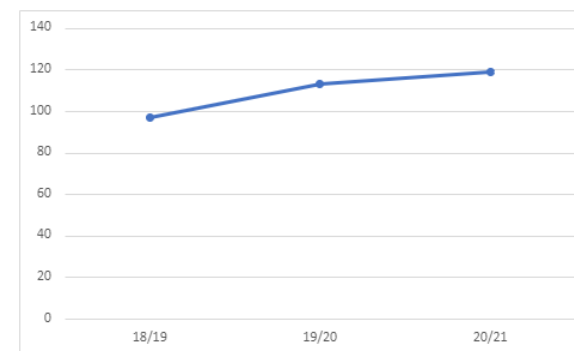
CSC Assessments



LCC
ASC S.42



UAVA Outreach



Victims contact with Services – Trends over the three-year period:

It can be useful to note the trends in victims accessing services.

In the previous slide we have provided an 'at a glance' overview of victims contact with services over the three-year period.

It is hard to determine one overarching trend as whilst the majority show a downward trend in 20/21 CSC Assessments and UAVA outreach experienced an uptick. In more detail between 19/20 and 20/21:

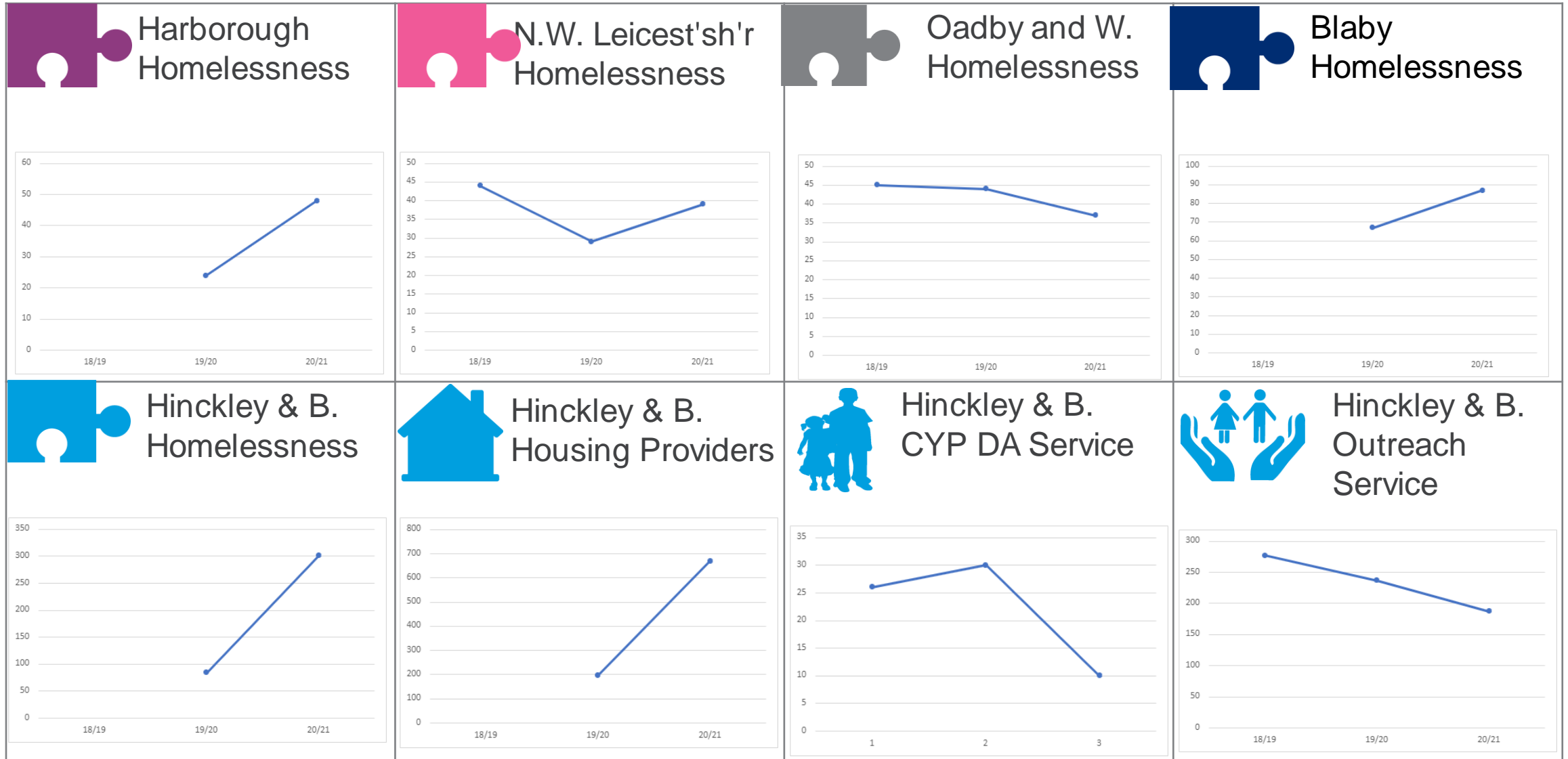
- Victims accessing **Police services decreased** by - **6.1%**.
- Victims accessing **Wall Action IDVA services decreased** by - **32%**
- Victims accessing **Wall Action CYP decreased** by - **20.8%**
- Victims being assessed by **LCC's CSC Increased** by **218%**
- Victims requiring **S.42 assessments by LCCs ASC team decreased** by – **6.8%**
- Victims accessing **UAVA outreach services Increased** by **5.3%**

Work is underway by the Shadow Pandemic DA Learning partnership to ensure we fully understand the far-reaching impact Covid-19 has had.

It is something areas need to keep assessing to ensure their DVA and commissioning strategy is fully informed. We do, however, have insights from front line specialist services which highlight factors such as: Idva's, with the closure and/or reduced capacity of other services including the courts, having to hold clients for longer and provide more time intensive support than before. This could be a factor in the decrease in client numbers.

Ending domestic abuse

Victims contact with District Services – Trends over the three-year period:



43

Ending domestic abuse

Harborough, N. W Leicestershire, Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth Homelessness data only available for the 20/21 year.

Victims contact with District Services – Trends over the three-year period:

In the previous slide we have provided an 'at a glance' overview of victims contact with services provided by the five 'tier 2' districts, who submitted data within the deadline over the three-year period.

Again, it is hard to determine one overarching trend: Harborough; N.W Leicestershire; Blaby and Hinckley & Bosworth homelessness teams all experienced an uptick, whilst Oadby and Wigston homelessness team experienced a down tick, below in more detail are the trends between 19/20 and 20/21:

- Victims accessing Harborough homelessness team **Increased** by **100%**
- Victims accessing N.W Leicestershire homelessness team **Increased** by **34.5%**
- Victims accessing Oadby and Wigston homelessness team **decreased** by **-15.9%**
- Victims accessing Blaby homelessness team **Increased** by **258.3%**
- Victims accessing Hinckley & Bosworth homelessness team **Increased** by **29.9%**

Hinckley & Bosworth provided data from several teams -

- Victims accessing Hinckley & Bosworth housing providers team **Increased** by **237.9%**
- Victims accessing Hinckley & Bosworth children and young peoples' service **decreased** by **- 66.7%**
- Victims accessing Hinckley & Bosworth outreach service **decreased** by **- 21.1%**

Ending domestic abuse

Marac Cases:

At Marac, the most high-risk cases are discussed.

The table below shows the number (inclusive of repeat cases) heard per year; number of children within those households; number of Male Survivors and insights available into minority communities:

Year	Number of Cases *1		No of Children (n.)	% of Male Survivor Cases*2 (%)	% of Black, Asian & Racially Minoritised Cases*2 (%)	% LGBT+ Cases*2 (%)	% Disabled Survivor Cases*2 (%)
	(n.)	% +/-					
2018/19	786		1012	3.4%	8%	0.9%	6.4%
2019/20	581	↓ 26.1%	661	2.8%	6%	1.7%	5.2%
2020/21	389	↓ 33.0%	469	3.6%	8%	1.3%	3.9%

*1 is % increase / decrease year on year; *2 is proportion of total number of cases that year

Our research shows that the *recommended number of cases for Leicestershire is **1080** per year, based on the SafeLives established guidelines of 40 cases per 10,000 adult female population.

Marac Cases continued:

Over the three years the number of cases to Marac falls each year from **786** in 2018/19 to **389** in 2020/21, only **36%** of the recommended number of cases.

The % of male cases heard peaks in the **20/21 year at 3.6%** The SafeLives recommendation is that **5-10%** of cases heard are male victims.

The highest level of Black, Asian and racially minoritised cases heard at Marac is **8%** of all cases in 2018/19 and 2020/21. We know that the overall number of cases referred decreased over the 3 years, therefore the number of Black, Asian and racially minoritised cases also decreased. We would expect referrals to Marac to be representative of the local Black, Asian and racially minoritised population. Our research shows this to be **11.1%**.

In 20/21 the number of cases heard at Marac where the person identifies as having a disability drops to **3.9%**. The recommended level of **19%** of disabled cases to Marac.

The SafeLives recommendation is that **2.5% - 5.8%** of cases heard at Marac are LGBT+ victims. The highest percentage reached was **1.7% in the 19/20 year**, less than half the lowest end of the recommended levels.

SafeLives are also conducting a Marac review across the LLR and this will be explored further within that work.

Police Data

The tables below show the incidents and crimes reported in Leicestershire compared with Police force area data and the East Midlands, the two Most Similar Forces and across England and Wales.

2018/19



	Leicestershire	Leicestershire Police	East Midlands	MSF1	MSF2	England and Wales
DA Crimes & Incidents	10,310	21,113	92,718	20,412	37,602	1,316,800
Crimes & Incidents Per 1000		19	19	17	19	22
DA Crimes	7289	14,606	54,615	11,130	22,504	746,219
Crimes per 1000		13	11	9	11	13
% of all crimes recorded		16%	15%	13%	14%	14%

2019/20



	Leicestershire	Leicestershire Police	East Midlands	MSF1	MSF2	England and Wales
DA Crimes & Incidents	9593	20,433	99,456	21,073	36,706	1,288,018
Crimes & Incidents Per 1000		19	21	18	18	23
DA Crimes	7435	14,896	66,611	12,505	24,203	758,941
Crimes per 1000		14	14	11	12	13
% of all crimes recorded		16%	15%	15%	17%	15%

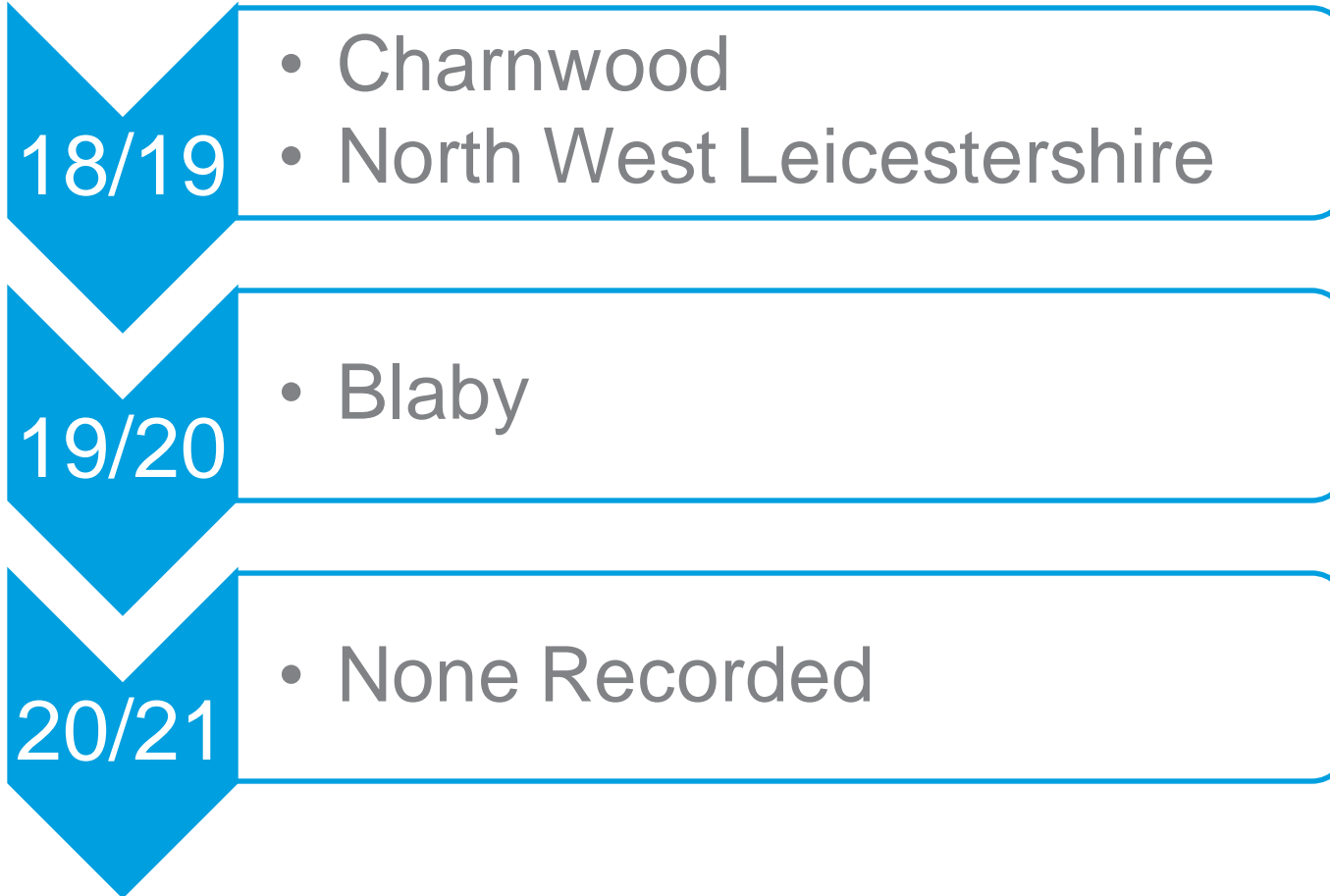
47

Ending domestic abuse

Domestic abuse in England and Wales - Data Tool - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Leicestershire Domestic Homicides:

In the three-year period that the needs assessment covers there were four domestic homicides:



Ending domestic abuse

Police Data

The comparison data is not currently available for the 2020/21 period however we know in Leicestershire there were **10,004** DA offences & Incidents reported and **6979** DA Offences reported during that time.

In 2018/19, Leicestershire accounted for **48.8%** of all DA crimes and incidents across Leicestershire Police. This decreased slightly to **46.9%** in 2019/20 however the overall number of DA crimes and incidents recorded across Leicestershire Police reduced by **3.22%**. There was a **2% increase** in DA incidents reported from 18/19 to **7435** incidents in 19/20. Then a **reduction of 6.53%** in 20/21.

For all DA offences and incidents reported there was a peak in 18/19, then a **6.95% reduction** in reports in 19/20 and then an **increase of 4.28%** in 20/21.

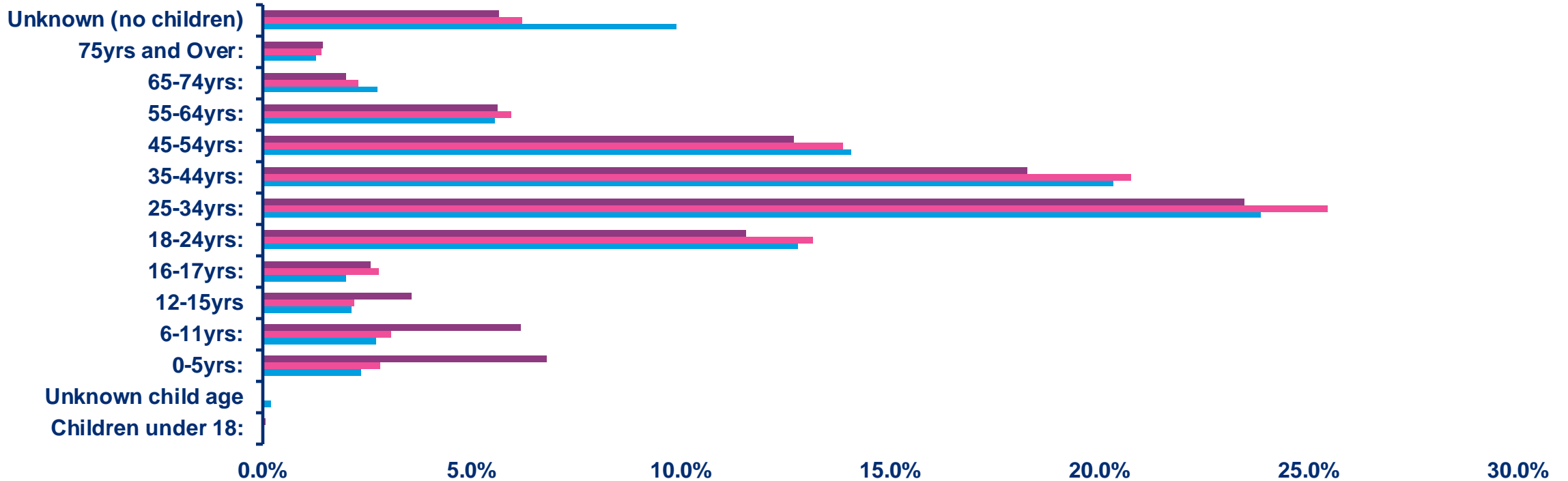
In all three years **Charnwood** has the most prevalence of DA Offences and Incidents out of the seven districts, (**27.3%, 28.2%** and **28.5%**), North-West Leicester is next (**16.6%, 16.0%** and **16.3%**) and Hinckley and Bosworth is third (**16.4%, 15.8%** and **16.0%**) .

Leicestershire Police DA crimes and incidents recorded is in keeping with the East Midlands and MSFs at **19** per 1000 population in 2018/19 however this is lower than England and Wales which is **22** per 1000. For 2019/20, the figure for Leicestershire Police remains stable at **19** per 1000 but the figure for the East Midlands has increased to **21** per 1000 and England and Wales to **23**. The number of DA crimes recorded is higher than the MSFs and East Midlands yet in line with England and Wales in 2018/19. In 2019/20, it remains higher than the MSFs and slightly higher than England and Wales.

Detailed information on DA prevalence by district can be found at [Domestic Abuse Victim Offender Demographics | Tableau Public](#)

Ending domestic abuse

Age of Victims Year on Year comparison:



	Children under 18:	Unknown child age	0-5yrs:	6-11yrs:	12-15yrs	16-17yrs:	18-24yrs:	25-34yrs:	35-44yrs:	45-54yrs:	55-64yrs:	65-74yrs:	75yrs and Over:	Unknown (no children)
■ 20/21	0.1%	0.0%	6.8%	6.2%	3.6%	2.6%	11.6%	23.5%	18.3%	12.7%	5.6%	2.0%	1.4%	5.6%
■ 19/20		0.0%	2.8%	3.1%	2.2%	2.8%	13.2%	25.5%	20.8%	13.9%	5.9%	2.3%	1.4%	6.2%
■ 18/19	0.0%	0.2%	2.4%	2.7%	2.1%	2.0%	12.8%	23.9%	20.3%	14.1%	5.6%	2.7%	1.3%	9.9%

Ending domestic abuse

Age of Victims Year on Year comparison:

Of the records identifying the age of victims **(n.8830)** 18/19; **(n.9261)** 19/20 and **(n.9967)** 20/21:

- In the **under 18** category there is a year-on-year increase, in the 20/21 year this increase equates to almost a doubling on the previous year. **(n.830)** 18/19; **(n.1006)** 19/20 and **(n.1917)** 20/21.
- In 20/21 there was a change in practice by the LCC's CSC assessment team to 'including other children in the family' as part of their case management records. This saw the number of children being identified by them increase from **(n.322)** in 19/20 to **(n.1011)**. This change in practice enabled them to identify over three times as many children as victims of DA in 20/21 in line with the requirements of the new DA Act (2021)
- In respect of the highest prevalence of child victim age in both 18/19 and 19/20 this was 6-11 year olds (2.7% & 3.1%) but in 20/21 this changes to 0-5 year olds (6.8%).

DA Act S.3(181) - "Children and young people are deemed to be victims under the 2021 Act as a result of seeing, hearing or otherwise experiencing domestic abuse between two people where the child is related to at least one of them whether that be the victim or perpetrator".

Age of Victims Year on Year comparison. C'td:

In the **18–24 year old** category the number of victims increases from **(n.1131)** in 18/19 to **(n.1220)** 19/20 and then decreased to **(n.1153)** in 20/21

Using the SafeLives prevalence tool, our research shows **6450** young people (16–24 year olds) in Leicestershire experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year. In the 20/21 year the data submitted recorded **1058** young people accessing services for support around DA.

The **25-34 age** group consistently has the highest prevalence of DA in Leicestershire, with the numbers revealing an increase in victims from **(n.2109)** in 18/19 to **(n.2359)** in 19/20 and a slight decrease to **(n.2340)** in 20/21.

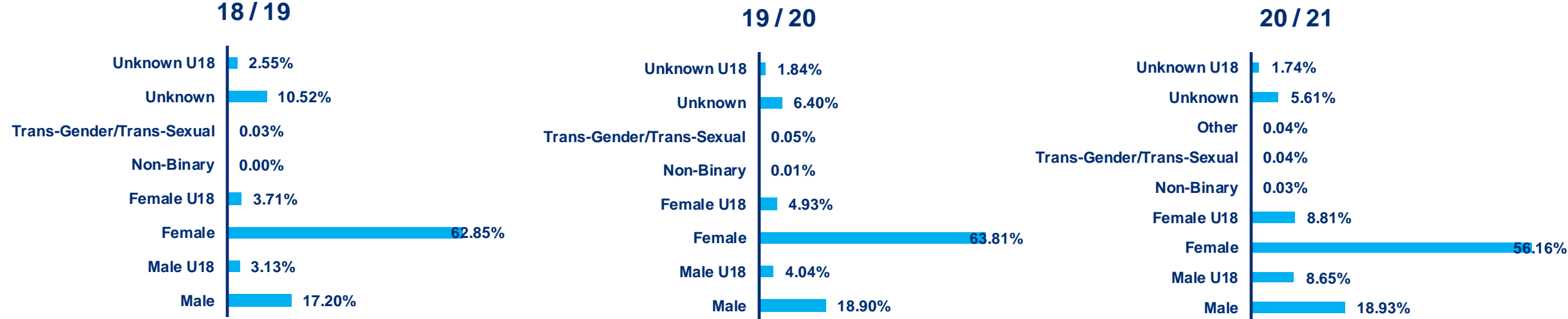
The over 75 years age range has experienced a year-on-year increase - **(n.112)** 18/19; **(n.130)** 19/20 and **(n.144)** 20/21.

Using the SafeLives prevalence tool our research shows **4080** older people (60+ year olds) in Leicestershire experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year. The age brackets do not quite align but even taking 55+ year olds in the 20/21 year the data submitted recorded just **802** older people accessing services for support around DA.

Whilst the over 75 years age range remains stable at 1.3/1.4% over the three years, the 18–74s account for 79.4%, 81.5% and 73.7% of the identified victims, this is due to the increase each year of under 18s as highlighted above.

Ending domestic abuse

Gender of Victims Year on Year comparison:



Across the three years the no of adult females identified was (n. 5550), (n.5909), and (n.5597) respectfully. The number of adult males identified was (n.1519), (n.1750), and (n.1887) respectfully.

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, we estimate a total of 19120 adult female victims and a total of 9240 adult male victims have experienced domestic abuse in the last year in Leicestershire

The number of unknown records on gender decreased year on year (13.07%, 8.24% and 7.34%).

No one identified as Non-Binary in 18/19, 3 people identified as Trans; 1 person identified as Non-Binary in 19/20 5 people identified as Trans; 3 people identified as non-binary in the 20/21 year, 4 people as trans and 3 people as other.

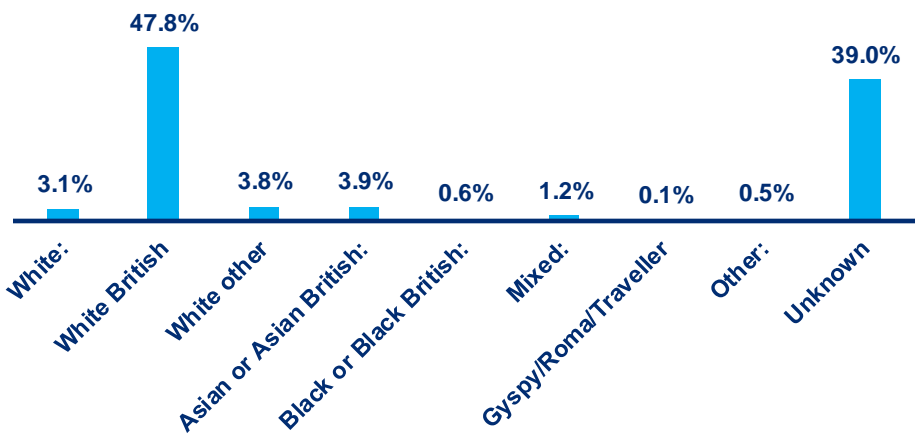
ONS figures do not include those identifying as trans and non-binary. Estimates suggest that somewhere between 0.35% and 1% of the adult population of the UK identifies as trans*.

Ending domestic abuse

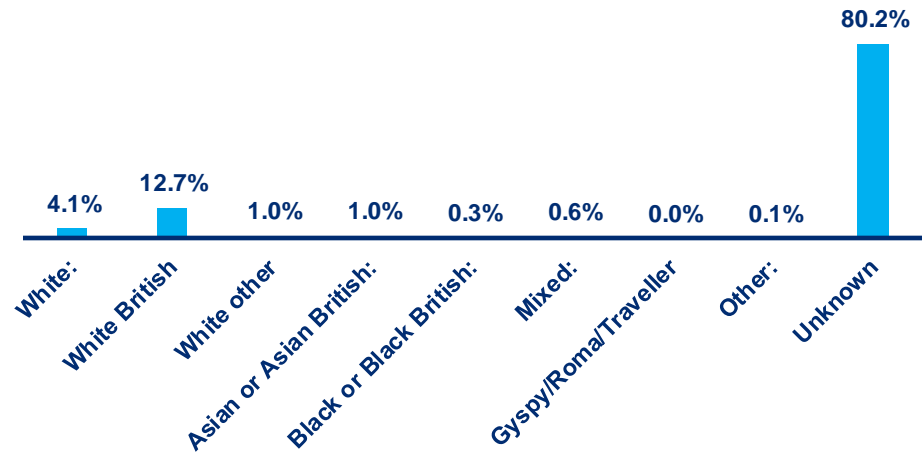
[*Recognise and Respond](#): Strengthening advocacy for LGBT+ survivors of domestic abuse.

Ethnicity of Victims Year on Year comparison:

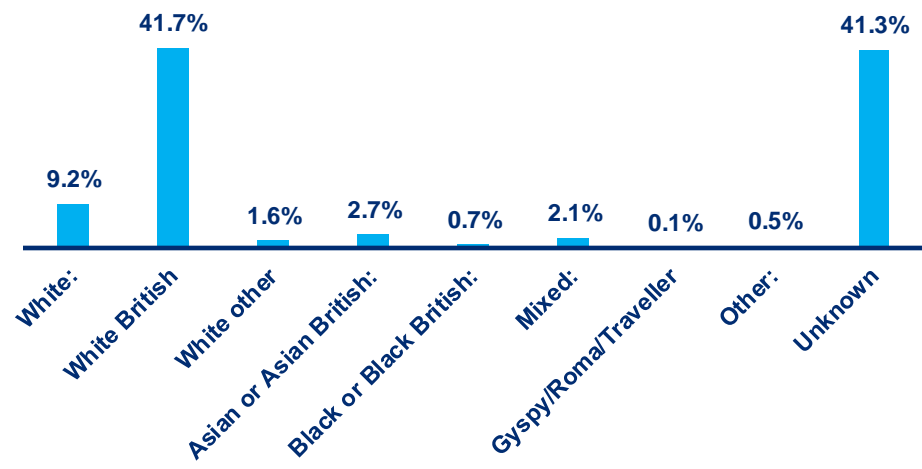
18 / 19



19 / 20



20 / 21



There is a high level of unknown within the Ethnicity data, particularly in the 19 / 20 year, where, out of 7435 Leicestershire police records they recorded 6915 as Ethnicity unknown.

Across all years White remains the most prevalent ethnic group. The total figure, inclusive of children for Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised groups is 6.3% (18/19); 2.0% (19/20) & 6.2% (20/21)

Marac data shows that 8% (18/19); 6% (19/20) and 8% (20/21) of all cases are from a Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised backgrounds.

Our research shows that for Intimate Partner Violence only, we would estimate a total of 2310 Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised victims per year for LCC. This does not include domestic abuse victims who experience abuse from non-intimate partners such as parents, siblings, HBV etc.

In the 20/21 year the data submitted recorded 614 Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised adult and child victims accessed services.

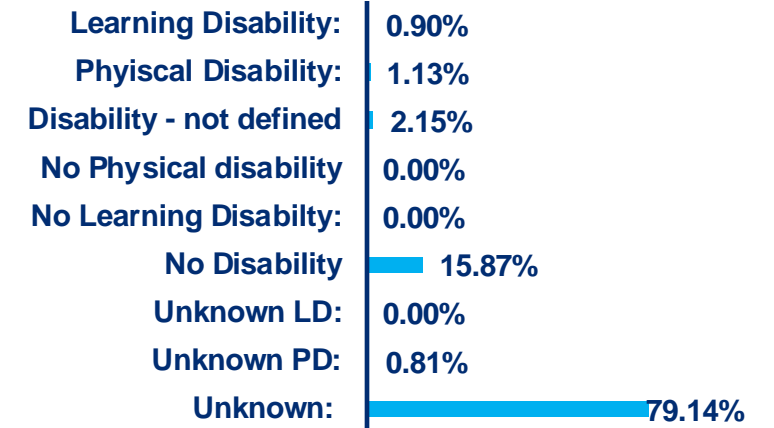
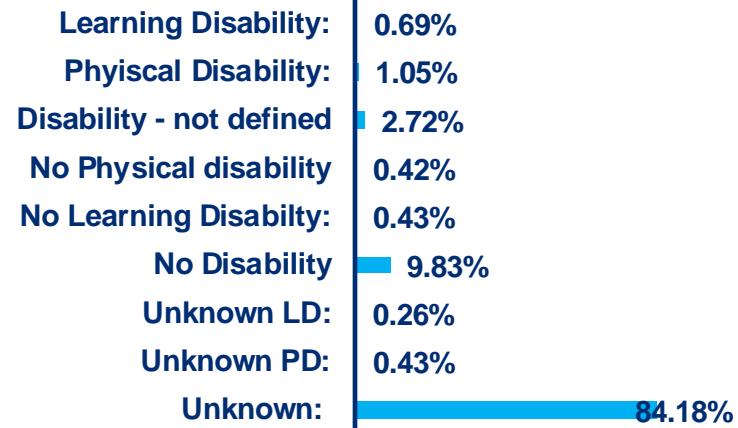
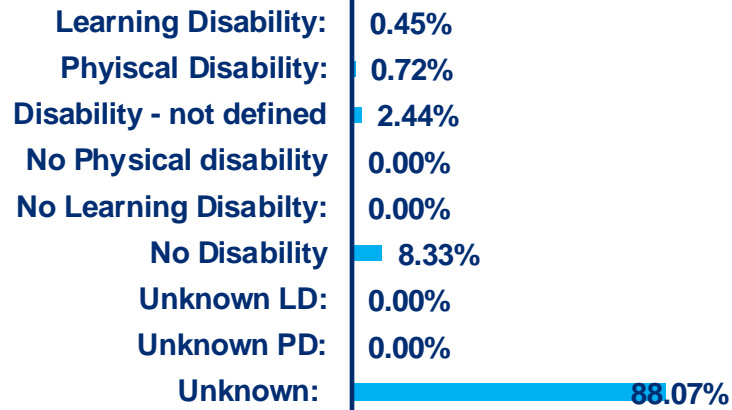
Ending domestic abuse

Disability:

18 / 19

19 / 20

20 / 21



There is a high level of unknown for the disability demographic also. It is either not collected or not being recorded as standalone data and therefore was not available for analysis, for example, may be logged on case notes rather than a specific marker for disability.

We know that women with learning disabilities and/or autism are three times more likely to experience domestic abuse than their non-disabled peers.*

Public Health England (2015) **report that **disabled people:**

- experience disproportionately higher rates of domestic abuse.
- experience domestic abuse for longer periods of time, and more severe and frequent abuse than non-disabled people.
- encounter differing dynamics of domestic abuse, which may include more severe coercion, control or abuse from carers.

*Outcomes for disabled people in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

**Disability & Domestic Abuse

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480942/Disability_and_domestic_abuse_topic_overview_FINAL.pdf

Disability C'td:

The police, which by and far is the largest data set, did not record whether a victim had a disability. Due to the significant 'Unknown' records and the way in which multiple disabilities for individual clients was recorded it is hard to gain concrete insights from the data provided.

Using the SafeLives prevalence tool our research shows **14,550** disabled adults in Leicestershire experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year.

The data for cases at Marac where a disability is present is:

2018/2019



321 – 6.4%

2019/2020



419 – 5.2%

2020/2021



417 – 3.9%

This falls far short of the **SafeLives recommended figure of 19%**.

Ending domestic abuse

Sexual Identity of Victims Year on Year comparison:

The data regarding sexual identity is limited with a minimum of **89.3%** victims' sexual identity unknown. According to research more than **one in four** gay men and lesbian women and more than **one in three** bisexual people report at least one form of domestic abuse since the age of 16*

The way in which the data is captured, groups Lesbian Women and Gay Men together, with the figures showing in:

- 18/19 **8** Lesbian / Gay and **4** Bisexual victims recorded;
- 19/20 **10** Lesbian / Gay and **16** Bisexual victims recorded;
- 20/21 **15** Lesbian / Gay and **32** Bisexual victims recorded.



2018-2019



2019-2020



2020-2021

Our research shows that for Intimate Partner Violence only, we would estimate a total of **3340** LGB+ victims per year for LCC.

Marac data shows **0.9%** of cases in **18/19** were LGBT+; **1.7%** of cases in **19/20** were LGBT+; and **1.3%** in **20/21** were victims who identify as LGBT+. This is below the recommended figure of **2.5% - 5.8%**

Ending domestic abuse

[*Recognise and Respond](#): Strengthening advocacy for LGBT+ survivors of domestic abuse

Socio-economic Characteristics

Data regarding socio-economic characteristics are limited. Leicestershire Police collects data regarding occupation however this is limited for 2018/19 with **93.9%** unknown. For the following years it shows **48.3%** of victims were in employed work in 2019/20 and **45.1%** in 2020/21

Although limited data is currently captured by local agencies about socio economic characteristics, these can have a significant impact on victims' ability to access appropriate services when they need them, for example:



Marital status: divorce and matrimonial rights to a home



Family make up: needs of a single person and those with children



Income: a single person earning more than £35k is not eligible for social housing



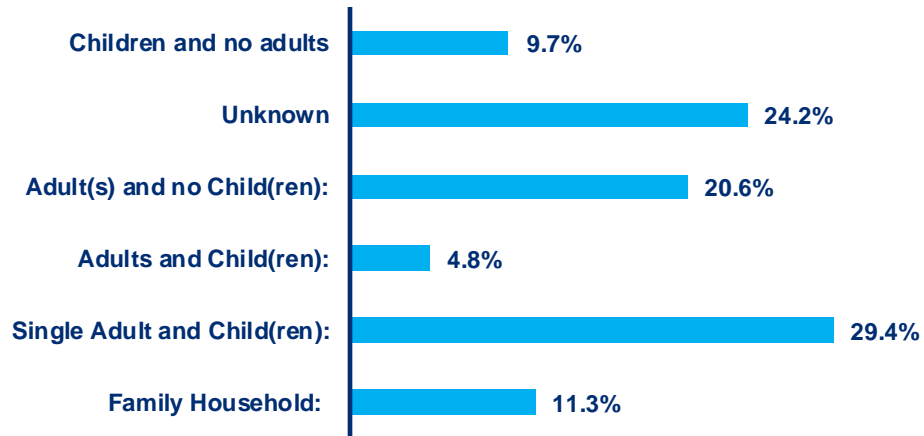
Benefits: a victim seeking safe accommodation may experience delays in claiming benefit, resulting in arrears. In addition, the impact in the change of circumstance affecting benefits

All these characteristics represent the whole person and a whole family, it is, therefore important to capture this information to ensure victims get the right support at the right time.

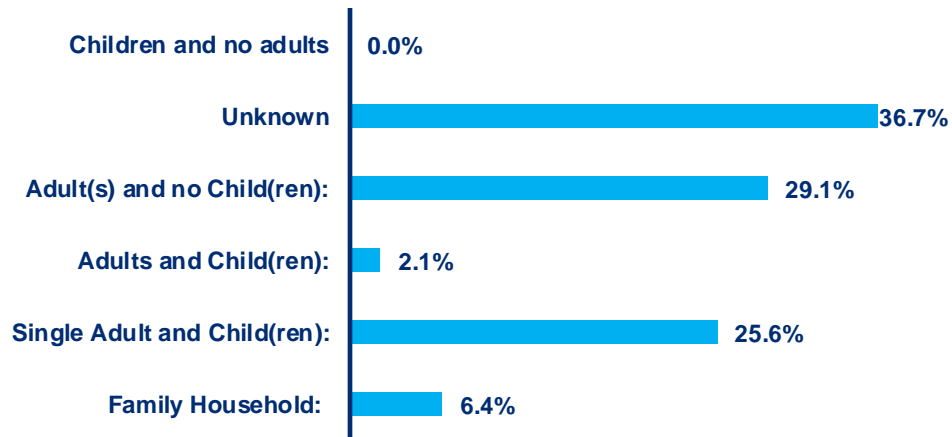
Ending domestic abuse

Socio-economic - Household Structure:

19 / 20



20 / 21



In this section we have reviewed the data by 5 of the districts who provided data. Two districts were delayed therefore their data is included in Appendix A.

In the 19/20 and 20/21 years the five districts' homelessness teams provided data on household structure these provide the following insights:

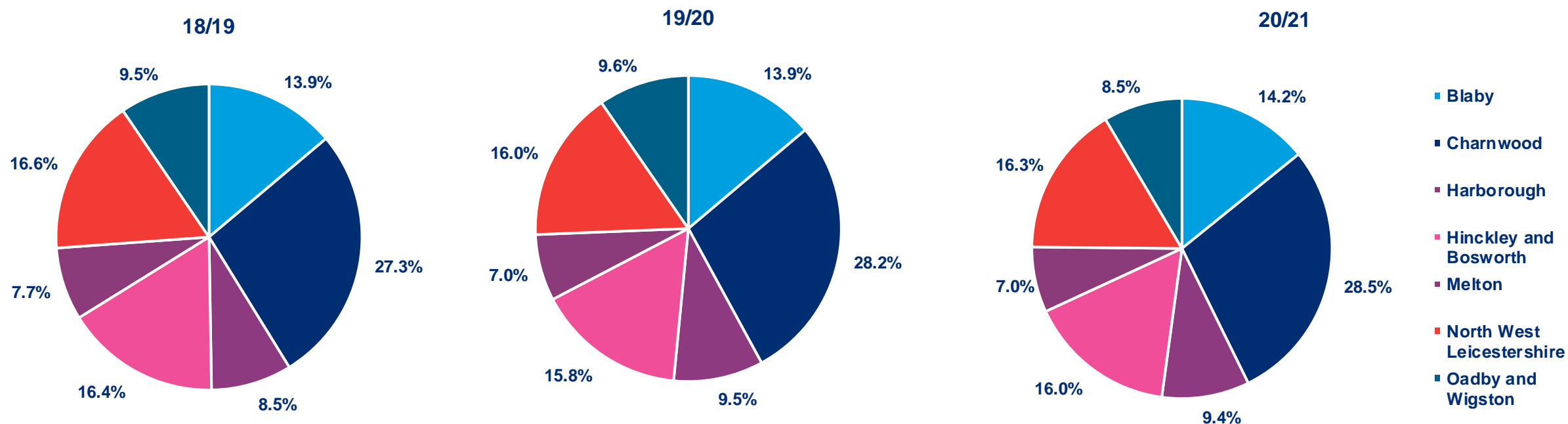
- The number of unknown records in these data sets increases to over a third.
- Of the records that allow household structure to be identified, Single Adult with children is the highest singular category in 19/20 but is then overtaken by Adult(s) with no children in 20/21.
- However, when we bring together the number of households that have children, throughout in both years **there are more households with children than no children** who are approaching services for support.

Ending domestic abuse

Consideration of the relationship between DA and Poverty:

Research in the UK has consistently found vulnerability to DA to be associated with low income, economic strain, and benefit receipt. It is, therefore, useful to consider information available that provides insights in this area. Research pieces such as *Evidence and policy review: Domestic violence and poverty* undertaken by Bristol University will provide LCC with further useful insights. ([Organisation \(bris.ac.uk\)](http://Organisation.bris.ac.uk))

The police victim by district data provides useful insights into the location and spread of victims:

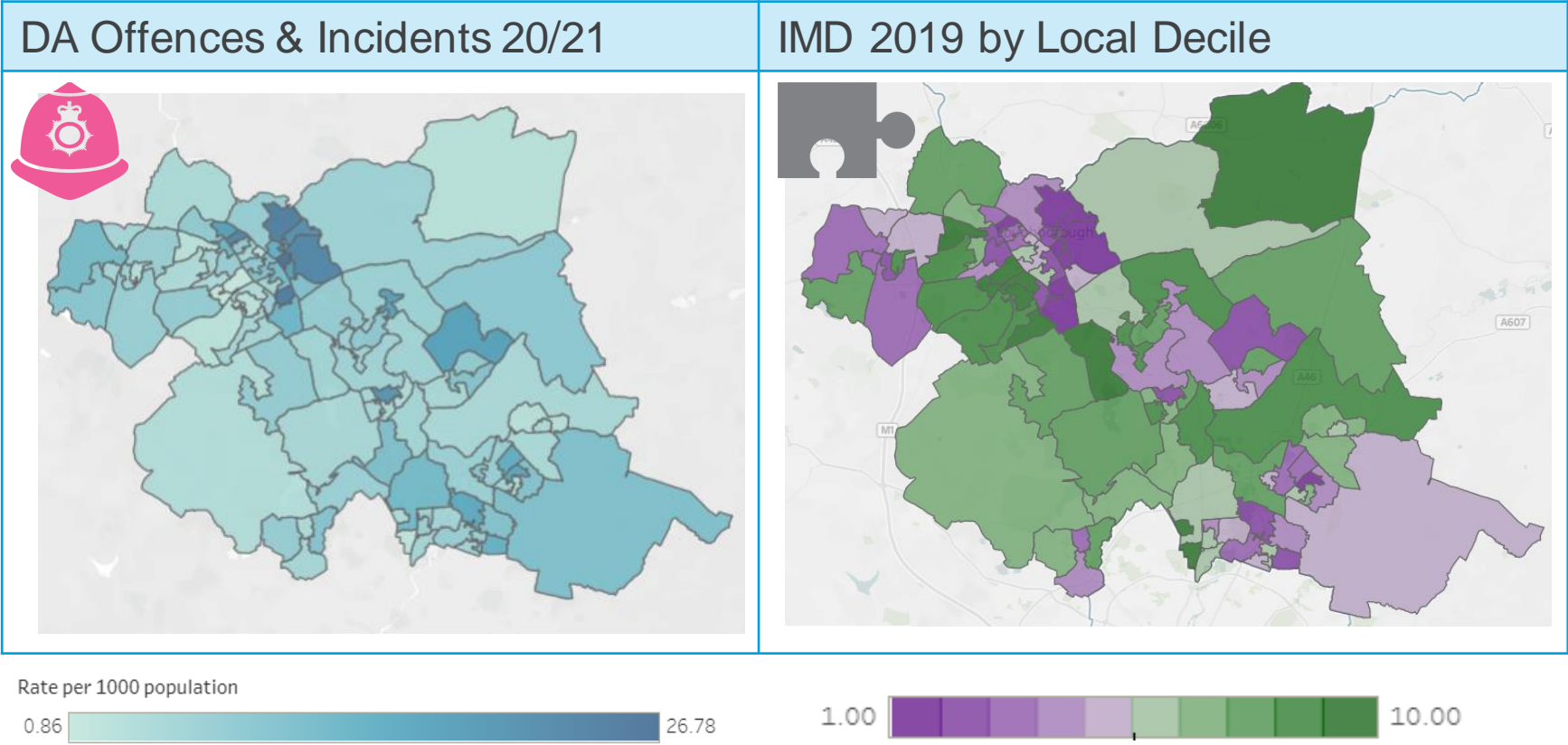


In all three years Charnwood has the most prevalence of DA Offences and Incidents (27.3%, 28.2% and 28.5%),

Ending domestic abuse

DA Prevalence and IMD 2019 by Local Decile:

- A common theme evolving from the DA Needs Assessment work that SafeLives is carrying out with local areas across the country is that there is limited data available around socio-economic factors.
- Where there is an absence of data it may be useful to consider the IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation):
- Using Charnwood as an example, (who account for over a quarter DA Offences and Incidents in Leicestershire) we have used the DA Offences & Incidents locality dashboard* and the ID2019 Dashboard FINAL** provided by Tableau Public* to give a side-by-side comparator as to whether there is any correlation between area of DA prevalence and IMD
- Further exploration of this approach for all 7 districts may be of benefit



* [Domestic Abuse Victim Offender Demographics | Tableau Public](#)

** [ID2019 Dashboard FINAL | Tableau Public](#)



4. Safe Accommodation Provision

What is Safe Accommodation?



Refuge Accommodation

Specialist safe accommodation - dedicated specialist support to victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs such as specialist refuges for Black, Asian and racially minoritised, LGBT+, and disabled victims and their children

Dispersed accommodation – Safe self-contained accommodation with the same level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge.

Sanctuary Schemes – may also be called Target Hardening scheme. A survivor centred initiative which aims to enable a victim to remain in their own home by installing additional security to the property and perimeter

Move on and/or second stage accommodation – Accommodation temporarily housing victims, who no longer require the intensive support provided in a refuge, but still require a lower level of domestic abuse specific support before they move to fully independent and permanent accommodation. May include support accommodation schemes

Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation – A safe place with support giving victims an opportunity to spend a temporary period of time to consider and make decisions in an environment which is self-contained and safe

Safe accommodation is not generic temporary accommodation which is not solely dedicated to providing a safe place to stay for victims of domestic abuse. It is important to note that those experiencing Domestic Abuse may well be in standard temporary accommodation but may not have been identified as such or may have been placed in this accommodation due to the Homelessness Duty.

Ending domestic abuse

Safe Accommodation Provision

Service	Provider	Commissioner	Description	Referral Pathway
Refuge	Wall Action	*LCC	12 units made up of two Refuges – 5 in one district, 7 in another district	Referral to be made by agency or self-referral to UAVA
Dispersed Accommodation	Wall Action	Grant Funding (Not commissioned as part of UAVA)	9 dispersed units across two districts	Referral to be made by agency or self-referral to UAVA
Sanctuary Scheme	24/7 Locks	OPCC, accessible via UAVA	Installation of security items within a victims home	Referral to be made by agency or self referral to UAVA

There are currently **21** safe accommodation spaces in Leicestershire. The Council of Europe* recommendation is 1 family place per 10,000 population. The population of Leicestershire is 706,155 therefore the recommended number is 70 spaces.

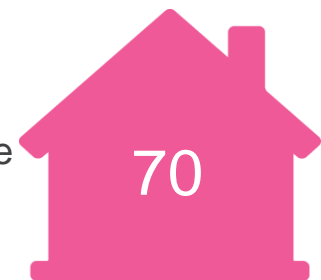
The current provision available in Leicestershire is below the recommended level.

We are aware that some aspects of specialist services are commissioned at an LLR level. The total population of the whole LLR is **1,100,306**. Therefore the recommended number of safe accommodation spaces across the LLR is **110**.

We have not been provided with data regarding the number of sanctuary scheme referrals, therefore, we are unable to provide any analysis regarding this.

We are also aware that Adult Social Care provided accommodation in some cases due to domestic abuse such as a temporary care home place. Whilst we would not class this as safe accommodation, it is important to note and to explore this need further.

64



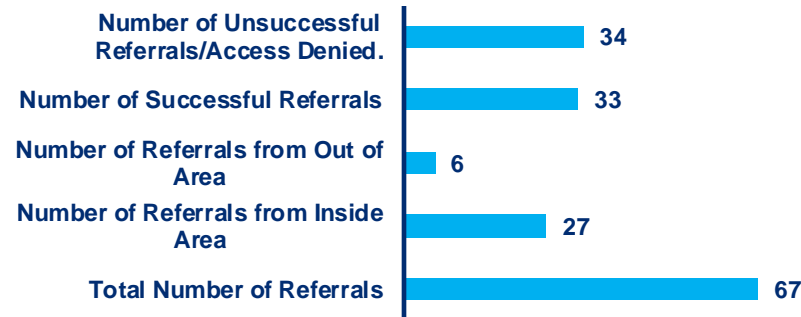
Ending domestic abuse

*Please note LCC fund the support services offered to survivors in the accommodation, whilst housing benefit (applied for by the support service (i.e..WA) on behalf of the DA survivors covers the cost of the accommodation.

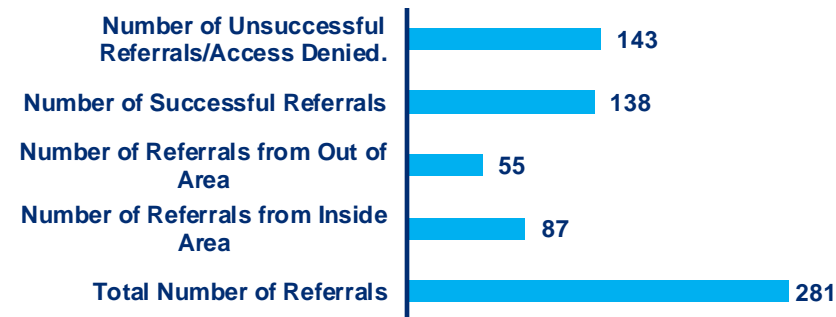
Referrals to Safe Accommodation*

UAVA is the 'Front Door' for all Domestic Abuse referrals across the LLR, therefore, all referrals for Safe Accommodation go via this route.

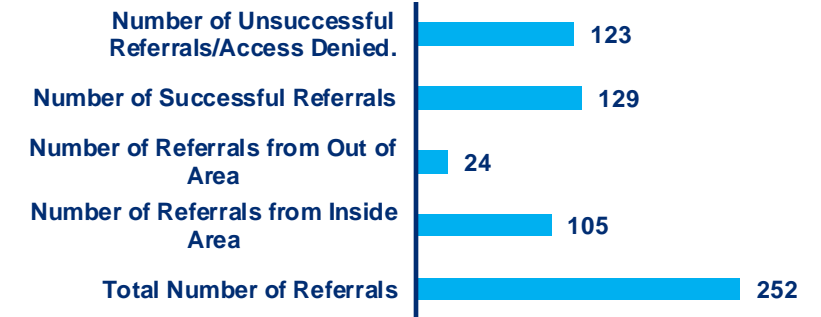
Referrals to Refuge 18/19



Referrals to refuge 19/20



Referrals to Refuge 20/21



Referrals for Safe Accommodation Increased significantly (by **339%**) from (**n.67**) 2018/19 to (**n. 281**) in 2019/20. There was then a small decrease of **11.5%** to (**n.252**) in 2020/21.

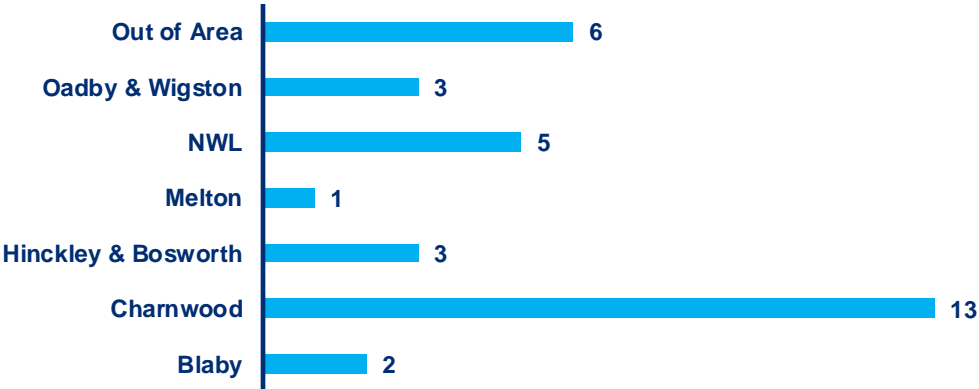
In 18/19 **49.3%** of referrals were successful, **49.1%** of referrals were successful in 19/20 and **51.2%** were successful in 20/21.

The average length of stay in Safe Accommodation across LLR ranges from **102** days in 2018/19 to **110** in 2019/20 and finally to **113** in 2020/21. Consideration to be given for recovery support that will enable survivors to move on to suitable accommodation and free up space for higher risk victims to access.

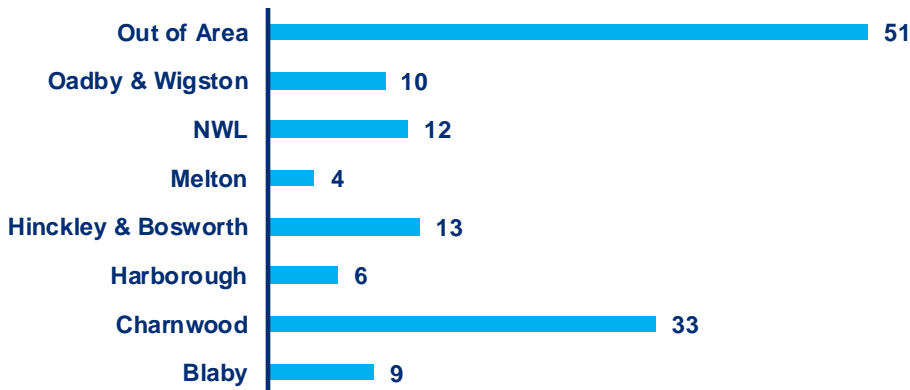
The number of referrals from Out of Area grew significantly from **6** the previous year to **55** in 19/20 it then reduced down to **24** OOA referrals in 20/21. It might be useful to consider what bearing Covid had in the 20/21 year and whether the number of OOA referrals to LCC might have decreased without the restrictions on movement Covid brought.

Referrals to Safe Accommodation* - Referral source

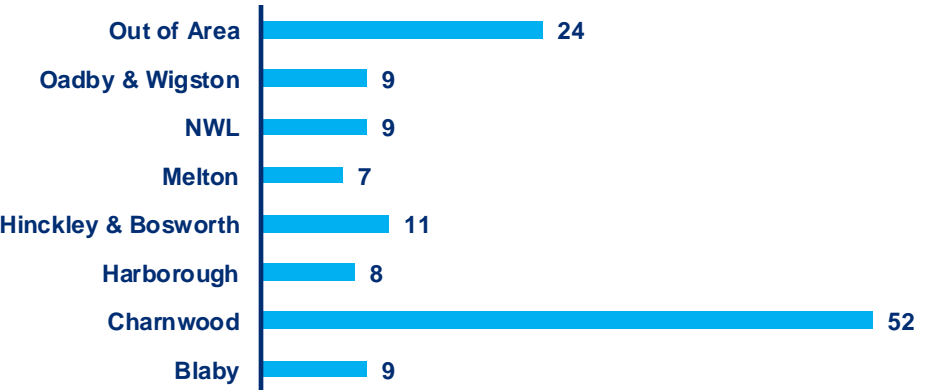
Successful Referral into LCC refuge by Area
18/19



Successful Referral into LCC refuge by Area
19/20



Successful Referral into LCC refuge by Area
20/21



Across all three years, within Leicestershire, Charnwood accounts for the significant proportion of successful referrals into the refuge accounting for **39.3%** in 2018/19, **23.9%** 2019/20 and **40.3%** in 2020/21.

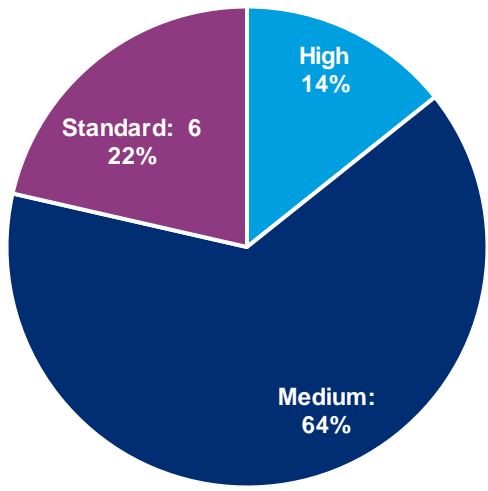
In terms of service/agency, the biggest single source of referral across the three years is via the helpline with **48.6%** in 2018/19, **45.4%** in 2019/20 and **40.8%** in 2020/21.

*As per Wall Action Data

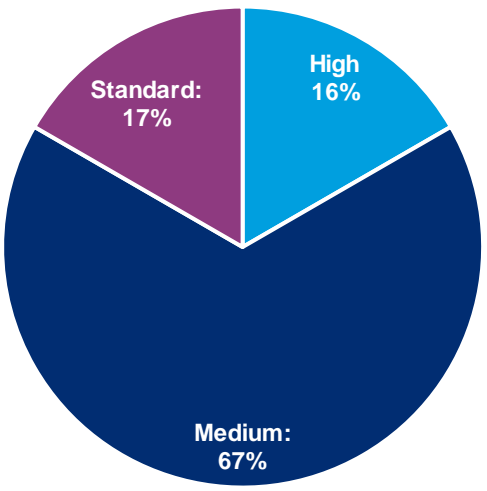


Referrals to Safe Accommodation* - Risk

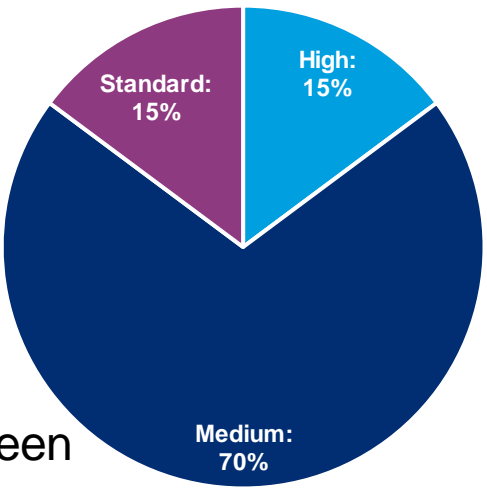
Assessed Level of Risk 18/19



Assessed Level of Risk 19/20



Assessed Level of Risk 20/21



Across the three-year period the data identifying risk shows that the majority (between 64% and 70%) of clients are assessed as having 'Medium' level risk.

The proportion of 'Standard' risk clients reduces across the three years.

Denied Access to Service

For a variety of reasons Not all victims who are referred to Safe Accommodation services will be able to access them. In slide 50 we present data showing that in 2018/19 **51.6%** of referrals were successful, **49.1%** of referrals were successful in 2019/20 and **51.2%** were successful in 2020/21. Below we have provided the top four reasons in each of the years

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
9 Clients do not want support	39 - Clients does not want support	47 - Clients do not want support
6 - 'other'	35 - 'other'	19 - 'other'
4 - 'missing data'	15)- Unable to contact client	16 - 'Client Disengaged'
(n.3) - 'Unable to contact clients	(n.13) - Client going OOA	7 - service was 'Unable to contact client'; and 7 cases 'needs better served elsewhere'



Regarding the client not wanting support, client declined, client disengaged and needs better served elsewhere, there may be some relevance in the location of safe accommodation and how appropriate this might be for victims, particularly if they have children at school or need to travel to work.

'Other' is the second highest reason cited. Whilst this allows staff to use free text to record client needs, it does not allow for further analysis of this category for the reasons for refused access.

Further exploration and understanding of these refusal reasons should be considered.

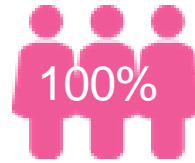
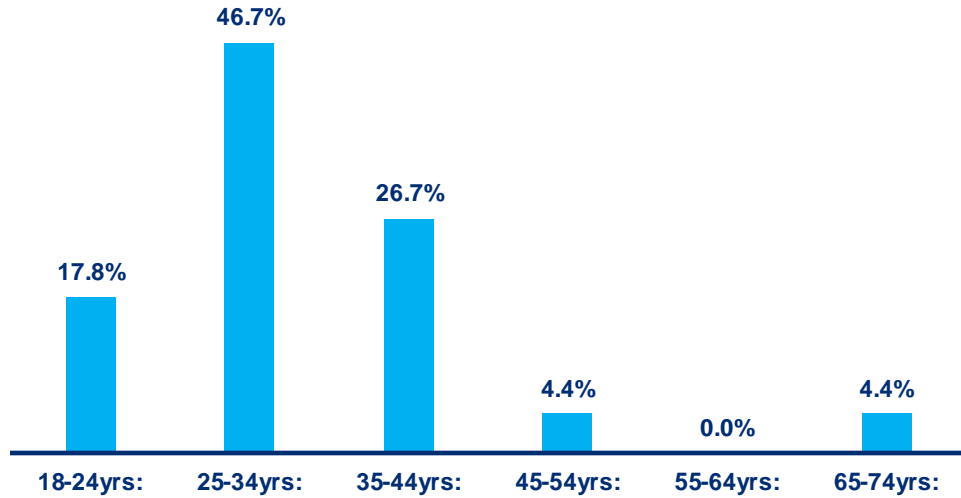
Consideration should be given to perpetrator management as set out in the Domestic Abuse Draft Statutory Guidance Framework, which could enable victims and children to remain in their homes and communities, reducing disruption and trauma already experienced.

Ending domestic abuse

Refuge Accommodation 2018 - 2019

We were provided with data for 45 clients regarding the characteristics and needs of clients in the refuge:

Age 18/19



100%

Female

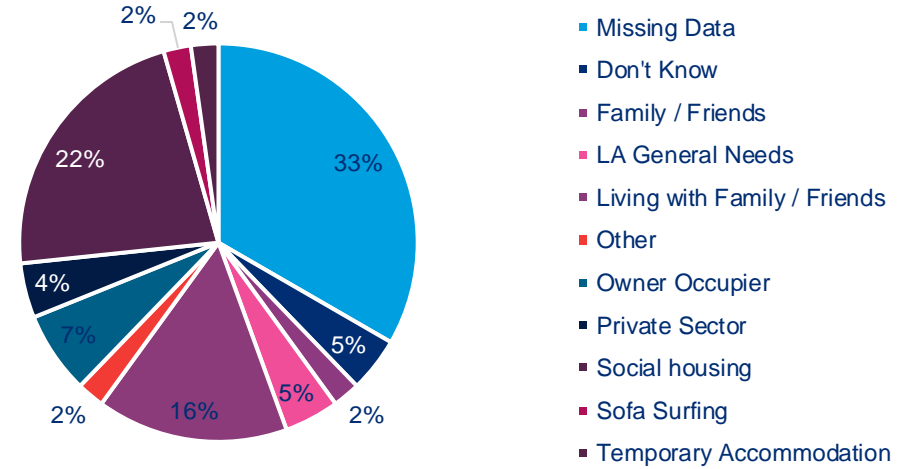


Victims Supported

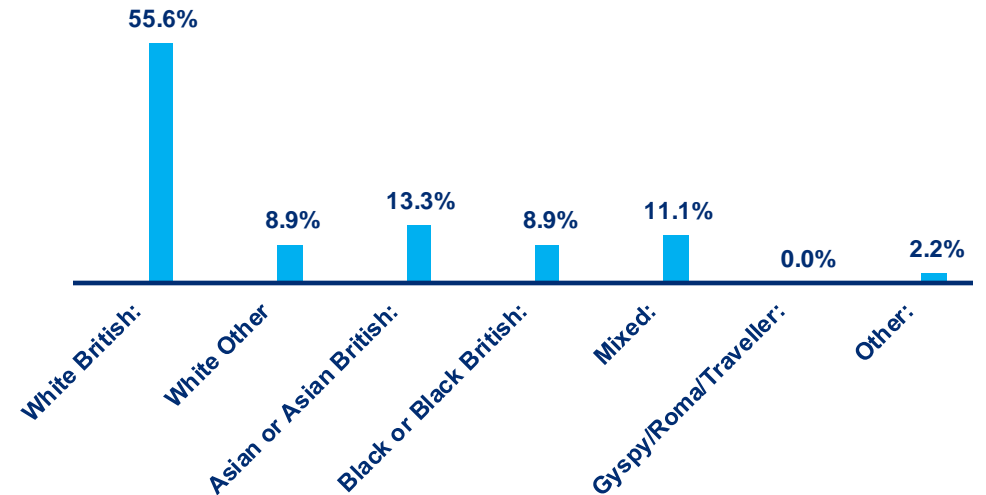


44 heterosexual and 1 preferred not to say

Type of House Victim previously resided in



Ethnicity



22

Receiving benefits



2 English not first language



5 Indefinite leave to remain

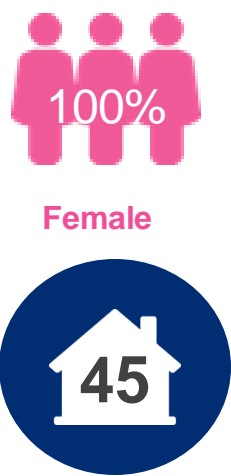
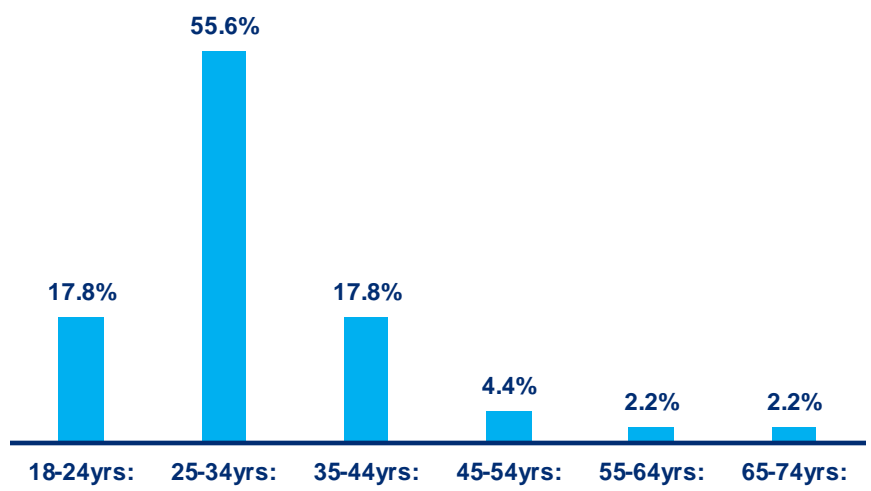


13 victims had Mental Health issues and 5 victims had learning difficulties

Ending domestic abuse

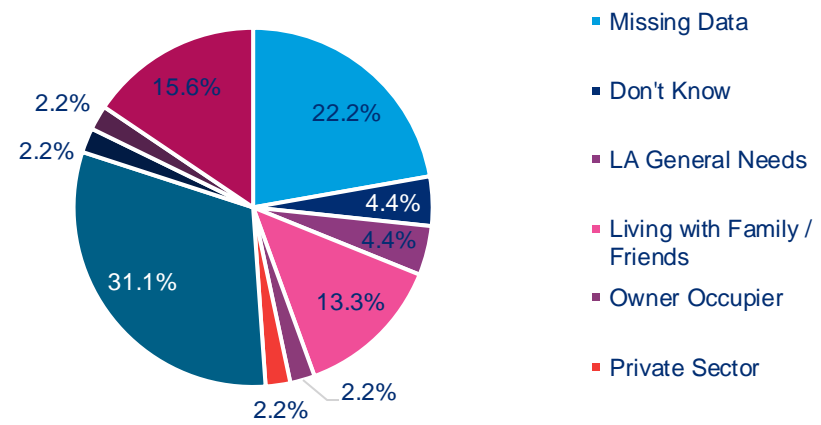
Refuge Accommodation 2019 - 2020

Age of Victims 19/20



Victims Supported

Type of Housing Victim previously resided in



34

Receiving benefits

“

5 English not first language



3 Indefinite leave to remain, 1 family visa & 2 other.



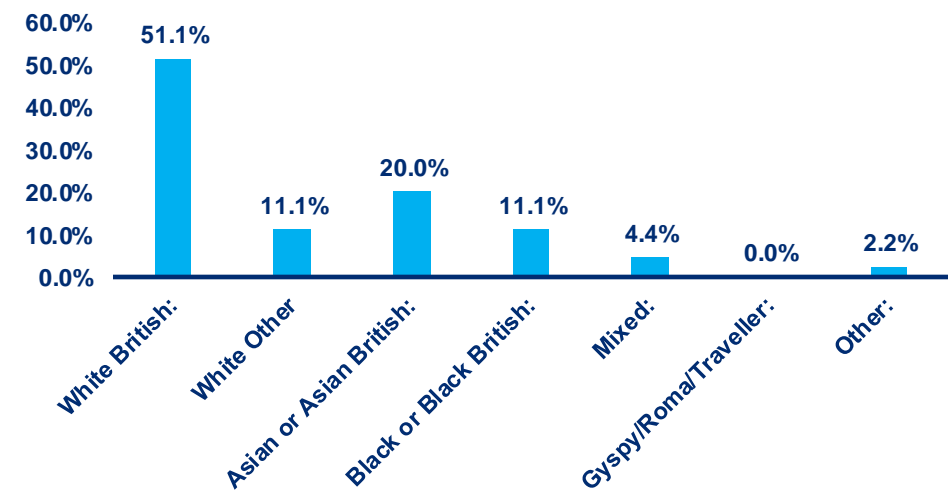
16 victims had Mental Health issues and 1 victims had learning difficulties



44 heterosexual and 1 Gay / Lesbian

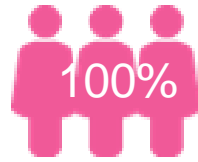
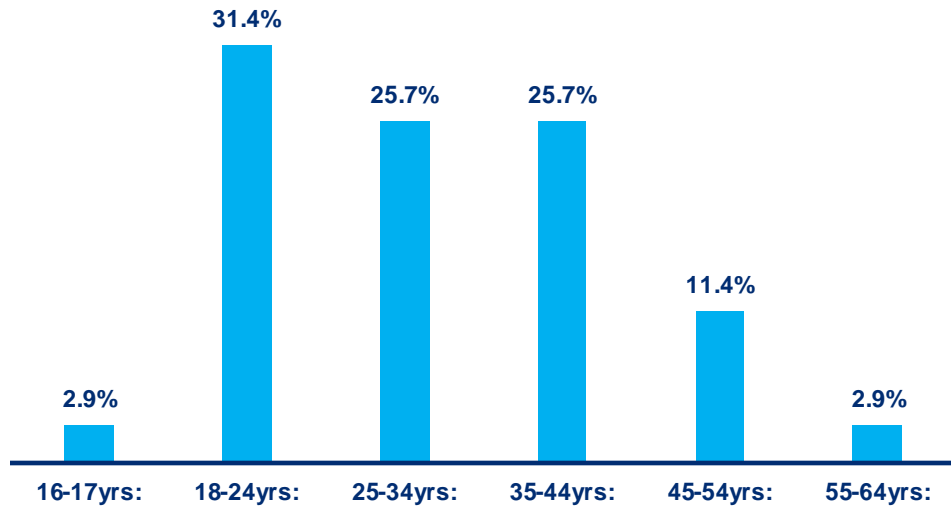
Ending domestic abuse

Ethnicity 19/20



Refuge Accommodation 2020 - 2021

Age 20 / 21



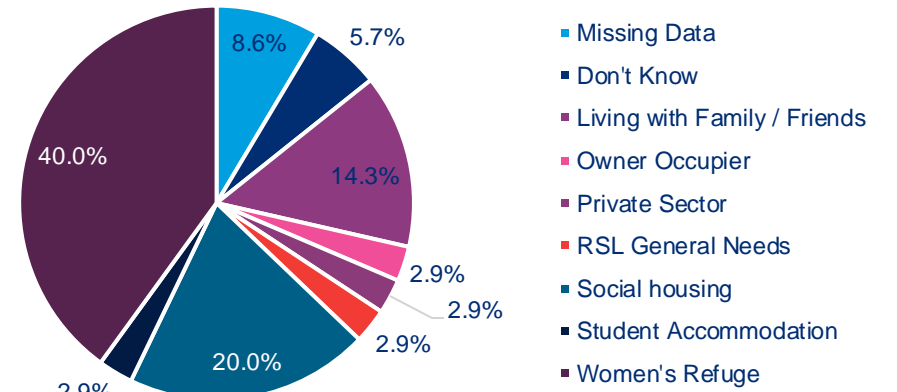
100%

Female, with one client identifying as Transgender



Victims Supported

Type of Housing Victim resided in previously



30 heterosexual, 2 gay / lesbian and and 3 preferred not to say.



Receiving benefits



18 victims had Mental Health issues and 2 victims had learning difficulties



2 family visa & 2 other

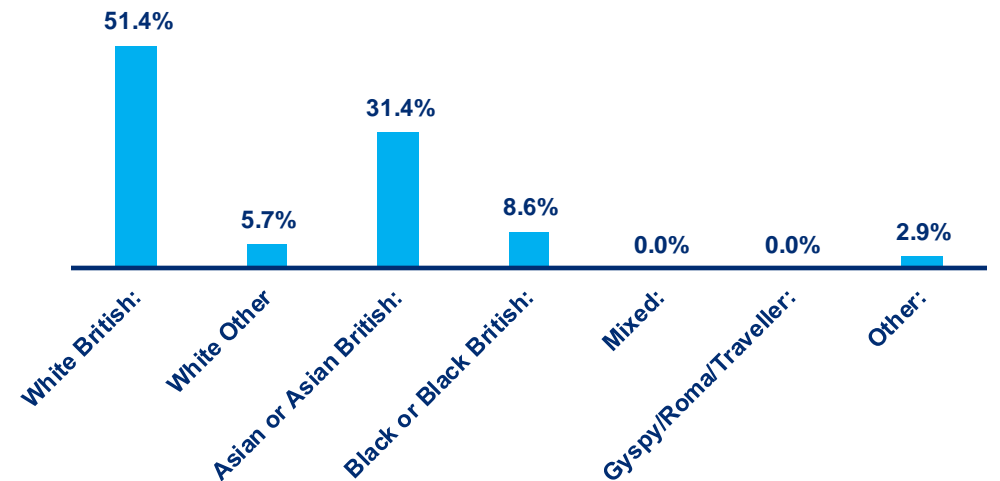


8 English not first language



1 HBV & 1 forced marriage

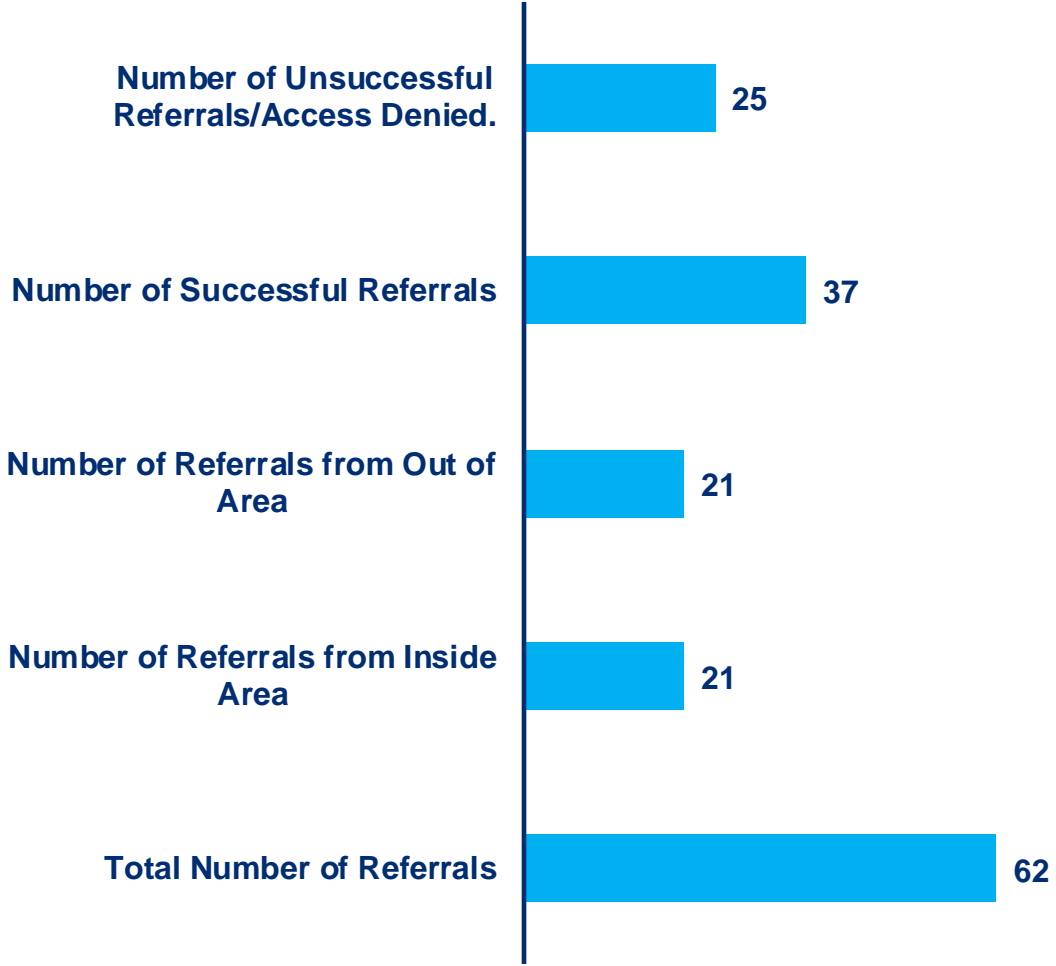
Ethnicity 20/21



Ending domestic abuse

Referrals to Dispersed Accommodation*

Referrals into Dispersed Accommodation 20/21



For the 20/21 Wall Action received an uplift in funding which allowed them to deliver a 'dispersed' accommodation service. The data shows this allowed them to ensure a further 37 Leicestershire clients accessed safe accommodation.

25 referrals rejected, the reasons for rejection were:

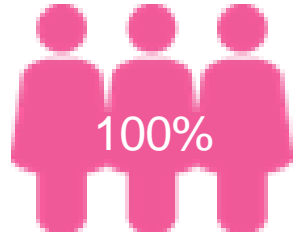
- The highest count (n7) recorded 'other' which does not provide any insight on the circumstances of why they were rejected;
- The next highest was (n.4) Client / survivor does not want support;
- (n.2) clients were 'Referred to internal service':
- Each of the following categories were (n.1) clients
 - 'missing data'; '
 - Unable to contact client / survivor';
 - 'needs better served elsewhere'; and
 - unable to meet MH support needs.

The average length of stay in the dispersed Accommodation in 2020/21 was 134 days.

Dispersed Accommodation 2020 - 2021



Victims Supported



Female



100% heterosexual.



1 Indefinite leave to remain



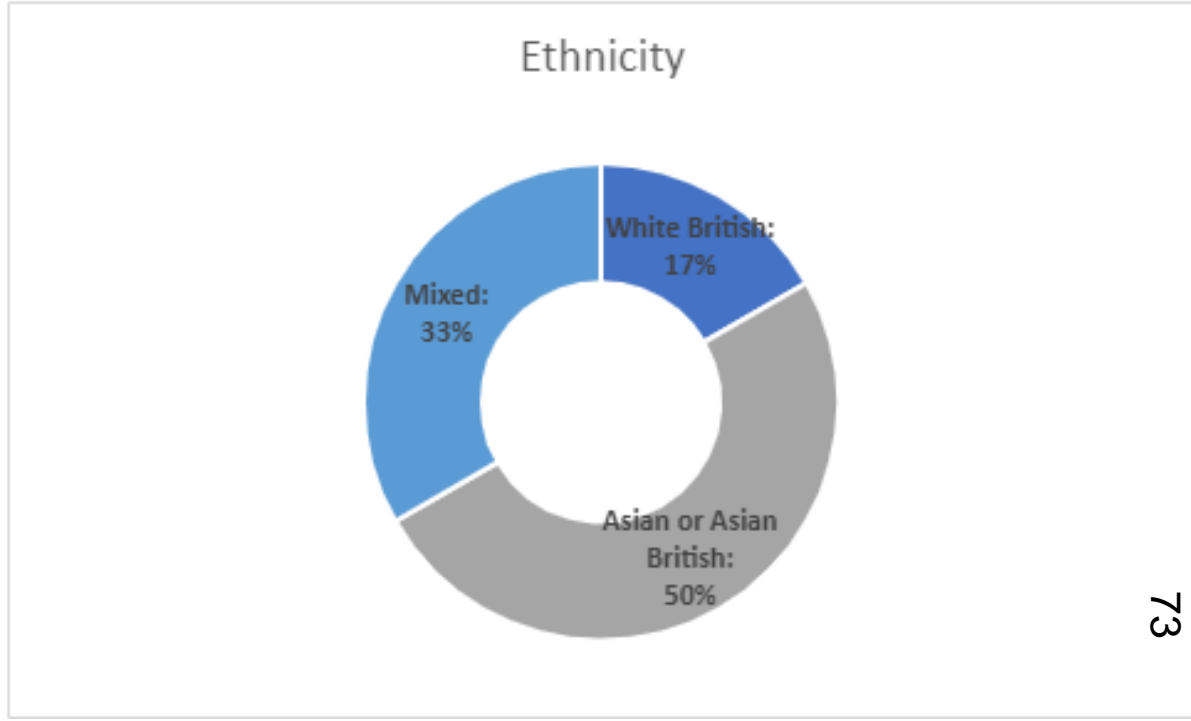
1 English not first language



Receiving benefits



1 Mental Health issues



73



Prior accommodation before dispersed: 3 private sector, 1 living with friends / family & 2 don't know.

Ending domestic abuse

Supported Housing: National Statement of Expectations

The National Statement of Expectations (NSE) was developed in collaboration between the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) with input from local councils and the supported housing sector. Together, they are committed to seeing delivery of good quality supported housing which meets residents' needs and represents good value for money.

The NSE provides a mechanism for establishing the vision for accommodation standards, quality, and value for money. The NSE is not a statutory requirement, and to date there has been no definitive set of guidelines on what should reasonably be expected from the accommodation element of supported housing. However, it is hoped that organisations involved in the provision of supported housing will use, adopt, and find the principles and examples of best practice helpful.

In supported housing, accommodation is provided alongside support, supervision, or care to help people live as independently as possible in the community, including for people fleeing domestic abuse with their children.

In order to deliver the ambitions of the NSE local authorities should work alongside providers and local delivery partners to:

- Assess local demand and plan effectively
- Ensure safe and good quality supported housing
- Ensure supported housing provides good value for money

Ending domestic abuse

Women's Aid Annual Audit 2021

The annual audit presents information on the provision and usage of domestic abuse services (both accommodation and community support services) in England, mainly focusing on the financial year 2019/20. This year the report also includes a section on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Key findings from the audit included:

- It is estimated (based on the On Track data collection) that 10,592 women and 12,710 children were supported by a refuge in 2019/20.
- 3,935 refuge spaces in England, falling short of the number of spaces recommended by the Council of Europe by 1,694, which represents a 30% shortfall^[1].
- It is estimated that a total of 24,748 referrals were received by refuges. This means that 57% of all referrals received for refuge were rejected. The main reason for rejection was a lack of space or capacity with 18% of all referrals received rejected for this reason, this also equates to 32% of all rejected referrals being rejected due to lack of space or capacity.
- Only 26% of refuges commissioned by local authorities indicated that the funding covered all aspects of the support staff costs.
- 63% of women in refuge services had children and 6% were pregnant
- 88% of service users had experienced emotional abuse, 67% had experienced jealous or controlling behaviour.
- 49% of service users in a refuge had support needs around mental health
- 48% of service users in a refuge reported feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts because of the abuse.
- 26% of women at refuge services have a disability; most common were mental health disabilities, 7% had a physical disability.
- Of service users who were not British nationals, just over half (54.5%) were able to access public funds.
- Only 4% of vacancies posted on Routes to Support^[2] could consider women who had no recourse to public funds.
- Under half of refuge vacancies can accommodate a woman with two children and less than one in five for a woman with three children.
- These statistics highlight that nationally there are barriers for some women to enter refuge.

This includes women who are NRPF and who are a parent and who are likely to have mental health needs requiring sufficient therapeutic support. We also know that people with a disability are more likely to experience domestic abuse. The small percentage of women in refuge with a physical disability, is likely not reflective of demand from this group and impacted by the availability of accessible accommodation.

Ending domestic abuse

Whole Housing Approach

SafeLives supports the DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) Whole Housing Approach which aims to improve the housing options and outcomes for all experiencing domestic abuse. It suggests a range of housing options and specialist initiatives to give victims and survivors the choice to relocate or remain in their existing property and for agencies to work together collaboratively.

This diagram shows the model and it's 12 parts. The lighter circles represent the temporary accommodation settings and tenure types with the darker circles representing the housing options and specialist initiatives to support victims to either relocate or remain in their home.

Further information available here <https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/what-we-do/whole-housing-approach/whole-ho>



76



5. Survivor Voice

Survivor Voice

***“We’ve walked through fire to get our voices back; we’re not going to give them up now.”** Ursula, Pioneer*

SafeLives are committed to placing people with lived experience at the heart of all we do, valuing internal and external survivors’ experience as an asset.

Working together, we can aggregate and amplify survivors’ voices and interweave authenticity and independence throughout all our work. By listening and responding to views that are different to our own, professionals and survivors can critically assess and address challenges together. To do this authentically we support survivors to tell their truth and speak with an unmediated voice.

78

Case Studies

The needs assessment requires a review of case studies to understand a victims' journey, their needs, the support received and the outcome. Seven case studies have been provided by services within Leicestershire and over the next two slides we provide a summary of key insights shared:



acce

3 victims were OOA referrals



5 victims had children
1 victim was pregnant



4 victims were denied to services

Of the case studies received, the victims were referred via a number of routes including **3** via the UAVA helpline, **2** self referred, **1** via Housing Options and **1** unknown. As mentioned above 3 victims were OOA referrals.

For those victims with children, **3** had **3 or more children**. One of those victims was also pregnant.

We know that **4** victims were denied access to services. Location was a factor in all of these case studies as the location of the area was not suitable for the victim. Currently safe accommodation is not provided across all **7** districts in Leicestershire. Other reasons for not accessing services included client requiring non communal accommodation – this was then offered however the area was unsuitable, no suitable accommodation for victim and 4 children, high support needs which could not be accommodated.

All victims who were denied access received follow on support including support with obtaining temporary accommodation from Housing Options, assistance with finding alternative safe accommodation including liaising with current workers, ongoing support from Family Case Worker.

Ending domestic abuse

Case Studies C'td:

In regards to those who accessed safe accommodation -



- 2 had NRPF and had a spousal visa
- 2 did not have English as a first language
- 2 were supported with a DDVC application



- 2 had children
- 2 were supported with accessing education
- 1 experienced HBV

Details regarding support for one of the case studies was limited, a focus was on the referral pathway rather than the overall process, therefore we cannot include them in the following analysis.

Both victims received support with accessing benefits and health services which was especially important for one victim as they had health issues. Mental health support was provided and referrals made, support with managing money, shopping and building self esteem and independence as well as housing support including referrals for white goods was provided.

For the children, referrals were made for them to have Christmas boxes, toys, clothes and Easter eggs. One child was also referred to the JADA family support service and there were good links with the Health Visitor where required. It is noted that for all of the children, their wellbeing improved during their time in refuge including the baby learning to walk and talk and gaining weight and the older children thriving. Neither family had social care involvement.

88

Regarding outcomes, one family is still residing in the refuge awaiting a property, has completed the Level 1 ESOL course and been granted leave to remain, the other family have been rehoused, target hardening installed and received support with white goods. Referrals to counselling, outreach services and the Freedom programme were also made.

'Her life has changed greatly for the better .. being more independent and learning new skills and fees like she has found herself and says she felt like part of a family by being in refuge'

Ending domestic abuse

'She is definitely looking forward to rebuilding their lives. She has choice and can make her own decisions. She has control of her own life and has aspirations for the future.'



6. Conclusions & Recommendations

Conclusion and Recommendations

Local Partnership Boards

In section B1 of the statutory guidance accompanying the DA Act 21, Local Partnership Boards and the importance of multi-agency working in responding to the needs of victims of domestic abuse within safe accommodation is recognised.

Safelives has been commissioned by LCC to support them with reviewing their current arrangements, membership and terms of reference for their LPB.

Data Collection

LCC recognised that submission of relevant data was critical for the completion of a comprehensive needs assessment and have been fully engaged and supported this process throughout.

However, there have been areas where data has either not been available in a timely way (Tier 2 districts of Charnwood and Melton) or not available at all (health).

It is also evident within the datasets submitted that data capture for certain categories is lacking, including:

- **Ethnicity:** Different ethnic groups have different experiences of services and experience different barriers. It is important to ensure that ethnicity is captured appropriately in order to fully understand the demographic and needs of your area
- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity:** Those in LGBT+ relationships face additional barriers to reporting and accessing services. It is important to ensure that this information is asked and captured in order to fully understand the demographics and needs of your area.
- **Those who are harmed and those who harm:** To ensure that those who are harmed and those who harm are captured appropriately to ensure the correct support is provided.
- **Socio Economic status:** Research in the UK has consistently found vulnerability to DA to be associated with low income, economic strain, and benefit receipt.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Data Collection cont'd

It should be noted that the number of unknown records on gender improved. The police submitted the largest data set for this needs assessment and their records highlight over the three-year period they reduced the number of unknowns (934, 599, and 554). It is recommended across all services that teams are regularly trained on expected practice standards and the importance of accurately recording data of victims accessing help. An 'unknown record' is a chance lost in better understanding a survivor's needs.

LCC and the LPB need to ensure that an appropriate and consistent approach to collecting data is adopted across all districts and partner agencies to confirm that all demographics are captured. This will provide a clear understanding of victim's characteristics, areas of multiple disadvantage and complex needs, which will in turn, inform a comprehensive strategy for domestic abuse and ensure that services delivered can meet identified needs.

LCC were able to provide two CSC data sets. the third (the early help data) is not available in a format usable for this Needs Assessment, however It should be noted that LCC has commissioned Newton Europe who are undertaking a piece of work that will mean in the future it will be. (Please see Appendix B for further information.)

Example of good practice around Data Collection

We noted in the report a change in practice by the LCCs' CSC assessment team in the 20/21 year to 'including other children in the family' as part of their case management records, the welcomed impact of this is clearly evident - it enabled them to identify over three times as many children as victims of DA in the 20/21 year.

This policy change should be used as a model of good practice and rolled out across all services to ensure compliance with the DA Act 2021 S.3(181) - "*Children and young people are deemed to be victims under the 2021 Act as a result of seeing, hearing or otherwise experiencing domestic abuse between two people where the child is related to at least one of them whether that be the victim or perpetrator*".

Conclusion and Recommendations

Provision of Support and capacity of commissioned services

Our research shows that **28,360** adults in Leicestershire have experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year with around **8%** experiencing both partner and family abuse. The data gathered by this process highlighted that **10,140 (9967** and plus and additional **173** from the late submissions from Charnwood and Melton) have accessed services in Leicestershire in the last year.

We have, throughout this report, using Safelives recognised best practice guidelines, in conjunction with tools such as our prevalence tool, made recommendations regarding the expected levels of services reach and provision. We recommend that these are considered as part of LCC's DA commissioning strategy.

Across Leicestershire there is currently a range of safe accommodation provision that addresses need across a range of risk levels. Refuge and dispersed accommodation provision can accommodate a range of diverse needs and offer support in the short and longer term.

LCC, as part of the LLR commissions UAVA to manage the DA services including Safe Accommodation however some services are only available in certain areas of the LLR.

Across all three years, almost half of all referrals to safe accommodations have been denied access with the main reasons being client does not want support or client disengaged. In addition, a number were classed as 'other'. Due to this we are not able to provide further analysis regarding this. It is also noted that while the current provision is below recommended levels, lack of space is not a frequent reason for denied access.

We can also see from the case studies that several victims were unable to access safe accommodation due to the accommodation not being suitable – size of accommodation, communal spaces, location etc. We recommend that this be explored further to understand the reasons for refusals and the barriers for victims as this may include location of accommodation and therefore be due to lack of available space in an area.

Ending domestic abuse

Conclusion and Recommendations

Provision of Support and capacity of commissioned services cont'd

We would recommend that the current provision be increased from **21** spaces to **70** spaces as recommended by the Commission for Europe of 1 space per 10,000 population. For information, the recommended number of spaces for the LLR is 110.

Consideration should be given to alternative forms of safe accommodation which may be more suited to those who cannot access a refuge such as dispersed accommodation or a Housing First scheme, where wrap-around support for complex and additional needs can be provided. In addition, consideration regarding the location and size of safe accommodation should also be given as safe accommodation is not available across all 7 districts.

We are unable to comment on the Sanctuary Scheme due to lack of data. We recommend that this be an area that is explored further to understand who is accessing the service and their needs.

It is important to remember that Sanctuary Schemes and dispersed properties are only Safe Accommodation when specialist DA support is an integral part of this.

Therefore, appropriate support must be provided to victims and survivors using a holistic approach to ensure their needs are not treated in isolation but seen in the context of a whole person.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Children

- There are a high proportion of child victims aged from 0-5 and 6 - 11 in Leicestershire which suggests that children are experiencing trauma at a very early, crucial stage of their development and continues through their childhood. Prevention and early identification need to remain a priority as well as continuing therapeutic support for child victims
- Children are now recognised in law as victims in their own right. It is therefore imperative that all data around children is captured. This is to ensure that the needs of the child are assessed, understood, met and appropriate support and services are in place for the whole family and linked in with other relevant strategies
- Appropriate support for children should be available and accessible in all safe accommodation and provided by dedicated children's workers.

Housing and Homelessness

- Where victims are unable to access Safe Accommodation, they may be offered alternative temporary accommodation.
- Consideration must be given to the importance of specialist women's provision, not only for Safe Accommodation but for all forms of temporary accommodation. Mixed sex provision for those experiencing DA and VAWG can lead to victims feeling unsafe and have a negative impact on recovery
- Consideration must also be given to those who are street homeless and hidden homeless. We know from our **SafeLives Safe at Home report** that domestic abuse, even when present, is not always the cause of homelessness; it is often experienced alongside other forms of disadvantage that may contribute to homelessness. Domestic abuse can also be experienced by those who are already homeless
- We welcome the work regarding providing a dedicated domestic abuse specialist within the Housing Options and Homelessness service and would recommend this continue to offer both domestic abuse and housing advice and support to victims and colleagues

Ending domestic abuse

Conclusion and Recommendations

Performance Monitoring

- LPB to complete dip sampling and case audits on those accessing safe accommodation on a quarterly basis

No Recourse to Public Funds

- Ensure staff are aware of the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) Concession scheme for those who have been granted leave to enter as a spouse or partner of a British person

Understanding the Needs of Those from Minoritised communities:

- The statutory guidance accompanying the DA Act 21 states that Local Areas should *"have embedded, or have readily available, input from specialist agencies and 'by-and-for' services that have a proven track record of supporting victims of domestic abuse and who are aware and experienced in working with male and female victims with protected characteristics, including being from an ethnic minority, being disabled, LGBTQ+ or from a particular religion or faith.*
- LCC and their LPB could consult with specialist by and for services agencies IMKAAN; Southall Black Sisters; The Angelou Centre, Galop, The Refugee Council and Stay Safe East regarding additional support for victims who face multiple disadvantage and challenges to access services.

Understanding the Impact of Covid-19:

- The impact of covid-19 across all services is yet to be fully understood, it is something areas need to keep assessing to ensure their DVA and commissioning strategy is fully cognisant of.
- Insights from front line specialist DA services highlight factors that with the closure and/or reduced capacity of other services (including the courts) are having to hold clients for longer and provide more time intensive support than before.

Ending domestic abuse



7. Appendices

- ❖ **Appendix A – Summary analysis Melton and Charnwood**
- ❖ **Appendix B – LCC's CSC first response data**
- ❖ **Appendix C – List of data submissions**

APPENDIX A – Melton

We received data from Melton on the 13.10.21, this was too late to include as part of the full analysis above.

We have reviewed the figures and note that in the 18/19, 19/18 and 20/21 years the total number of survivors were:

18/19



<5

19/20



5

20/21



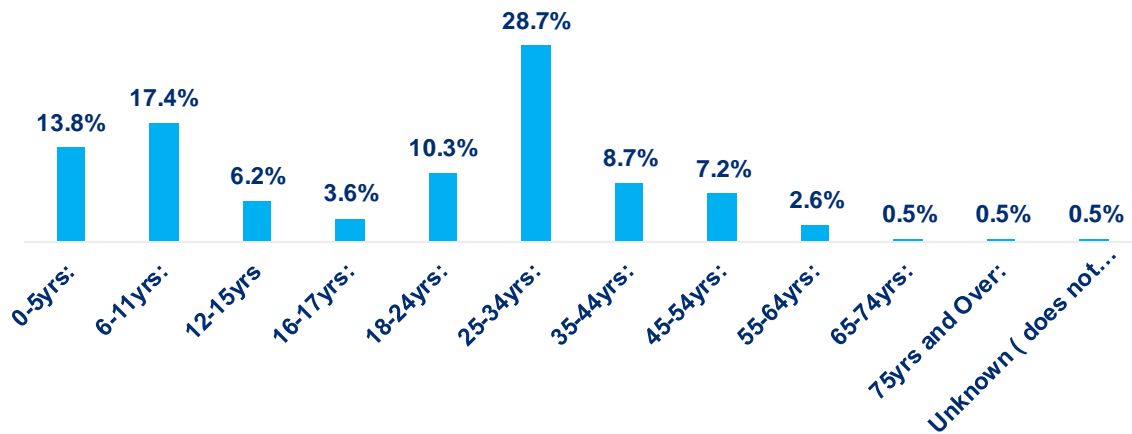
<5

Unfortunately due to GDPR and rules regarding identifiable data, we are unable to provide any further analysis from this information. Further information can regarding this can be found here <https://ico.org.uk/media/1061/anonymisation-code.pdf>

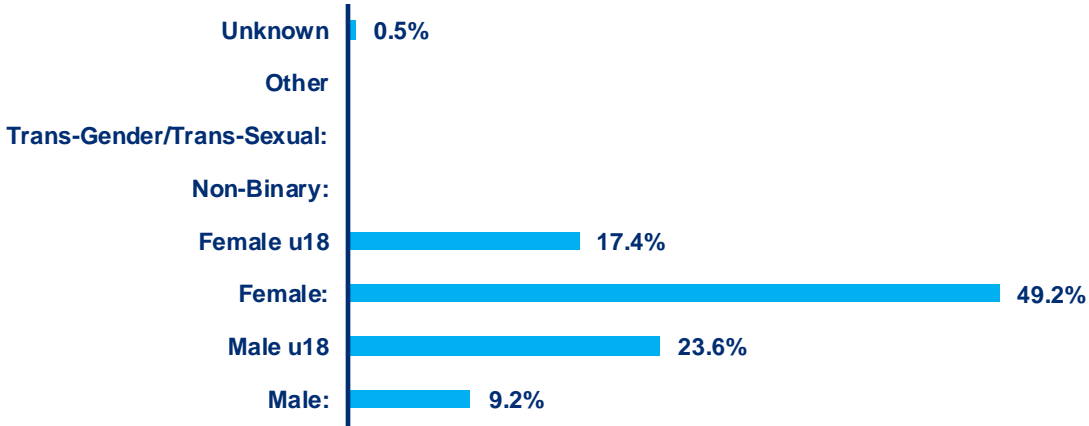
APPENDIX A – Charnwood 18/19

We received data from Charnwood (both homeless and housing data) on the 13.10.21, this was too late to include as part of the full analysis above. Below we have provided a summary analysis:

Age 18/19

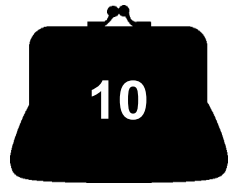


Gender Identity 18/19



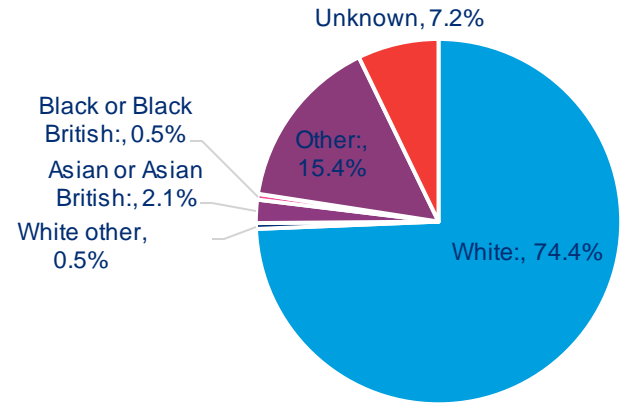
Victims Supported

Ending domestic abuse



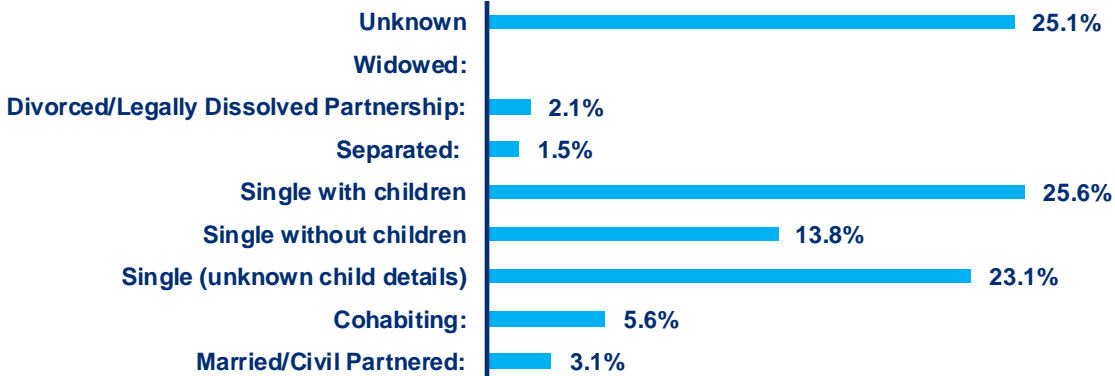
We received Occupational information on 10 victims – 3 were employed & 7 were unemployed

Ethnicity 18/19



APPENDIX A – Charnwood 18/19 C'td

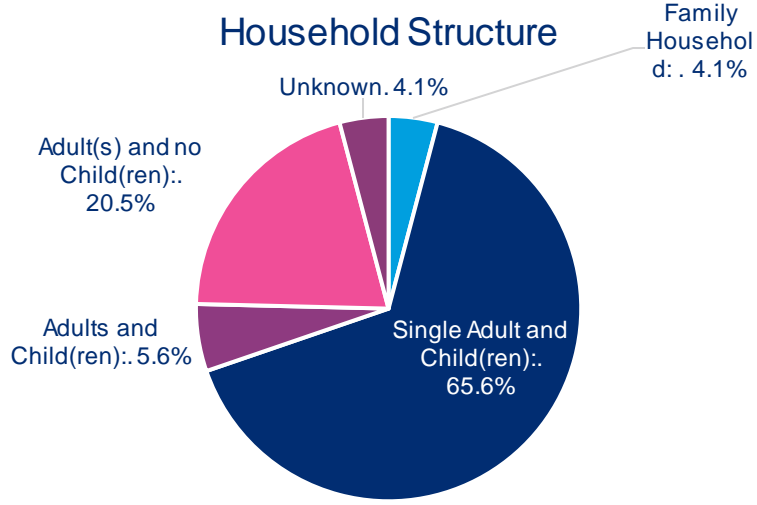
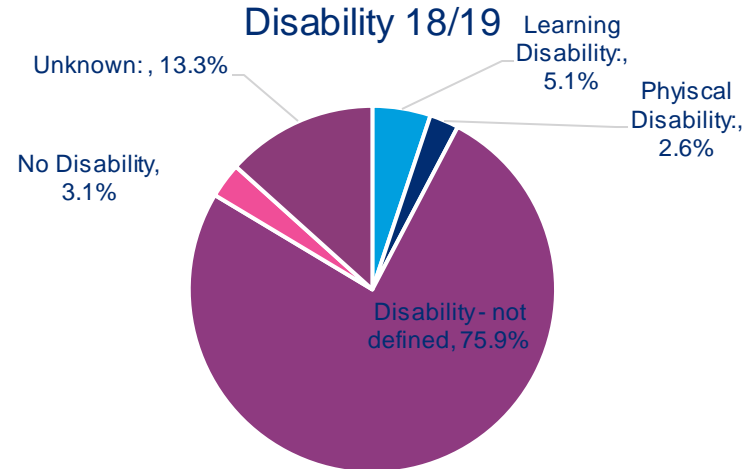
Marital Status 18/19



Sexual Identity 18/19



Victims Supported

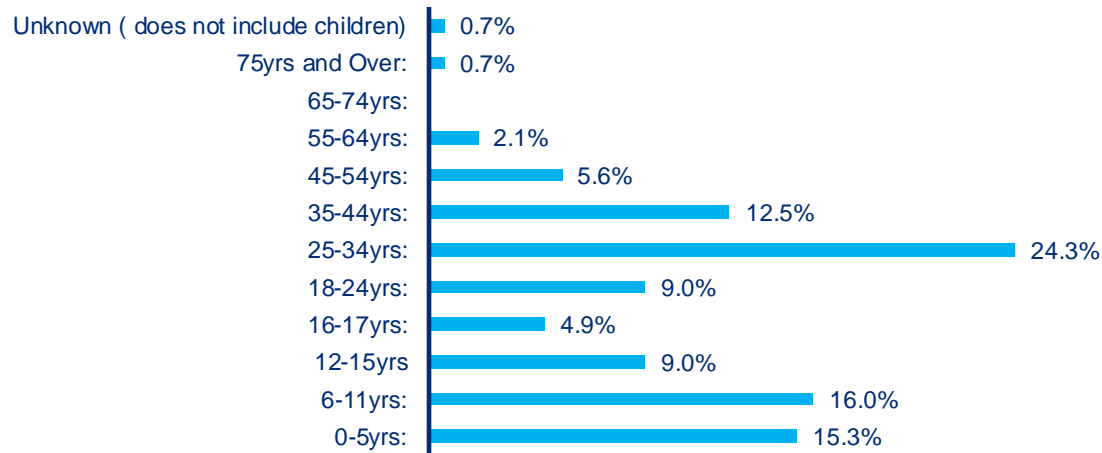


Ending domestic abuse

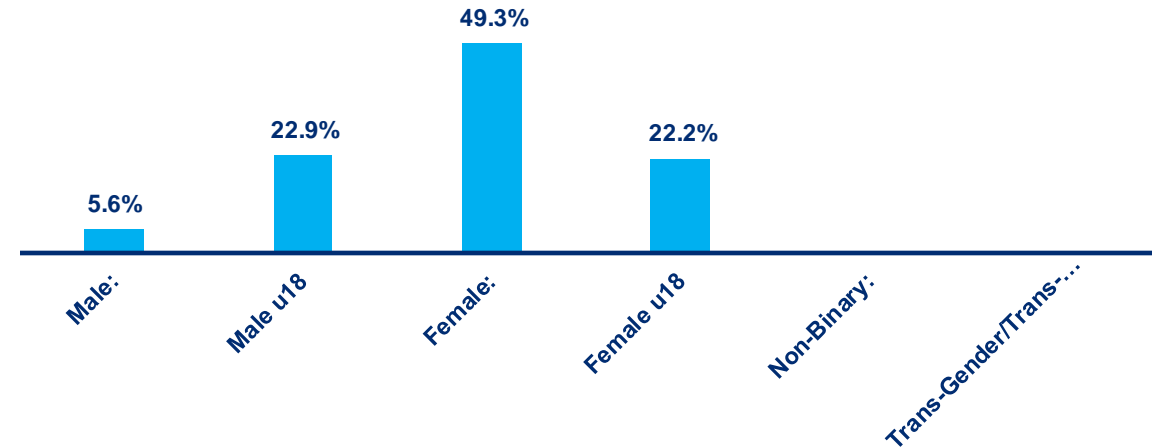
APPENDIX A – Charnwood 19/20

For 19/20 Charnwood again provided both homeless and housing data the following analysis aggregated these sets of data

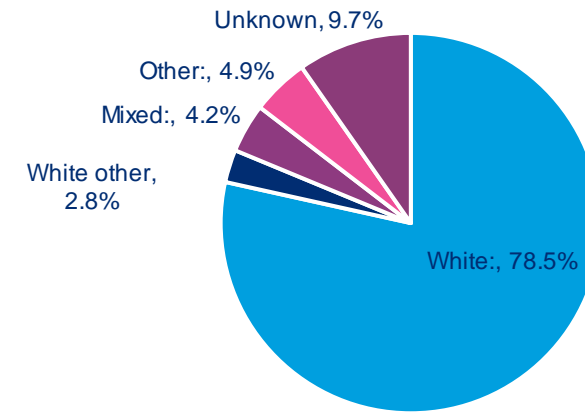
Age 19/20



Gender Identity 19/20



Ethnicity 19/20



Victims Supported



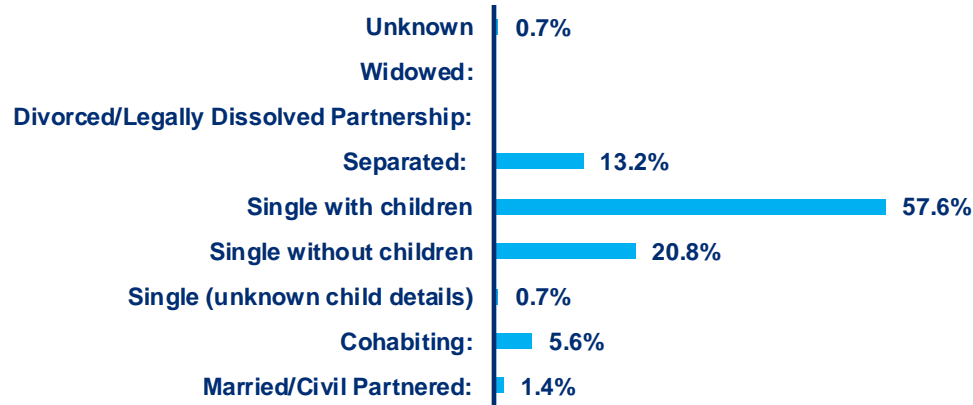
We received Occupational information on 7 victims – 1 were employed & 6 were unemployed

Ending domestic abuse

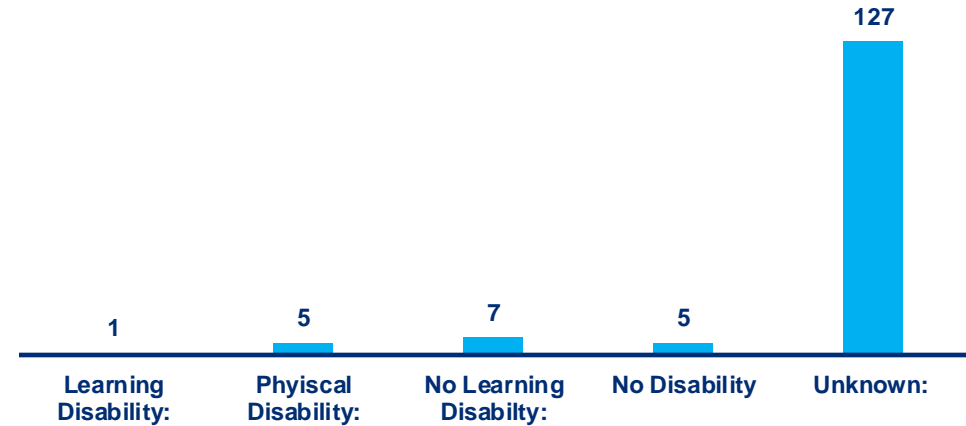
APPENDIX A – Charnwood 19/20

For 19/20 Charnwood again provided both homeless and housing data the following analysis aggregated these sets of data

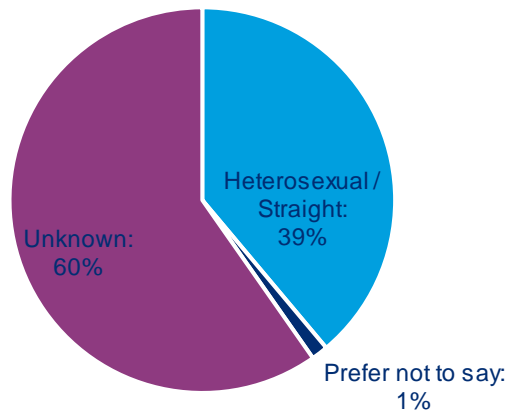
Marital Status 19/20



Disability 19/20

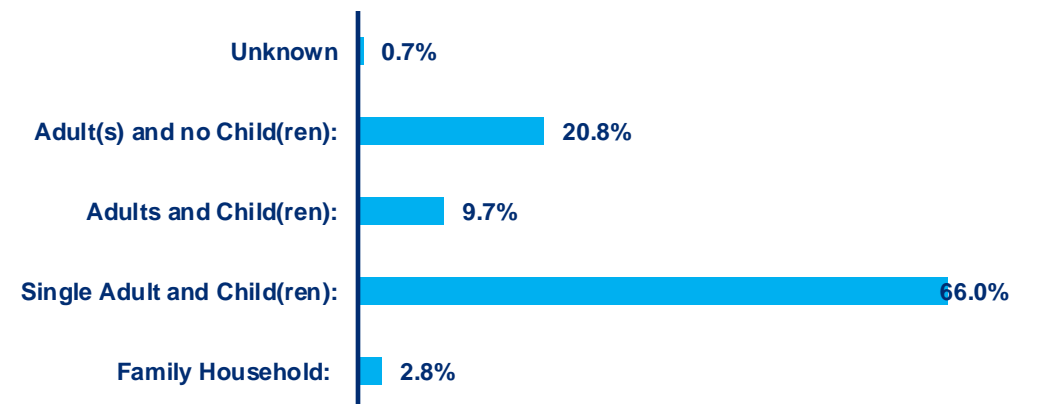


Sexual Identity 19/20



Victims Supported

Household Structure 19/20



Ending domestic abuse

APPENDIX A – Charnwood 20/21

For 2020- 2021 Charnwood were unable to provide any demographics or information on socio-economic characteristics, they did however provide the overall totals for housing advice and homeless applications as illustrated below:



Housing Advice Cases



Homelessness Applications



Housing Providers Cases

APPENDIX B – LCCs' CSC first response data

We received from area two CSC data sets. The first being the CSC first response data (Contacts and Referrals) where the primary reason for contact is Domestic Abuse.

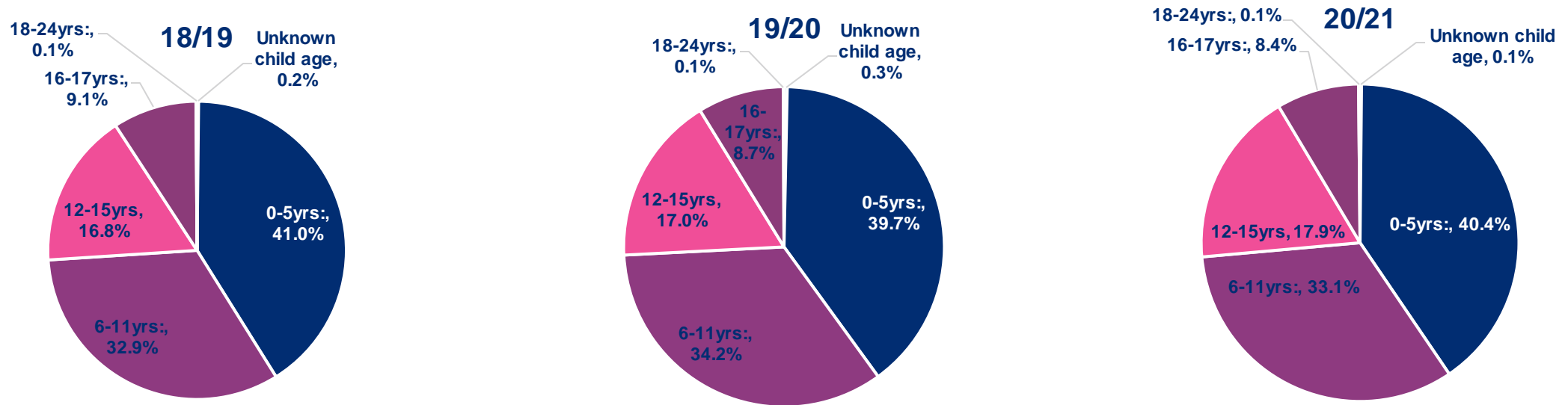
We understand that after this first contact three things can happen:

1. A referral for single / family assessment; or
2. A referral into the Early Help service; or
3. NFA (No Further Action).

LCC were also able to provide us with the CSC single / family assessment data where DA is a factor. Currently the early help data is not available in a format usable for this Needs Assessment. It should be noted that LCC has commissioned Newton Europe who are undertaking a piece of work that will mean in the future it will be.

We discussed with LCC our concern that if we brought in the CSC first contact data, (which does not include demographics on any adults associated with the case) how it could skew the analysis on demographics / prevalence of DA amongst age groups etc that follows. We agreed to do a summary analysis slide on the CSC first response data (Contacts and Referrals) and then use the CSC single / family assessment data in the full analysis thereafter.

Appendix B C'td - CSC first response data

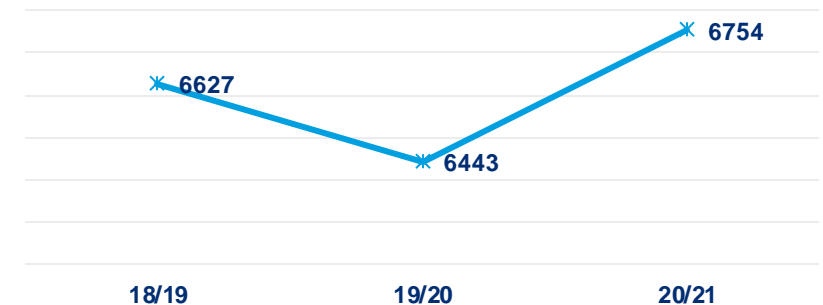


Over the three-year period that the needs assessment covers the largest age group of CSC first contacts where DA was a factor was 0 – 5 years old, who accounted for 40 – 41% of contacts.

The age % split stays relatively stable across the three-year period

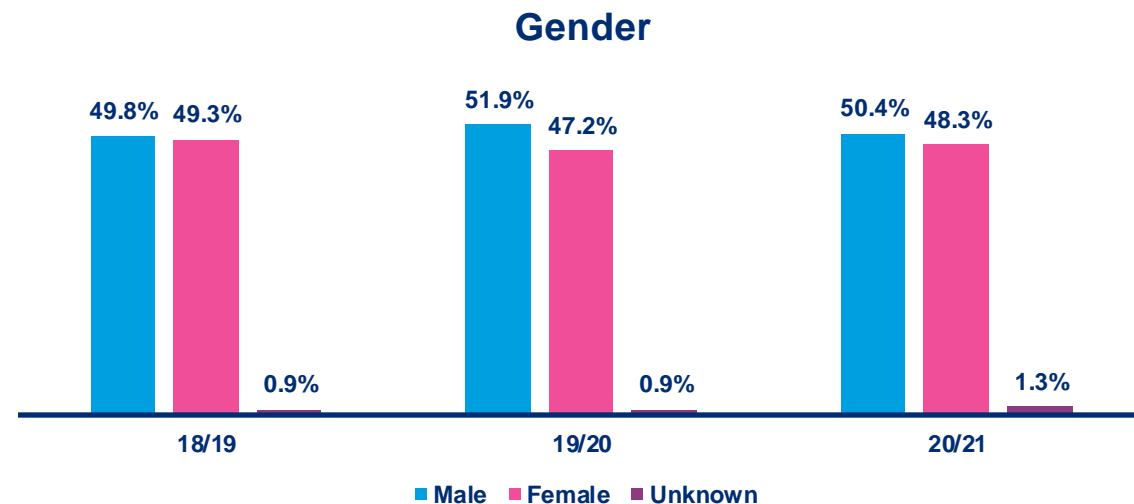
The total number of first contacts to CSC decreases from 18/19 to 19/20 by 2.8%; then there is an increased from 19/20 to 20/21 by 4.8%

Total Contacts v Year

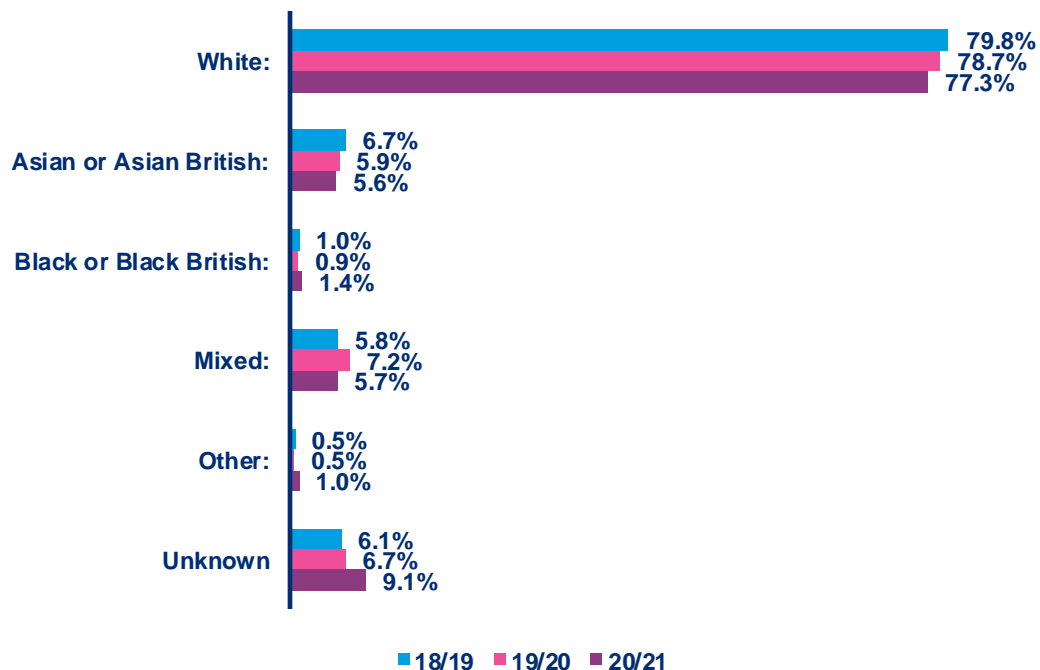


Appendix B C'td -- CSC first response data

Gender: Over the three-year period the needs assessment covers, CSC receives slightly more initial contacts regarding boys and young men, the figures remain relatively stable over the three years. In this time there are no cases recorded where the gender was trans or non-binary



Ethnicity



Ethnicity: Between 77 – 80% of CSC contacts are white, with Asian or Asian British at between 5.6 - 6.7% the next highest singular category. The figures remain relatively stable through the three-year period. With the number of 'unknown' ethnicity records increasing year on year to 9.1%

Disability: There is a high level of unknown regarding disability with only 1.2% 18/19; 0.9% 19/20 and 1.0% in 20/21 of CSC first contacts identified as having a Disability. The nature of this disability was not defined.

Ending domestic abuse

APPENDIX C: Data Submissions

Data was supplied by the following agencies

- Leicestershire Police
- WALL Action
- LCCs' Childrens Social Care
- LCCs' Adult Social Care
- UAVA
- Harborough Homelessness Data
- North West Leicestershire Homelessness Data
- Oadby & Wigston Homelessness Data
- Hinckley & Bosworth Homelessness Data
- Blaby Homelessness Data
- Hinckley & Bosworth Housing Providers Data
- Hinckley & Bosworth Children DA Service
- Hinckley & Bosworth Outreach Service
- Melton Homelessness data.
- Charnwood Homelessness data

APPENDIX D: How does the prevalence tool work?

What is the prevalence tool?

The prevalence tool allows us to estimate the prevalence of domestic abuse within local areas. This includes an estimation for the number of victims, perpetrators of abuse, and children in households with partner abuse. It also breaks down the victim estimations into visible victims only, Adult Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) victims only, and marginalised groups of people such as racially minoritised people, LGBT+ people, and disabled people.

How does it work?

The tool calculates the figures by using several external and internal data sources for estimations of domestic abuse amongst different groups of people. This includes both 'set figures' which are consistent across all local areas, as well as 'local specific data'. The 'set figures' include data from the ONS (Office for National Statistics) including the 'Crime Survey for England and Wales' and the 'Family Resources Survey', Stonewall data, and SafeLives estimations such as the number of children experiencing abuse in their household*. 'Local specific data' includes population data for each area on gender, age and ethnicity taken from the latest Census survey, as well as data on those at the highest risk of serious harm or homicide taken from the latest Marac dataset.

**We recognise that children who experience domestic abuse in their home are victims in their own right.*

Ending domestic abuse

This page is intentionally left blank