

# Domestic Abuse Strategy

## Evidence Base

### Doncaster

### 2021

Last Updated: 23/07/2021

Authority Name:	Doncaster Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doncaster Council is a Tier 1 metropolitan borough council with no Tier 2 authorities.</li> <li>Doncaster is part of the South Yorkshire region with one police force – South Yorkshire Police and a South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit.</li> <li>Domestic abuse is one of the 16 South Yorkshire violence reduction priorities and is also a priority for Doncaster Council and for the local community safety partnership which is known as the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP).</li> </ul>	

Report Date	July 2021
Prev. Needs Assessment Full Assessment Date	2017
Next Needs Assessment Full Assessment Date	April 2024
Next Refresh Date	September 2022

#### Data Sources

Source 1	Local Police and Crime Reports, South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Area Profile, South Yorkshire Police
Source 2	Local MARAC Reports via Local MARAC Office, Doncaster Council
Source 3	Local IDVA Data, Doncaster Council IDVA service
Source 4	Statutory Homeless in England/ H-CLIC Data, St. Leger Homes of Doncaster Housing Options Service
Source 5	Housing Data, St. Leger Homes of Doncaster
Source 6	Social Care Data - Adult/Child, Doncaster Council and Doncaster Children's Services Trust
Source 7	Local Service Provider and User Data, Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub data and Riverside data

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## 1. Key Findings

<p><b>VOLUME.</b> There is an upward trend nationally (England and Wales), regionally (Yorkshire and Humber), sub-regionally (South Yorkshire), and locally (Doncaster) in the number of domestic abuse-related crimes. The same applies to the percentage of all crimes that are DA-related.</p>
<p><b>TYPE.</b> The most common types of domestic abuse crime reported to SY Police is Stalking &amp; Harassment and Violence (both with and without injury). These account for around 77% of the total. Coercive/Emotional abuse is the most common reason for referral to the Doncaster DA Hub with 57%, 36% are for physical abuse.</p>
<p><b>RATES.</b> Rates of domestic abuse per population are higher in Doncaster than in Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield, with all four showing a similar rate of increasing trend.</p>
<p><b>AGE.</b> The age group most at risk of domestic abuse is those aged 26-29years. The number of reported cases decreases with increasing age quite uniformly from this age group. The same findings apply to the age of DA suspects. This gives rise to the most common victim/suspect age difference being in the 0-4years age range (almost half of all crimes).</p>
<p><b>GENDER.</b> More than three quarters of victims of domestic abuse are female. Reported DA crimes have increased by over 10% for both males and females in 2021 vs 2020. The majority of suspects (79%) are male, with an increasing rate of offending increasing by 14% and 17% for males and females respectively.</p>
<p><b>ETHNICITY.</b> There is a slow, but increasing trend in the proportion of victim that are BME; this figure currently stands are around 11%, up almost 0.5 points from the previous year. Doncaster's population is over 95% white and so these figures show a slight overrepresentation compared to the borough population.</p>
<p><b>DISABILITY.</b> The proportion of cases in Doncaster involving people with a disability is decreasing; but is significantly higher than the national proportions. Doncaster's figures show a decrease from 21% to 11% in the year to March 2021, whereas national data shows an increase from 6.5% to 7.5% over the same period.</p>
<p><b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION.</b> The majority of DA victims that are heterosexual, with a very low proportion from the LGBT community. Doncaster's data shows this is increasing, but from a very low base of 0.2% to just below the national level at 1.3%.</p>
<p><b>HOUSEHOLD TYPE.</b> DA victim households accessing Riverside and SLHD accommodation are an even mix of households with and without children. A significant proportion of referrals to the Hub (81%) have children, the majority of which being primary school age.</p>
<p><b>HOUSING TENURE.</b> Although different accommodation providers saw different pictures regarding the most prevalent housing tenure, all of them report that the rented sectors are most common i.e. social housing tenants and private rented sector tenants.</p>
<p><b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS.</b> The vast majority (9 out of 10) of those accessing accommodation are unemployed. Benefits normally cover the cost of accommodation, but in some cases, victims have to give up their employment to move to a refuge due to the risks.</p>
<p><b>TEMPORAL.</b> There are no particular months of the year where DA crimes or incidents stand out above all others. Incidents/crimes are evenly spread across the week with only a slight bias towards the weekend (i.e. 12-14% each weekday, 16-17% on weekend days). DA incidents tend to increase steadily, but not significantly, from midday to around midnight.</p>
<p><b>SPATIAL.</b> Data shows that the Central locality has the most referrals with around 30-33%; East, North and South each have around 20-24%. Balby and Thorne/Mexborough rank 1<sup>st</sup> and joint 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively when looking at individual settlements, but when considering the populations of each settlement and rate per 10,000, Stainforth ranks 1<sup>st</sup> (92) followed by Thorne (84), Balby (82) and Bentley (82).</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC CONSULTATION.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lack of understanding of what constitutes domestic abuse amongst the public.</li> <li>• Only half of all responders said they would know how to get help/what services are available for themselves or a friend/family member if they were in an abusive relationship.</li> <li>• Near universal support, from practitioners and victims, for campaigns to increase awareness and understanding of domestic abuse – particularly amongst younger people.</li> <li>• Significant opinion amongst practitioners that services and activities in response to or to prevent DA require further funding. Near universal opinion, from practitioners and victims that there is a shortage of accommodation.</li> <li>• Most people would contact the Police first if they were reporting domestic abuse.</li> <li>• Majority of victims say single-sex services are important.</li> <li>• Majority of victims said there was no support available for the children or whole family</li> </ul>

## 2. Volume of Domestic Abuse

### National and Regional data

- Source: ONS, Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics - Appendix tables <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendixtables>
- In England & Wales, 21% of men & women (1 in 5 people) have experienced DA since the age of 16.
- 5.5% (1 in 20 people) have experienced DA in the last year (as at March 2020).
- Women are twice as likely to experience DA than men

	Men	Women	Both
Since 16	13.8%	27.6%	20.8%
Last year	3.6%	7.3%	5.5%

There is an upward trend nationally, regionally and sub-regionally in the number of DA-related crimes, and the percentage of all crimes that were DA-related. The number of DA-related incidents is reducing.

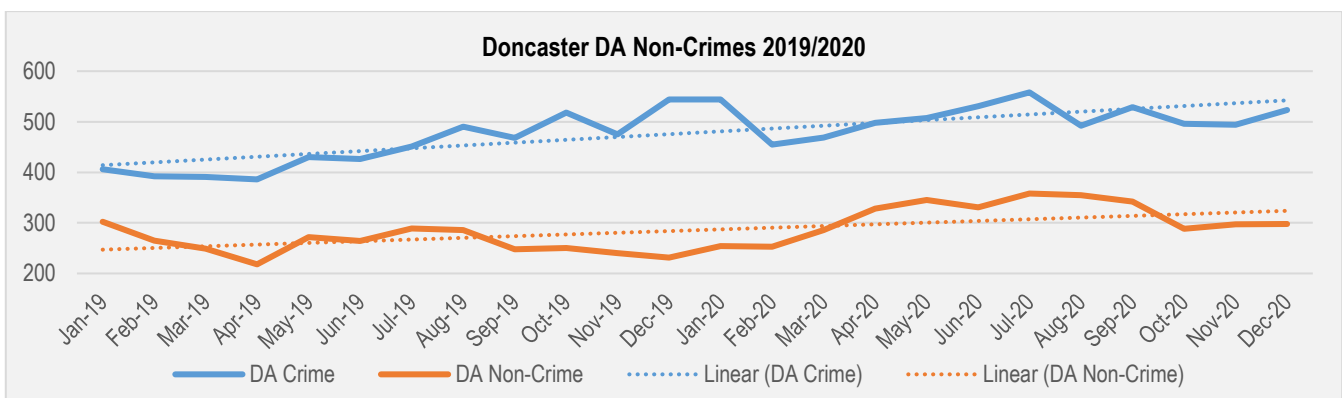
	Total number of domestic abuse-related crimes (& incidents)			Percentage of all crimes that were domestic abuse-related		
	Eng & Wales	Yorks & Hum	S Yorkshire	Eng & Wales	Yorks & Hum	S Yorkshire
2015-16	421,185 (681,356)	40,955 (65,776)	8,563 (23,572)	11%	10%	8%
2016-17	488,049 (644,929)	52,148 (62,967)	11,432 (22,443)	11%	11%	9%
2017-18	599,549 (598,545)	70,857 (53,880)	17,370 (17,885)	12%	13%	12%
2018-19	746,219 (570,581)	94,499 (49,900)	20,132 (14,164)	14%	16%	14%
2019-20	758,941 (529,077)	98,756 (45,430)	21,739 (13,125)	15%	17%	15%

The Home Office reported in September 2020 that within the UK there was a rise of 49% in the number of calls to domestic abuse services. The Local Government Association reported that figures are likely to be much higher than what is reported due to mass underreporting in domestic abuse cases generally and additional hurdles created by Covid-19 lockdowns. Historic research indicates women experience 50 incidents before they decide to report.

### Doncaster Data

Financial Year	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	Crimes	Non-Crimes	Crimes	Non-Crimes	Crimes	Non-Crimes
Volume	5281	3687	5625	3091	6021	3702
% of all crime	14%		15%		17%	

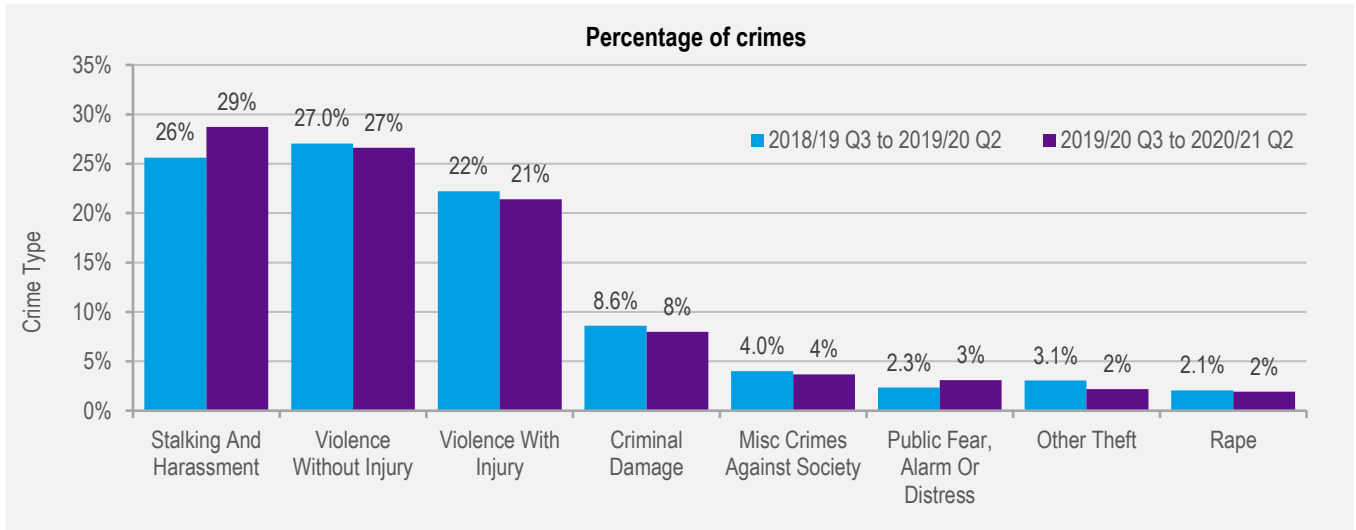
Data from South Yorkshire Police shows the number of DA crimes increasing each year, and the proportion of all crimes that are DA-related increasing from 14-17% since 2018-19.



### 3. Types of Domestic Abuse

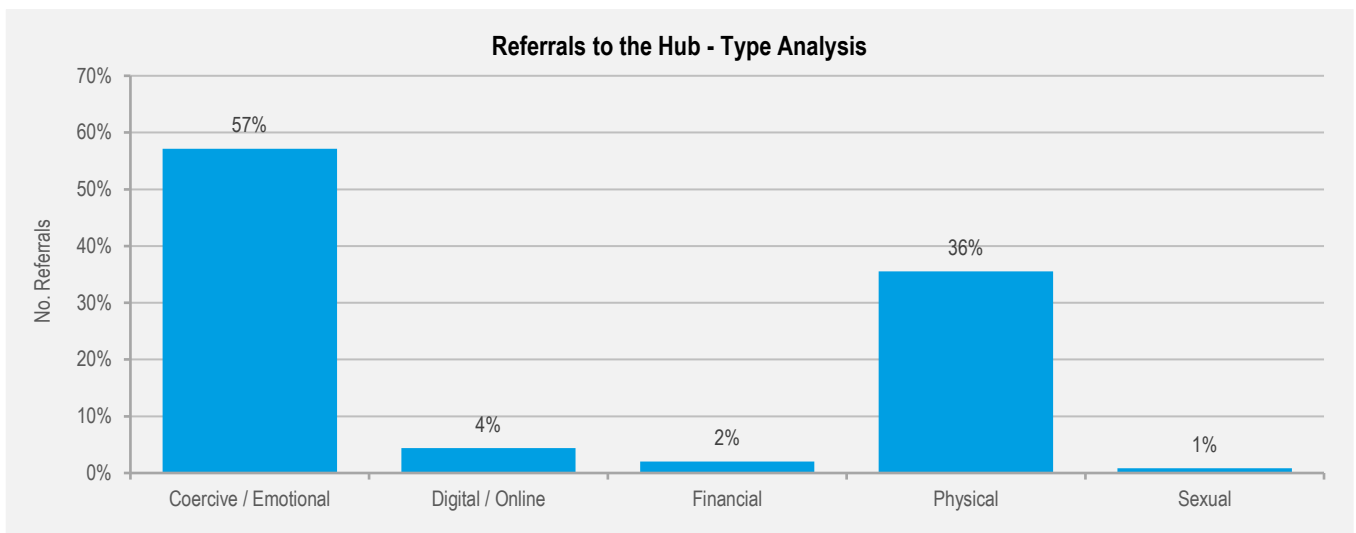
The following information is taken from data source 1) [South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit Area Profile](#) and is based on South Yorkshire Police crime data; data source 3) Doncaster IDVA service and data source 7) local service providers – Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub.

Because domestic abuse is a flag that can be applied to any crime, it is important to understand what kind of crimes make up this dataset. The graph below shows the crimes reported to South Yorkshire Police that, together, make up 95% of the domestic abuse dataset.



Violence is a big part of what is reported to the police, likely because it is the most obvious transgression to both victims and potential witnesses. Stalking and harassment is likely to occur after the victim has left an abusive relationship. In 2020-2021 Stalking and Harassment overtook Violence with Injury as the dominant crime type relating to domestic abuse.

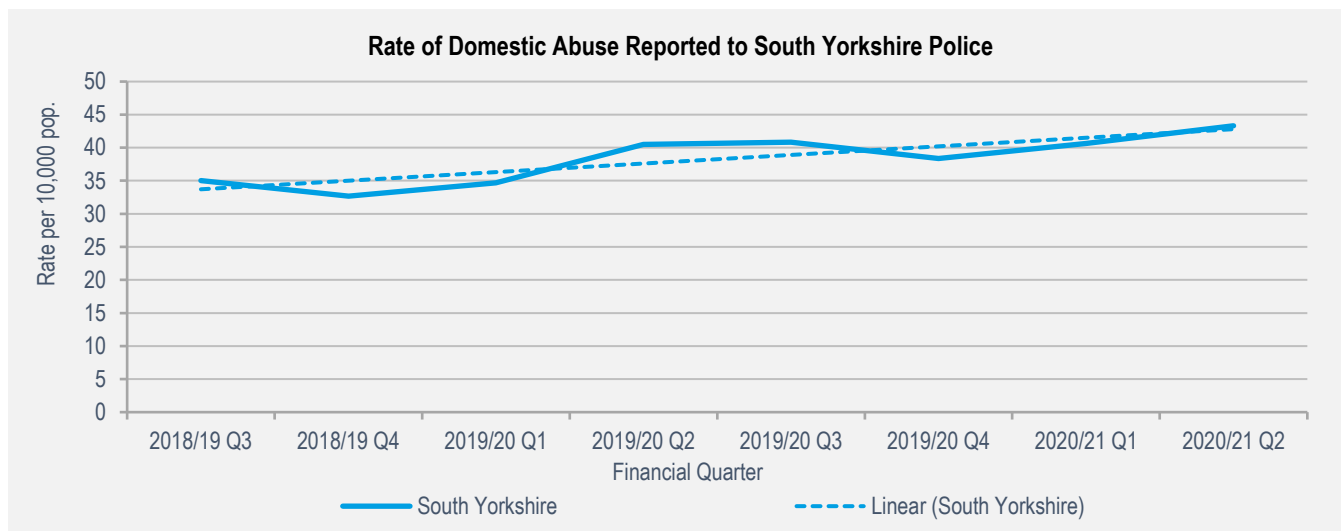
Referral data from the Hub shows that Coercive and Emotional domestic abuse is the most prevalent type (57%) followed by physical domestic abuse (36%).



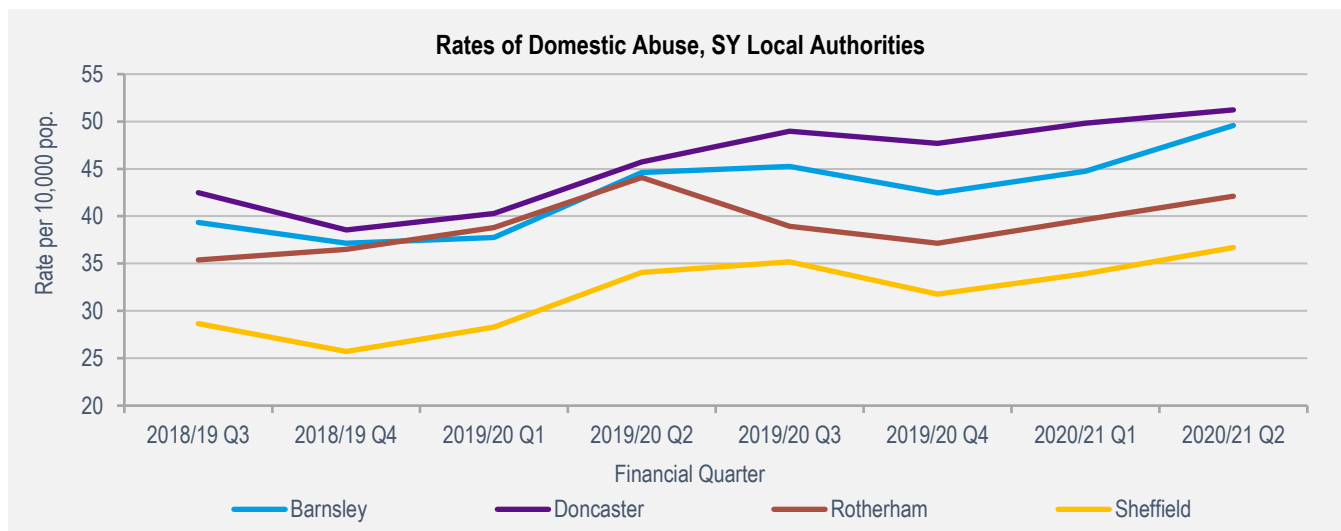
## 4. Rate of Domestic Abuse

Increased reporting of domestic abuse is often seen as a good thing, as it reflects increasing confidence in the police. This is supported by the rate of domestic abuse being stable in the Crime Survey of England and Wales<sup>1</sup>. This does not mean that increased reporting in South Yorkshire specifically represents improved confidence. The increase in reporting could represent an actual increase in domestic abuse.

Unlike all other crime types we have discussed in the South Yorkshire Area Profile, domestic abuse did not see a decrease during quarter 1 of 2020/21; during lockdown (see the graph below). In fact, there was an increase.



Sheffield has consistently had the lowest rate of domestic abuse out of all districts, at 116.7 crimes per 10,000 population in the 12 months the second time period. Doncaster was the highest at 167.0 crimes per 10,000 population for the same 12 months. Although they all started at different points, every district followed a similar pattern of gradually increasing from quarter 4 2019/20 to quarter 2 2020/21, likely because of lockdown.



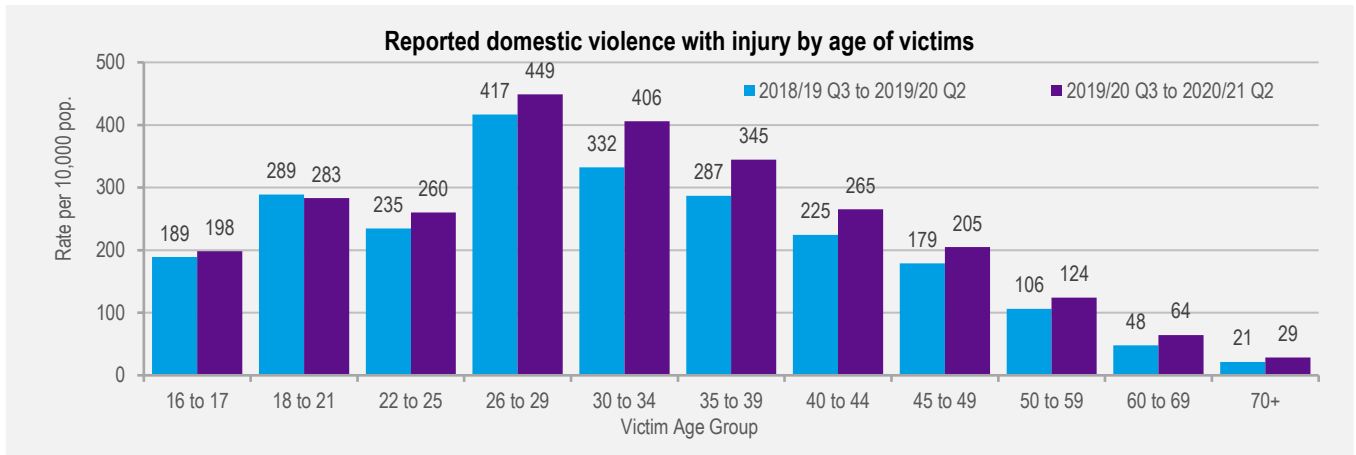
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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020>

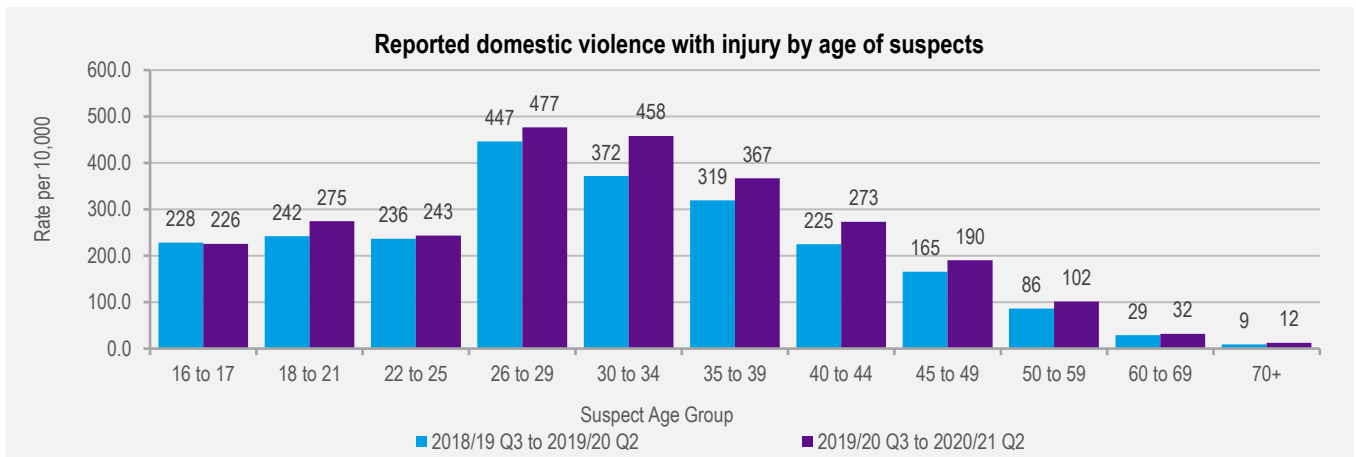
## 5. Age Analysis

As with all other forms of violent crime, DA violence affects different age groups to differing extents. The rates of victims and suspects are not directly comparable. Reporting for victim and suspect age is not consistent, and some incidents simply do not have a known suspect.

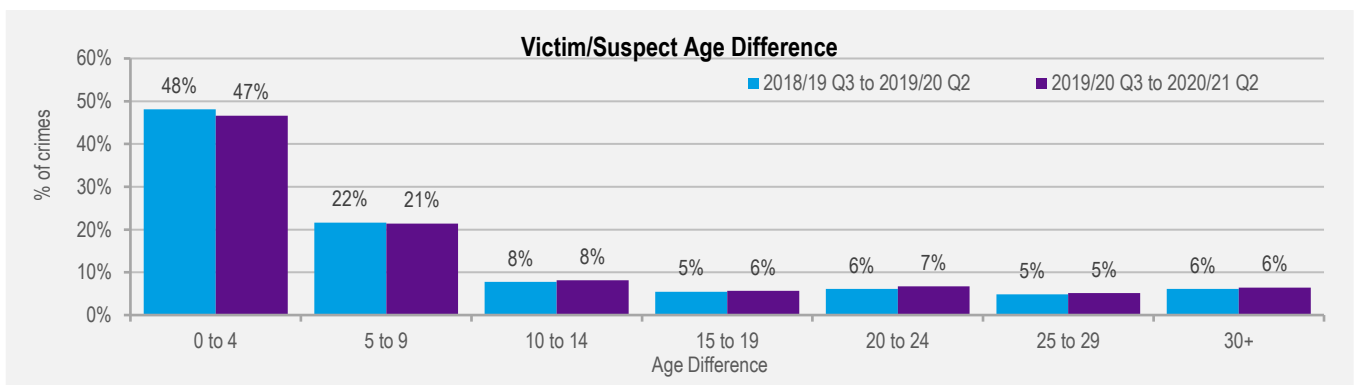
Victims of domestic abuse tend to be younger, but there is fair representation of all age groups unlike with some other crime types (see graph below from data source 1). As would be expected from the rate increasing, all age groups in the second time period showed an increase over the first time period. The age group most risk of victimisation from domestic abuse is 26 to 29 year olds, at 449 crimes per 10,000 population in the 12 months covered.



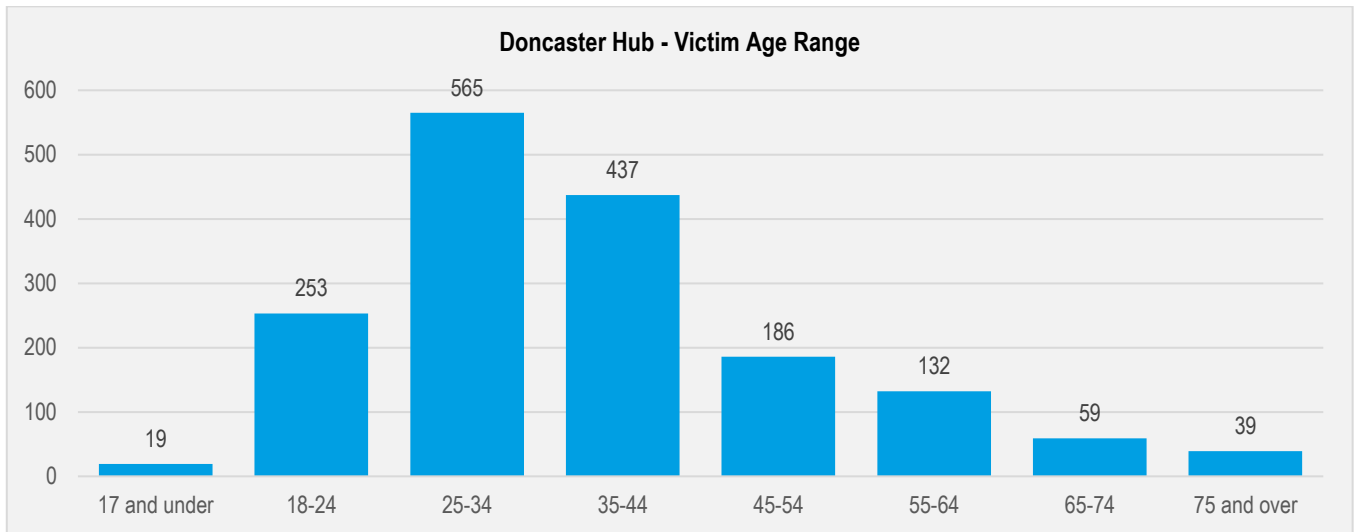
Suspects of domestic abuse follow a similar pattern to victims, although there are very few suspects over 70 (see graph below). All age groups have increased in rate between time periods, in line with the overall increase seen. This has not changed the pattern as increases were fairly evenly distributed. 26 to 29 year olds were the age group with the highest rate at 476.8 crimes per 10,000 population in the 12 months covered.



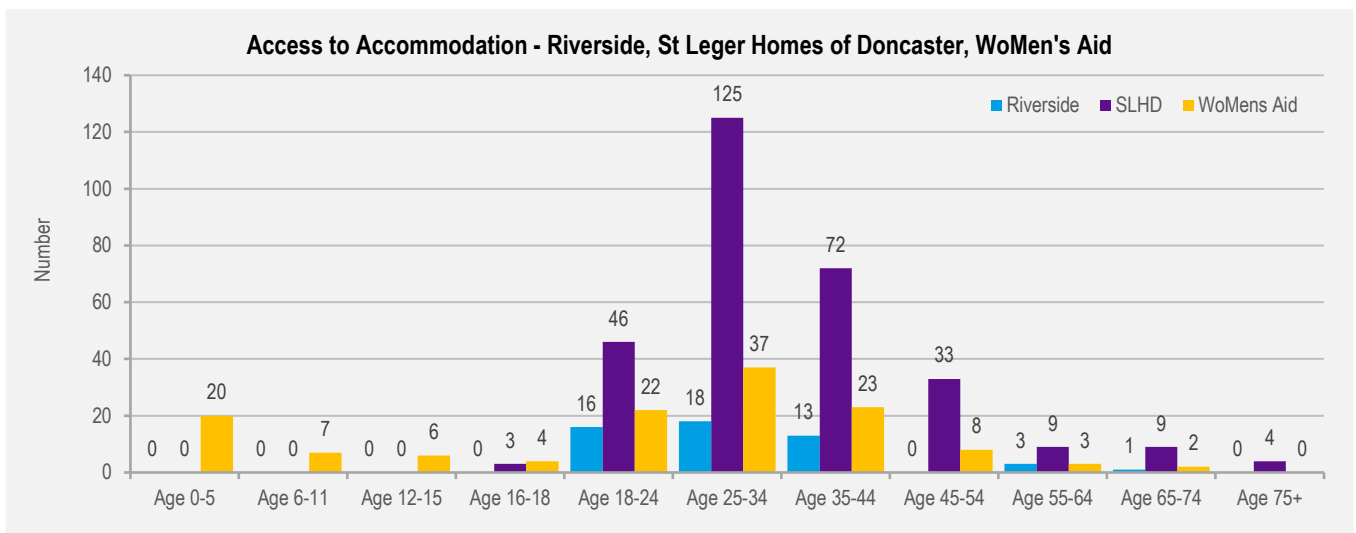
Victims and suspects of domestic abuse tend to be of a similar age, with 47% being within 0 to 4 years difference. This not unique to domestic abuse. For most crimes, the victim and suspect tend to be within 0 to 4 years of each other, and 5 to 9 if not. There has not been much change between time periods either.



The most common age group of victims accessing Doncaster Hub is 24-34years, followed by 35-44years.



Data from Riverside, SLHD, and WoMen’s Aid shows the same age groups (25-34years,35-44years, ad 18-24years) being most prevalent in terms of people accessing accommodation.



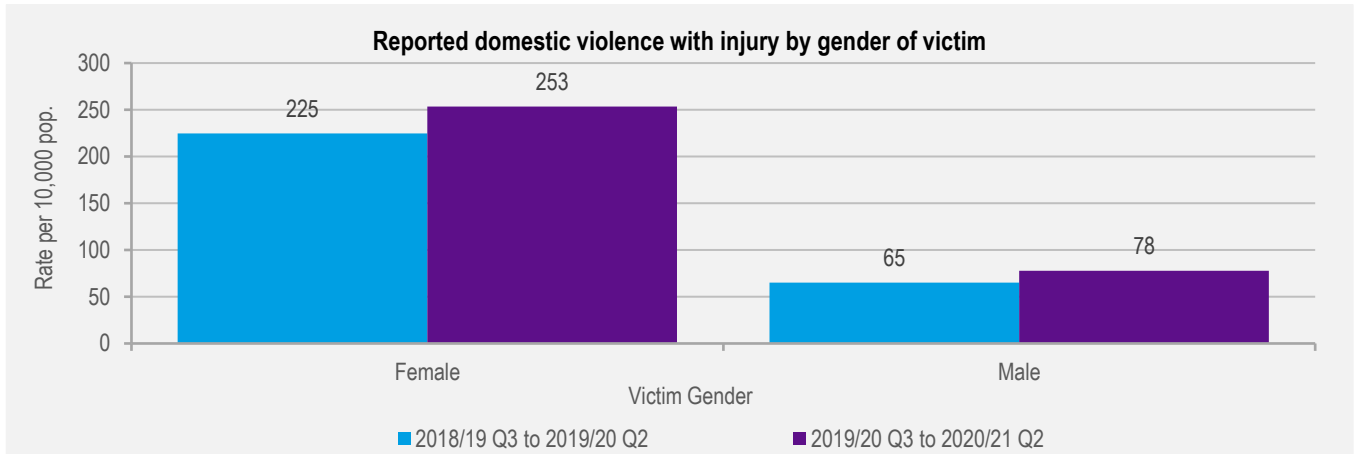


## 6. Gender Analysis

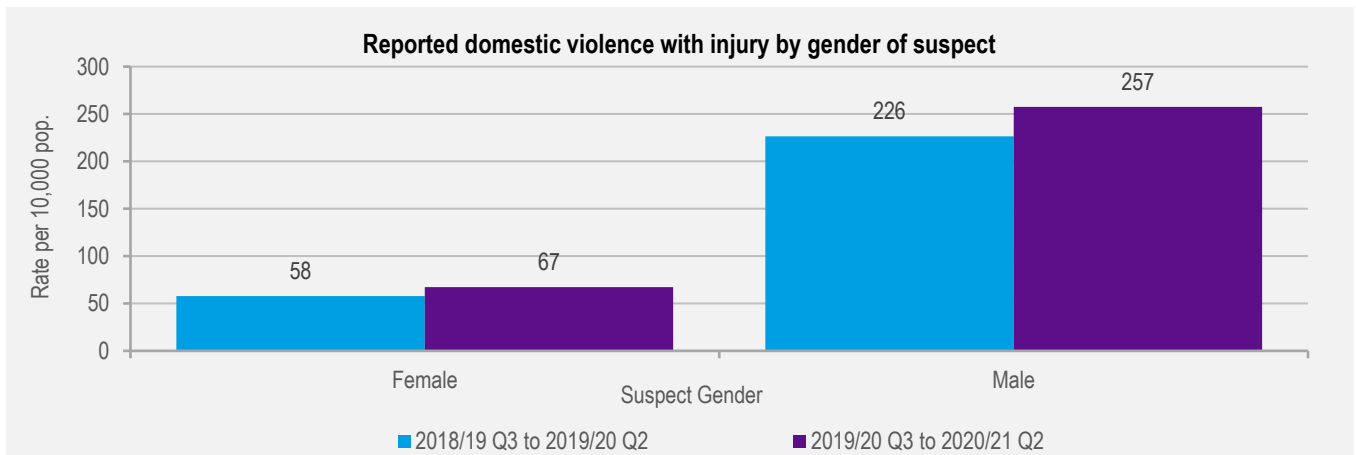
Where the gender of victims and suspects is reported, it is possible to compare the rates of domestic abuse committed against and by males and females. Due to recording practices at South Yorkshire Police and low numbers, it is not currently possible to give a rate for those who do not identify as male or female. Unlike previous gender comparisons, in domestic abuse cases the gender of the suspect should be known more reliably.

Overwhelmingly, more victims of reported domestic violence with injury were female. This is in contrast to every other crime type covered in the area. In the first time period, 78% of victims were female, and this only decreases to 77% for the second time period (Data source 1).

Both males and females reported more domestic abuse in the second time period. Although their initial rate was lower, males report 20% more domestic abuse crimes in the second time period. The rate for females increased 13%.



The majority of suspects were male, at 79% in both time periods. The rate of suspected offending by males increased 14% between time periods, whilst suspected offending by females increase 17% from a low base.

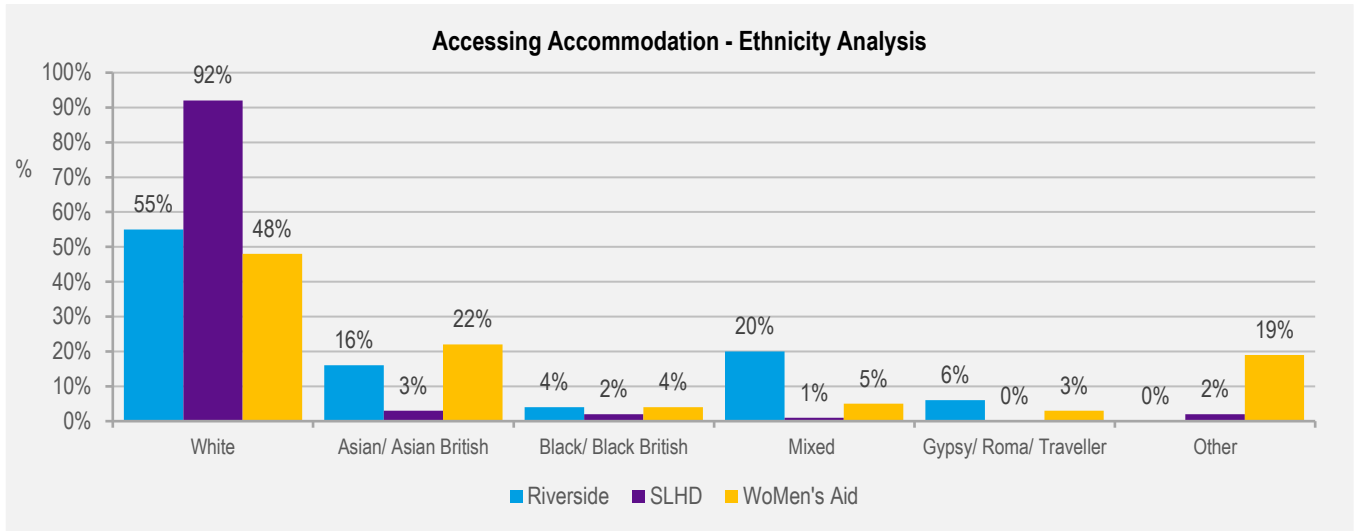


There was little change between the first and second time period for the proportion of crimes which were male-on-female (71% and 70% respectively). Male-on-female domestic abuse still represents the majority of crimes reported to the police. Female-on-male remained the second most common, at 14% in both time periods. In the second time period, male-on-male domestic abuse accounted for 9% of crimes and female-on-female accounted for 7%.

Data from the Hub is consistent with national trends in that women are the victims in 89% of referrals although increasingly men are coming forward and now equate 11% of referrals. Riverside is a female only refuge and so has 100% female accessing their accommodation. SLHD accommodation is majority female (86%), with 14% male. WoMen’s Aid data shows a 54%/45% split between Female and Male, with 2% non-binary.

## 7. Ethnicity Analysis

92% of Doncaster residents are White British. The other two largest groups are Other White (3%) and Asian (3%) ([Doncaster State of the Borough 2017](#)). Data from SLHD shows 92% of people accessing their accommodation are White, whereas Riverside and WoMen’s Aid data shows only 55% and 48% White, respectively. The second most prevalent ethnicity at these two locations were 22% Asian/Asian British at WoMen’s Aid and 20% Mixed at Riverside.



Savelives data shows a small increasing trend since March 2020 in the proportion of Doncaster domestic abuse cases involving BME victims. Doncaster’s figure has increased from 10.7% in March 2020 to a high of 11.5% in September 2020, followed by a decrease to 11.1% in March 2021. During the same period, the national figure increased from 15.2% to 16.6%.

## 8. Disability Analysis

One in three referrals (33%) to the Hub identify as having a disability. Of which over a third (36%) have mental health issues.

Data from Riverside shows that 78% of people accessing their accommodation had mental health issues. Almost two-thirds (63%) of people accessing SLHD’s accommodation had mental health issues, 28% had physical/mobility impairments and 9% had a learning disability. 42% of people accessing WoMen’s Aid accommodation had disabilities, over half of which were Mental Health Issues.

	Riverside	SLHD	WoMen’s Aid
Physical Disability/Mobility Impairment (inc. Wheelchair Access Required)	2	66	6
Learning Difficulty		21	6
Mental Health Issues	40	146	29
Other Long-Term Health Condition	6		6
Children with Health Condition/s	3		5

Safelives data shows that the proportion of cases involving people with a disability is decreasing, but is significantly higher than the national proportions. Doncaster’s figures decreased from 20.6% in March 2020 to 11.2% in March 2021. The national figures over the same period showed a slight increase albeit much lower 6.5% and 7.5% respectively.

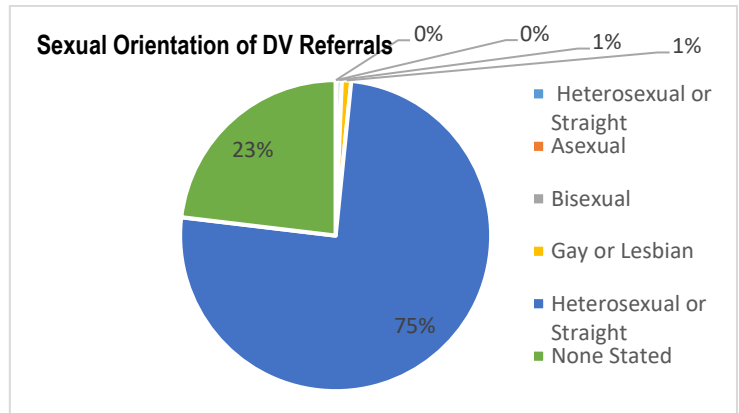
## 9. Sexual Orientation/Identity Analysis

Nationally, 25% of lesbian and bisexual women have experienced domestic abuse in a relationship (Stonewall, 2017). Almost half (49%) of gay and bisexual men have experienced at least one incident of domestic abuse from a family member or partner since the age of 16 (Stonewall, 2017). 80% of trans people have experienced emotional, sexual, or physical abuse from a partner or ex-partner (Scottish Transgender Alliance, 2010)

Data from the DA Hub show that three quarters of victims are Heterosexual with between a fifth and a quarter not stating their sexual identity. Less than 2% were Asexual, Bisexual Gay or Lesbian.

Data from safe accommodation providers show a similar picture, with an even greater weighting towards Heterosexual.

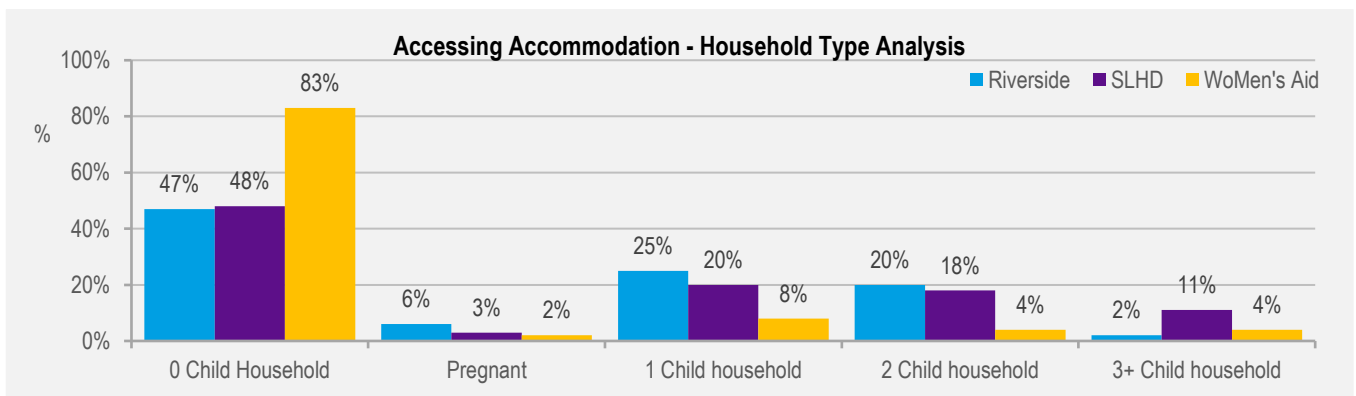
Housing Options/Homelessness services do not hold data on this matter.



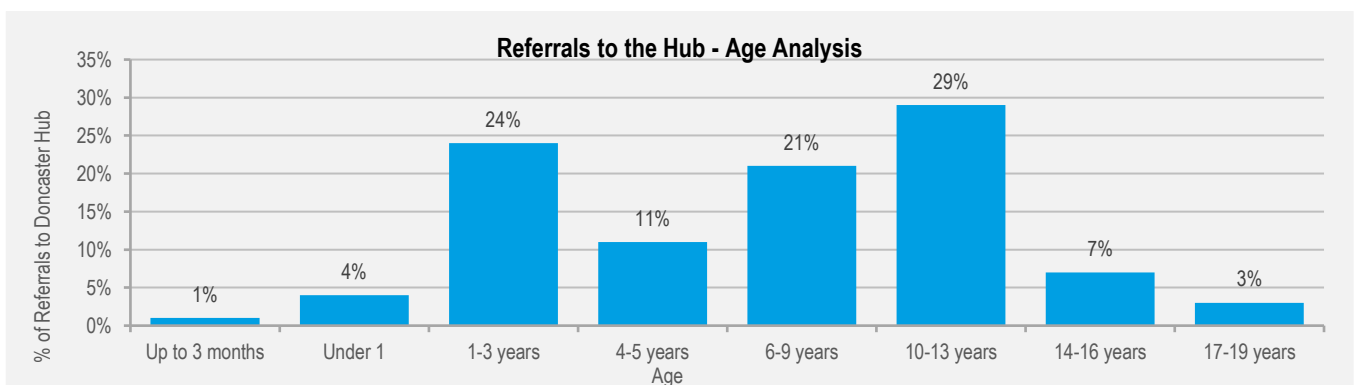
Savelives data shows that the proportion of cases in Doncaster involving LGBT victims is increasing whilst nationally it's staying relatively stable. Nationally, the proportion has increased slightly from 1.3% in March 2020 to 1.4% in March 2021. Doncaster's figures show a much lower starting point of 0.2% in March 2020 increasing to just below the national figure at 1.3% in March 2021.

## 10. Household Type Analysis

Both Riverside and SLHD see an even split between people with and without children accessing their accommodation. Around 3%-6% are pregnant. An issue with accommodation size is that the occupancy of some rooms is limited to one adult and 3 children. Use of WoMen's Aid however, is heavily skewed (83%) towards households with no children.

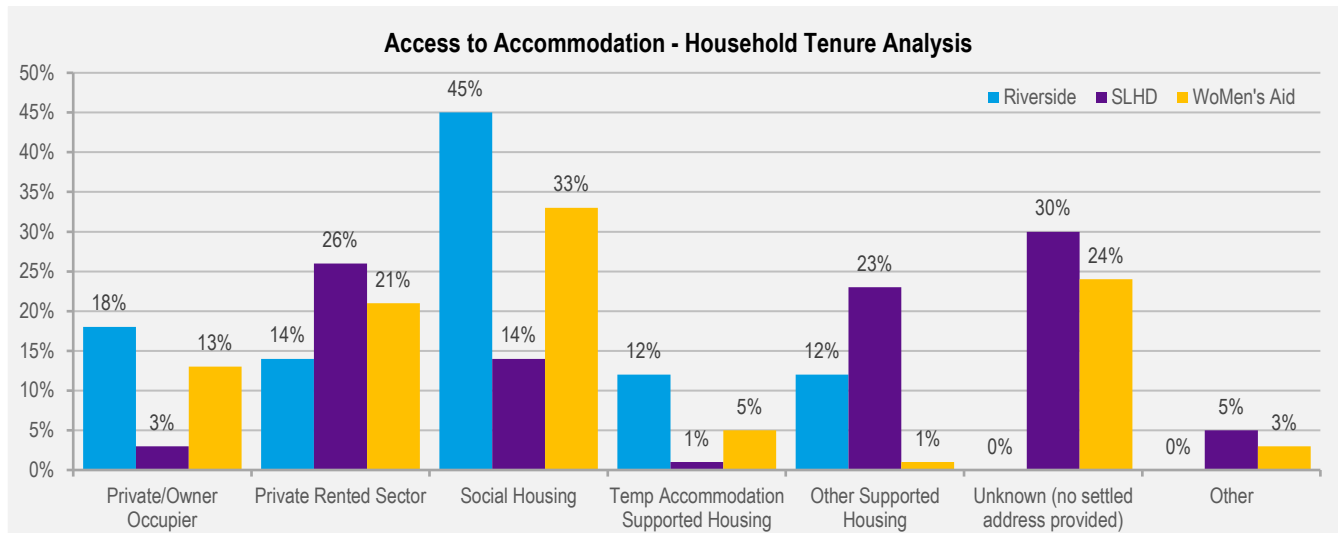


A significant proportion of referrals to the Doncaster Hub identify as having children at 81%. More recently, data has been collected on the development age range of children. The data shows that the majority of children in the household who may be witnessing domestic abuse are of primary school age.



## 11. Housing Tenure Analysis

Social Housing tenants (46%) were by far the largest tenure group accessing Riverside accommodation with more than twice owner-occupiers (18%) and private renters (14%). The picture was slightly different for SLHD accommodation with private renters (26%) being the highest (known) tenure group followed by other supported housing (23%). For WoMen’s Aid, a third were Social Housing tenants and just over a fifth were Private Rented Sector tenants



## 12. Employment Status, Income Analysis

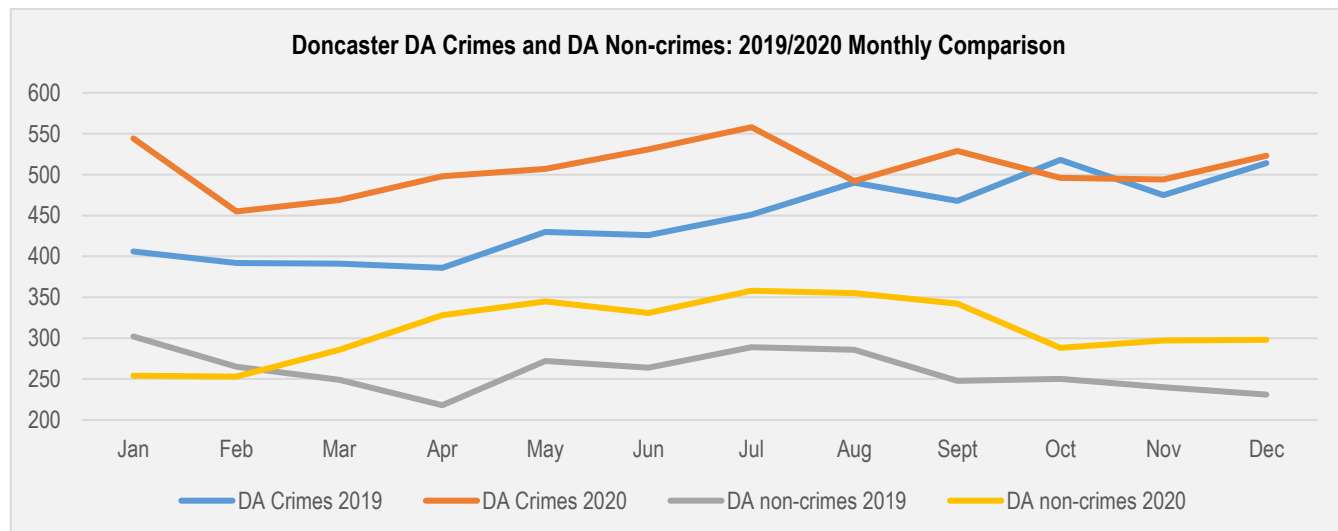
Riverside data shows the vast majority (96%) of those accessing their accommodation being unemployed. It also showed that there was an even split between those that received/did not receive benefits. WoMen’s Aid data showed only 11% were in employment, and 89% were in receipt of benefits. Cost of accessing the refuge is a barrier to some; If the individual is unemployed then the majority of costs are covered by benefits. However, most people will need to give up their job to move to a refuge due to the risks.

## 13. Temporal Analysis

### Month of the Year

Comparing DA crimes in 2020 to 2019, Doncaster data shows marked increases across the months of January through to July (inclusive); followed by similar volumes for the last quarter of the calendar year.

Comparing DA non-crimes, there were higher volumes from March onwards for the rest of the year.



The scale of the annual increase was significant in many cases.

Almost every month of the year saw an increase on the previous year; often with a double-digit percentage increase of up to 50%.

The table show this in figures with a percentage change. The data is based on incidents that are on Connect<sup>2</sup>.

	DA Crime			DA Non-Crime		
	2019	2020	% Change	2019	2020	% Change
Jan	406	544	34%	302	254	-16%
Feb	392	455	16%	265	253	-5%
Mar	391	469	20%	249	286	15%
Apr	386	498	29%	218	328	50%
May	430	507	18%	272	345	27%
Jun	426	531	25%	264	331	25%
Jul	451	558	24%	289	358	24%
Aug	490	492	0%	286	355	24%
Sep	468	529	13%	248	342	38%
Oct	518	496	-4%	250	288	15%
Nov	475	494	4%	240	297	24%
Dec	514	523	2%	231	298	29%
Total	5347	6096	14%	3114	3735	20%

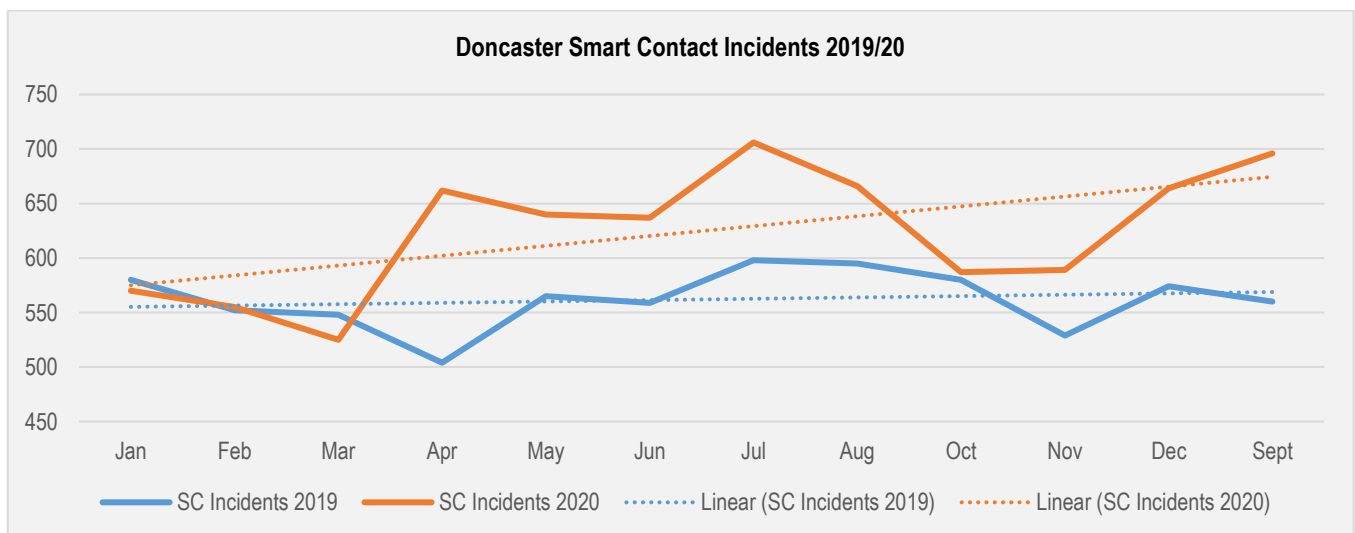
	DA Crime			DA Non-Crime		
	2020	2021	% Change	2020	2021	% Change
Jan	544	497	-9%	254	261	3%
Feb	455	373	-18%	253	245	-3%
Mar	469	526	12%	286	258	-10%
Apr	498	438	12%	328	221	-33%

Partial data for 2021 shows an overall reduction on previous year figures<sup>3</sup>.

The total number of crimes in Doncaster reduced slightly (5%), but the DA crimes increase of 14% means the percentage of DA crimes as a proportion of all crimes increased from 14% to 17%.

	2019	2020
Recorded (connect) crimes	37888	36151
DA crimes	5347	6096
DA crimes as percentage of all crimes	14%	17%

In terms of Smart Contact data (calls), the graph and table below give a Doncaster-specific breakdown showing changes between 2019 and 2020<sup>4</sup>.



<sup>2</sup> Data source: <http://bi-live:9502/analytics/saw.dll?PortalPages>

<sup>3</sup> <http://bi-live:9502/analytics/saw.dll?PortalPages>

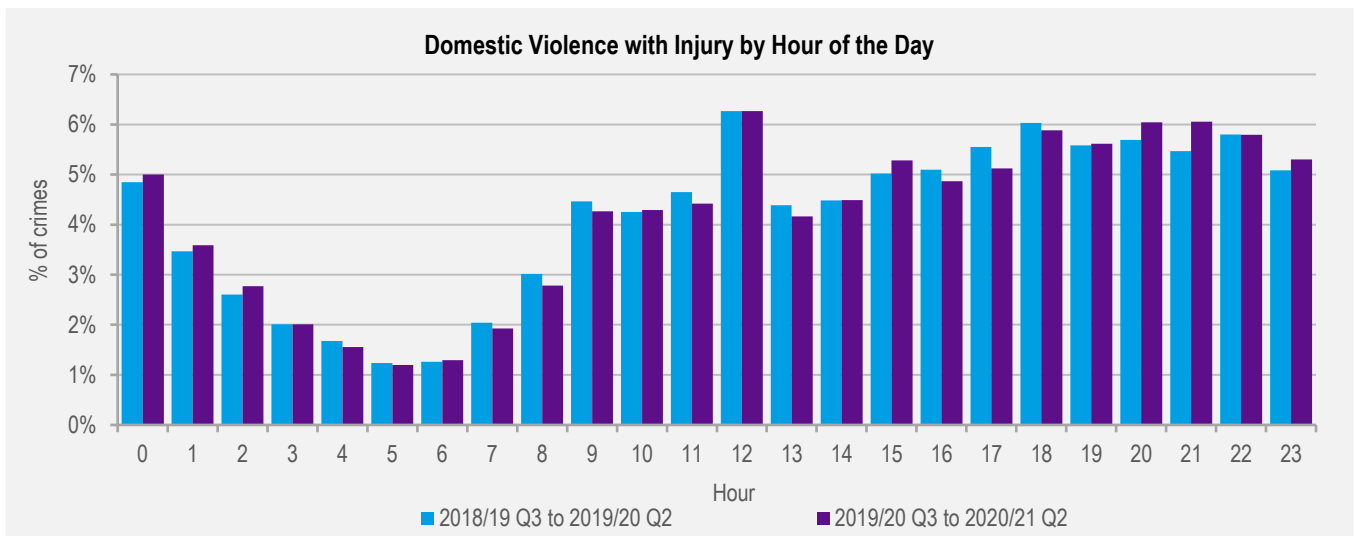
<sup>4</sup> Data Source: <http://bi-live:9502/analytics/saw.dll?PortalPages>

Data based on Smart Contact incidents with DA Qualifier

	Doncaster			Force-Wide		
	2019	2020	% Change	2019	2020	% Change
Jan	580	570	0%	2097	2198	5%
Feb	552	555	-2%	2040	2120	4%
Mar	548	525	1%	2229	2143	-4%
Apr	504	662	-4%	2137	2423	12%
May	565	640	31%	2373	2565	7%
Jun	559	637	13%	2312	2367	2%
Jul	598	706	14%	2502	2567	3%
Aug	595	666	18%	2604	2581	-1%
Sept	560	696	12%	2334	2417	3%
Oct	580	587	24%	2256	2178	-4%
Nov	529	589	1%	2214	2110	-5%
Dec	574	664	11%	2463	2357	-4%
Total	6744	7497	16%	27561	28026	2%

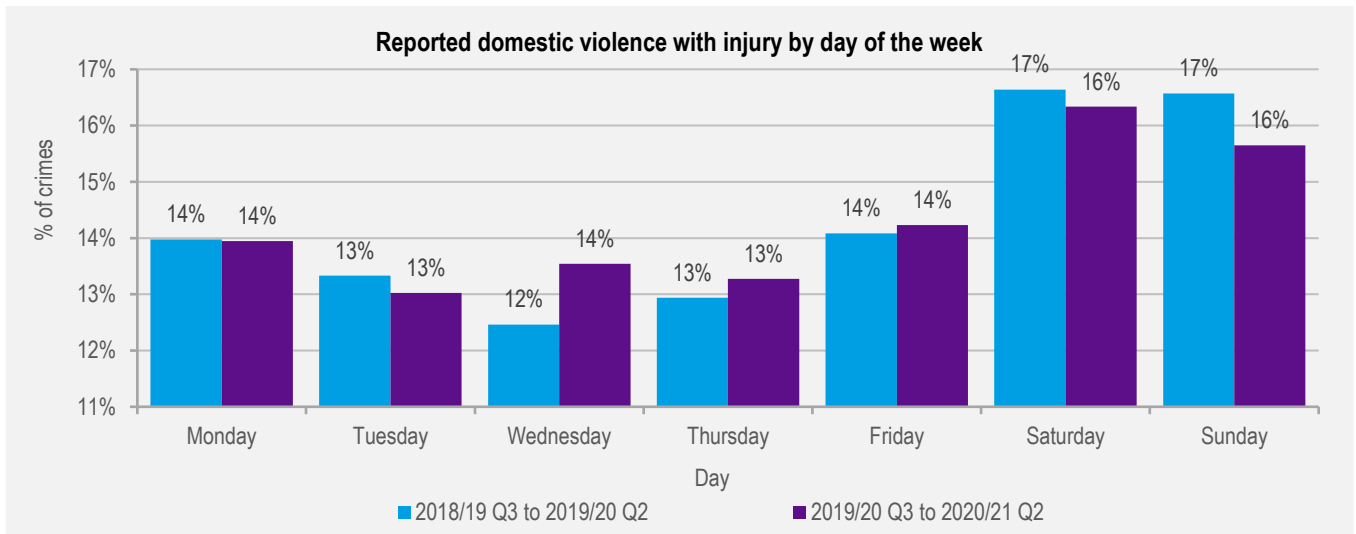
**Time of the Day**

Because a large number of reported domestics were historic, it was decided to only analyse committed dates which occurred within the 24 months before September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. Domestic abuse happens at all hours, and the pattern has not changed between time periods. Domestic abuse shows less obvious peak times than other crimes, with the possible exception of 12pm. This may be an artefact of people not recalling the exact time and it being recorded as the middle of the day. We do remove 00:00:00 for the same reason, but it is less clear if 12:00:00 records are erroneous or not.

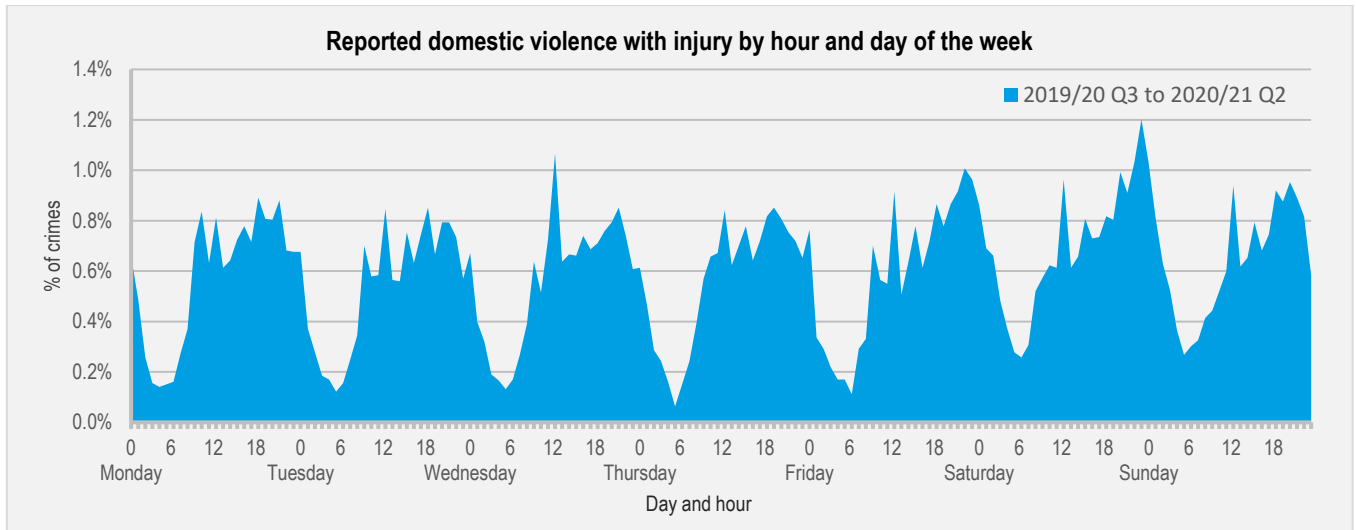


## Day of the Week

Domestic abuse is also fairly unique for having a fair distribution of crimes across the week, with only a little bias towards the weekend. This pattern has also changed little between the two time periods (see graph below).



These graphs can be combined to give an overview of domestic violence with injury across the week (see graph below). To aid interpretation, we have only used data from the second time period. As with individual hour and day analyses, the result is very close to what we observed during the first time period. Crimes in the early hours of one day's morning would be better understood as a continuation of the previous night, especially for weekend. Domestic abuse has a fairly unique pattern in that there is another increase in crimes Sunday evening, whilst for most other crime types Sunday's crimes tend to be a continuation of Saturday night.



Limitations: Time stamps of 00:00:00 were removed, as this is often inappropriately applied. As such, we are underestimating the number of incidents reported as being committed at midnight.

## 14. Spatial Analysis

Doncaster Children Services Trust holds data on social care referrals where Domestic Abuse is a presenting issue, broken down by Doncaster sub-geographies. This is currently only available at a Locality level (i.e. Doncaster North, East, South, and Central).

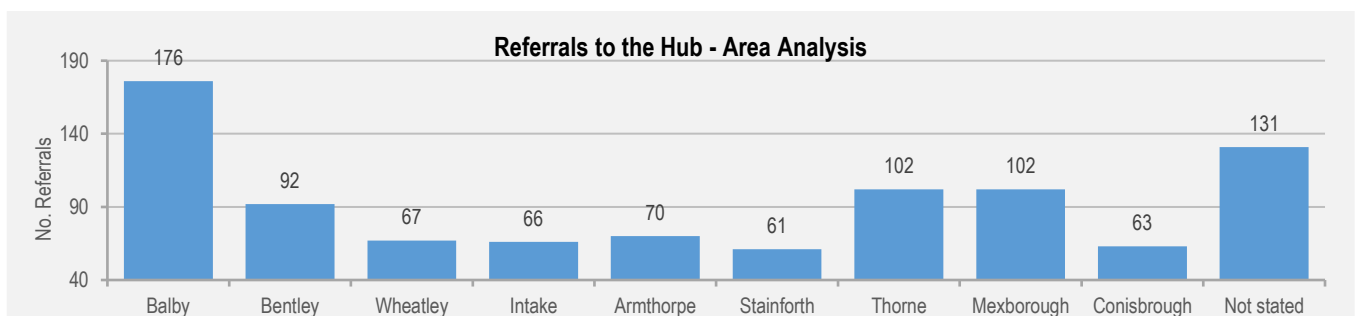
This dataset shows than a greater proportion of presentation are from the Central locality (30%), with a relatively even split between the East, North and South Localities (20%-24%).

	Central	East	North	South	Unknown	
May-20	66	45	39	35	3	188
Jun-20	66	37	39	33	4	179
Jul-20	70	33	59	53	3	218
Aug-20	45	29	29	36	2	141
Sep-20	87	40	54	52	1	234
Oct-20	50	48	32	44	0	174
Nov-20	33	32	48	48	2	163
Dec-20	59	48	47	33	7	194
Jan-21	41	39	53	55	3	191
Feb-21	35	24	46	35	4	144
Mar-21	5	3	7	6	7	28
Apr-21	4	2	3	6	6	21
Overall	561	380	456	436	42	1875
Percentage	30%	20%	24%	23%	2%	
Percentage Range	18%-37%	10%-28%	14%-32%	17%-29%	0%-29%	

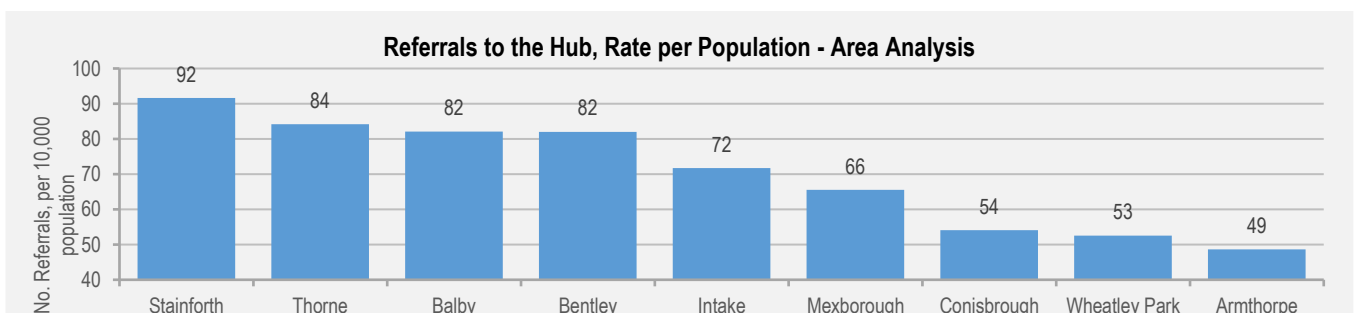
Referral data for the Hub shows the same picture, with a greater proportion coming from the Central Locality area (33%) with an even split between East, North and South Localities (22%-23%).

	Central	East	North	South
Overall	577	384	395	387
Percentage	33%	22%	23%	22%

Specific settlement-level analysis of the Hub data shows that Balby stands out within the urban centre with almost twice as many as the next prevalent settlement (Bentley). The main towns of Thorne and Mexborough rank second followed by the main towns of Armthorpe, Conisbrough and Stainforth. This is expected given that the urban centre and main towns are the population centres within Doncaster. None of the borough's service towns or villages stand out as having a larger prevalence of referrals than its population proportion.



Taking the populations of these communities into account, and considering the rate per 10,000 population puts Stainforth at the top, with 92, followed by Thorne, Balby and Bentley with 84, 82, 82 respectively.





## 15. Service Mapping

This section describes the safe accommodation provision services in Doncaster.

### Riverside Care and Support

Doncaster Council has commissioned Riverside Care and Support to provide refuge and dispersed accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse from Doncaster and from out of area. The refuge provides support for women and children while the dispersed accommodation can be used to support male victims of domestic abuse, larger families or used as move-on accommodation while alternative housing is sought.

Riverside also deliver outreach support for victims of domestic regardless of gender. This consists of practical and emotional support. Referrals for the Outreach support come through the Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub.

### Phoenix WoMen’s Aid

Phoenix WoMen’s Aid is an independent specialist domestic abuse charity. They provide refuge provision for men and women (in separate refuges) fleeing domestic abuse, from Doncaster and from out of area. They also provide counselling, group sessions, outreach support and are specialists in supporting people with immigration issues. Phoenix WoMen’s Aid also have strong links with a number of minority groups and communities in Doncaster. Victims of domestic abuse can access Phoenix WoMen’s Aid services directly or via the Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub.

## 16. Identification, Disclosures and Referrals

Doncaster has seen unprecedented increases in Domestic Abuse referrals across the core partnership.

Year	DA Hub		IDVA*		DCST		Police	
	Referrals	% Change	Referrals	% Change	Referrals	% Change	Referrals	% Change
19/20	1567	+19%	904	+56%	1145	+47%	5347 DA crime 3114 DA non-crime	+14% DA Crime +20% non-crime
20/21	1858		1406		1687		6096 crime 3735 DA non-crime	

\*IDVA: Independent Domestic Violence Advocates

### The Hub

The Hub deals with the Standard and Medium Risk Domestic Abuse referrals and received 1858 between April 2020 and March 2021, which is an 19% increase on the previous year 19/20. In line with national trends, women are the victims in 89% of referrals although increasingly men are coming forward and now equate to 11% of the referrals made to the Hub. The most common type of domestic abuse is coercive and emotional at 57%, followed by physical at 36%, Digital/online (4%), Financial (2%) and sexual (1%).

When looking at the national and regional statistics, Doncaster appears to be bucking the trend with higher figures and there appear to be correlations with the high number of effective social media campaigns. South Yorkshire Police remain the highest referrer to the Hub at 71% (1360). Throughout the pandemic, domestic abuse partners have delivered a number of effective social media campaigns to tackle the acceptance of domestic abuse which is prevalent in communities and there has been an increase in referrals from neighbours, friends and family who are concerned for a victim to 16% of referrals (304).

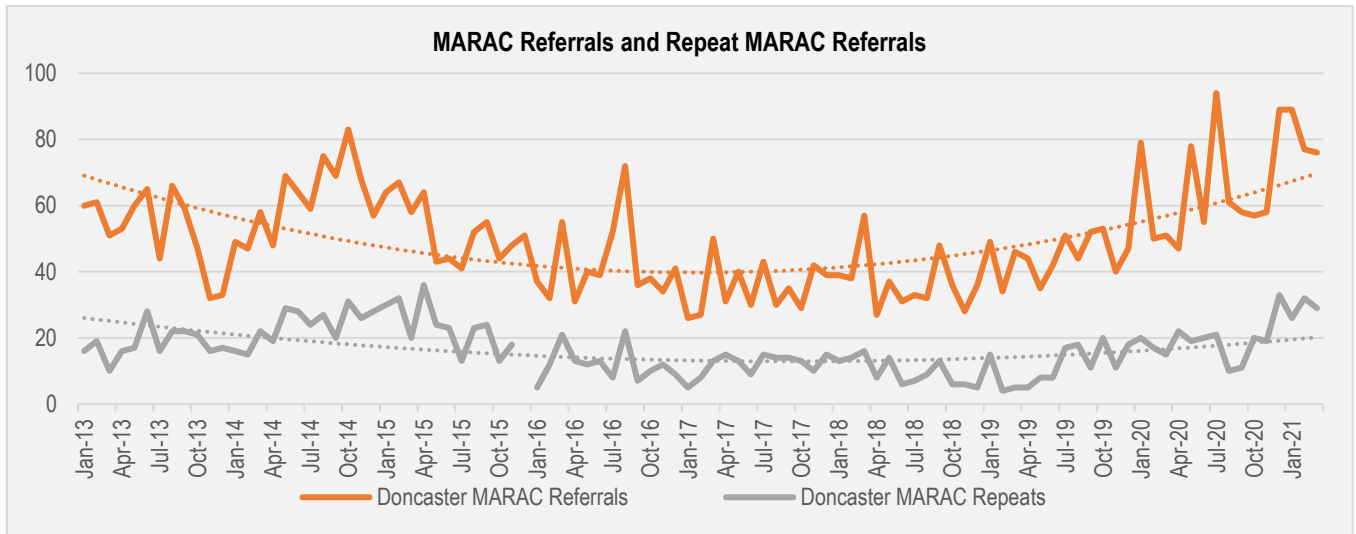
### Independent Domestic Violence Advocates

The IDVA team have seen unprecedented demand for 2020/21 with 1406 referrals which is a 55.64% increase in workload from the previous year. Although there are a number of pathways in for a referral to the IDVAs, South Yorkshire Police remain the highest referrer with 89% of all referrals (1257). The Doncaster Children’s Service Trust are the next highest referrer at 2% (29) and then Riverside 2% (24).

Safelives recommend an Advisor should support around 100 new clients per year. With the 587 victims the current rate per Advisor for Doncaster is 117.4. With the recent recruitment campaign this figure will come down to within the Safelives level.

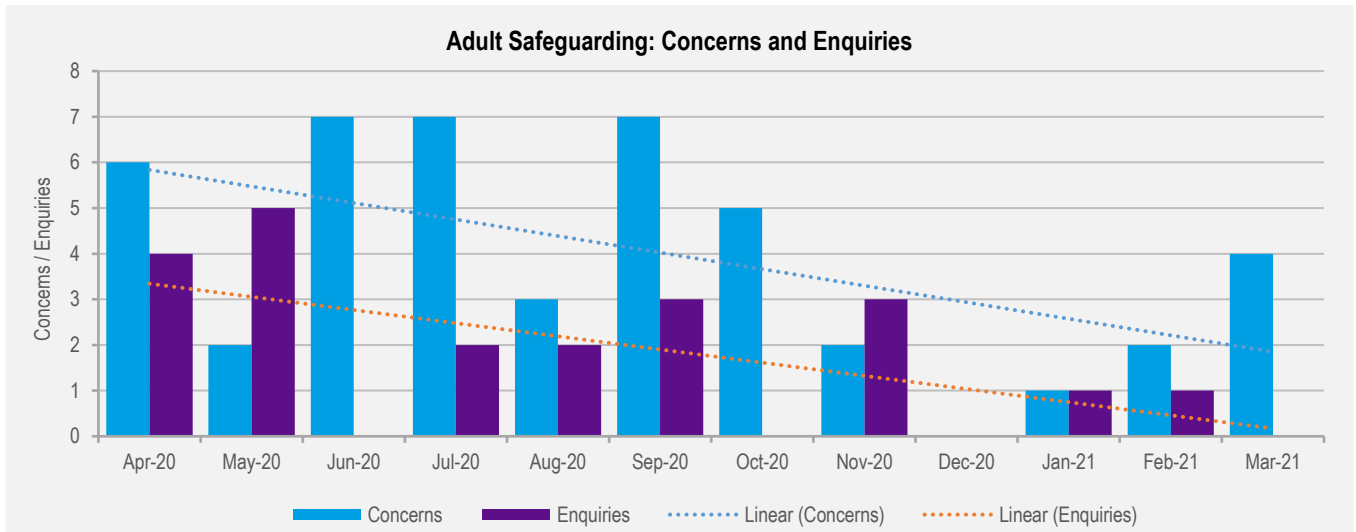
**MARAC referrals and repeats**

The data below from South Yorkshire Police shows a decreasing trend in MARAC Referrals for around 3.5 years from 2013 to mid 2016, followed by an increasing trend from mid 2016 to early 2021. MARAC repeat cases follows the same pattern, only with a smaller decrease and increase either side of mid 2016.



**Adults Safeguarding – Reports of Concern and Enquires**

Adults Safeguarding data shows a decreasing trend across the 2020-21 year for both Concerns and Enquiries, although the scale of numbers and the reduction in absolute terms is not large.



**Riverside Refuge/Safe accommodation referrals**

- Data shows 51 referrals between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- Three quarters were from outside of Doncaster (38/51).
- Two fifths were first time referrals (21/51).
- Average length of stay is 16 weeks (112 days).
- Most common reasons for being denied access to services: Breach of address of safe accommodation, perpetrator living too close to refuge, substance misuse still active, wanting longer-term support.
- There were 14 unsuccessful referrals where the individuals could not be supported.
- Information sharing between organisations, which results in the need for victims to be questioned multiple times

## 17. Additional Insights

Information and data (April 2020 – March 2021) from Riverside provides the following insights.

Immigration Status	2 people had no immigration leave or expired leave. Grants are needed to fund if no social care involvement. Therefore Immigration status is a barrier for some people, particularly if there are no children involved.
Language	2 people required a translator/interpreter – a telephone based interpretation service is available. 8 people had low literacy.
Culture/Faith	Refuge does not accept male children older than 16 but they can be accommodated in dispersed accommodation. There are provisions in place for different belief if not this will be sought on a needs basis.
Violence against women and girls	There were 8 people that were a victim of honour-based violence.

A range of datasets from three of our accommodation providers (Riverside, St Leger Homes of Doncaster and WoMen’s Aid) identifies three key factors:

- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping
- Alcohol Misuse
- Offending history

	Riverside	SLHD	WoMens’ aid
Care Leaver	2	4	2
Service Personnel/Armed Forces		4	
Offending History	15	33	
Homeless	1	41	2
Rough Sleeper	0	16	1
Alcohol Misuse	10	22	4
Drug Misuse	8	23	4
Sex Work			1
Legal Support			6
Financial Support			12

## 18. Public Consultation

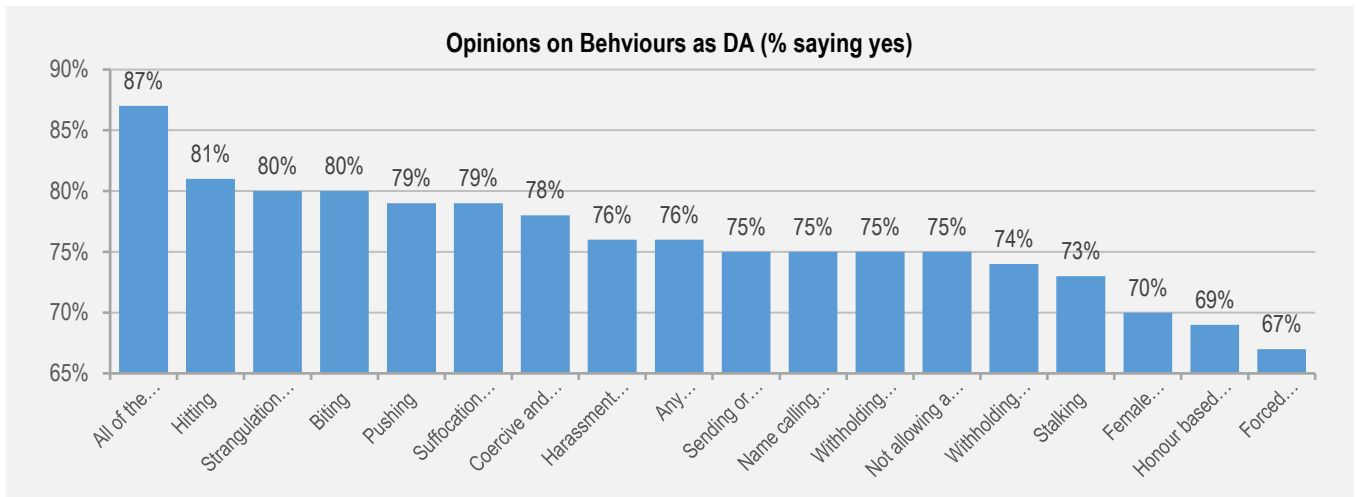
- Public consultation included a series of short surveys, hosted on the ‘survey monkey’ website.
- Different surveys were produced for the general public, for practitioners, for victims of domestic abuse, and for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- There were 216 responses from the public, 123 from practitioners, 100 from victims and 4 from perpetrators.

### General public

95% of general public responders knew that DA could be between people in families not just those in a relationship. But 22% didn’t know that it’s still DA if the abuse continues after a relationship has ended.

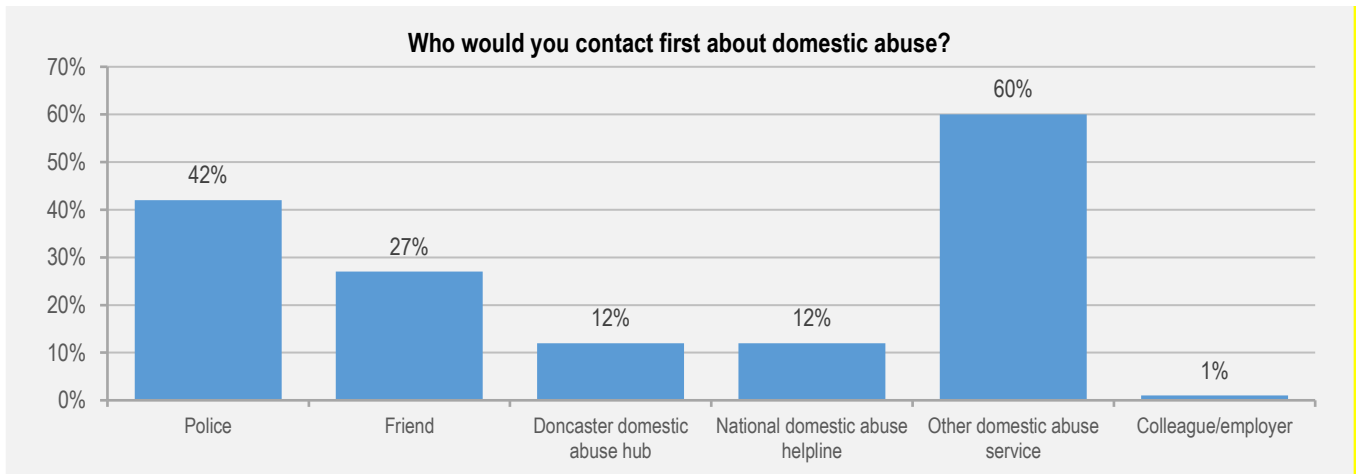
Opinions on whether different behaviours were DA showed a lack of universal understanding and there were some relatively low proportions for certain types.

- Only 87% said that all of the behaviours listed (below) were DA.
- 80-81% said Yes to: Hitting, Strangulation (incl attempting to) and Biting.
- 76-79% said Yes to: Pushing, Suffocation (incl attempting to), Coercive and controlling behaviour, harassment, and any unwanted sexual attention or acts by a partner, ex-partner or family member.
- 73-75% said Yes to: Sending or threatening to share intimate pictures of a partner or ex-partner, Name calling or trying to belittle or undermine a partner, ex-partner or family member; Withholding or controlling money, Not allowing a partner or family member to work; Withholding medication or giving too much medication; Stalking.
- 67-70% said Yes: Female genital mutilation; Honour based abuse, Forced marriage.

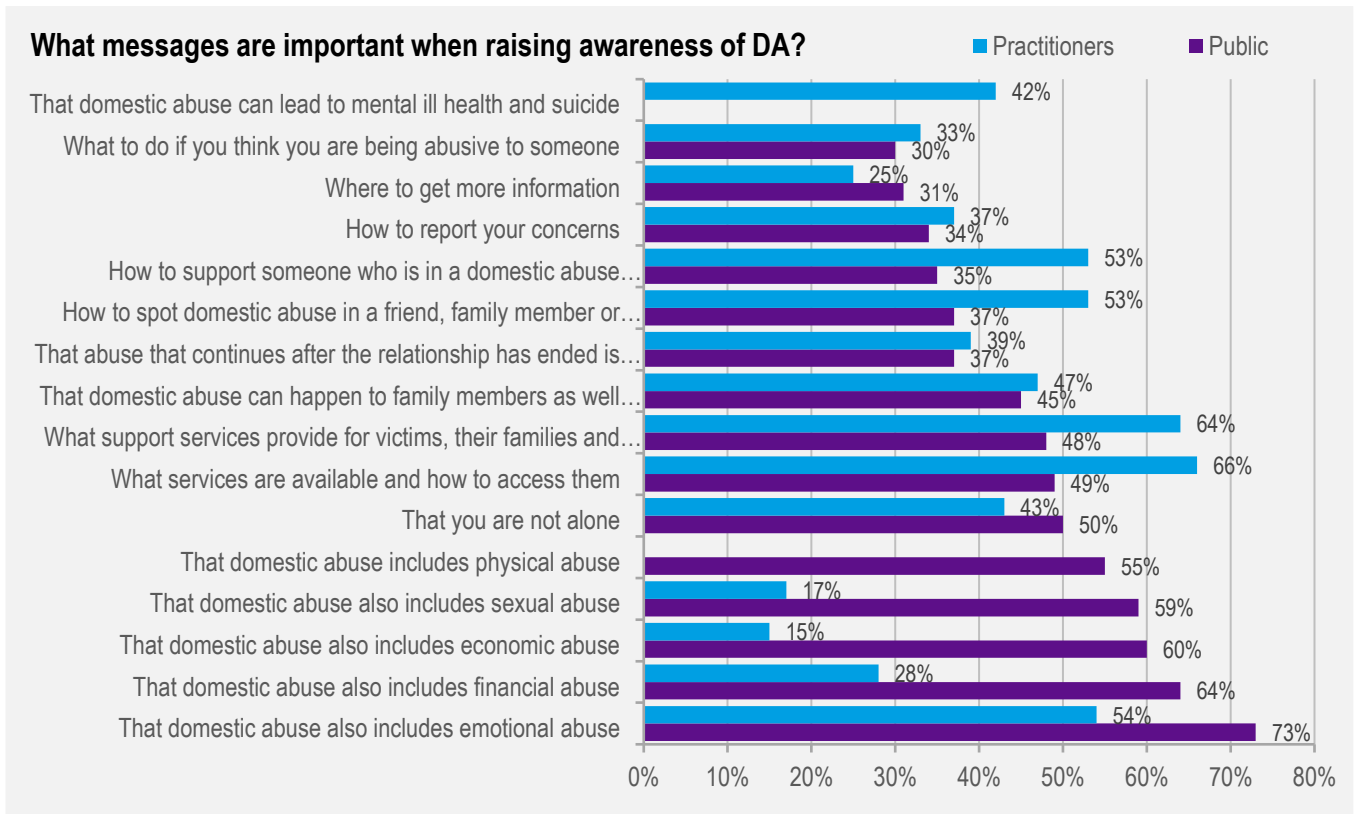


Only half of all responders said they would know how to get help/what services are available for themselves or a friend/family member if they were in an abusive relationship.

When asked who they would contact first about domestic abuse, 42% named the Police, with only 12% naming the Doncaster DA Hub. The same proportion would contact a national DA helpline, and 27% would go to a friend first. 60% answered 'Other DA service' but additional detail often included comments such as 'don't know', 'it depends on the situation', and 'dealing with it [themselves]'.



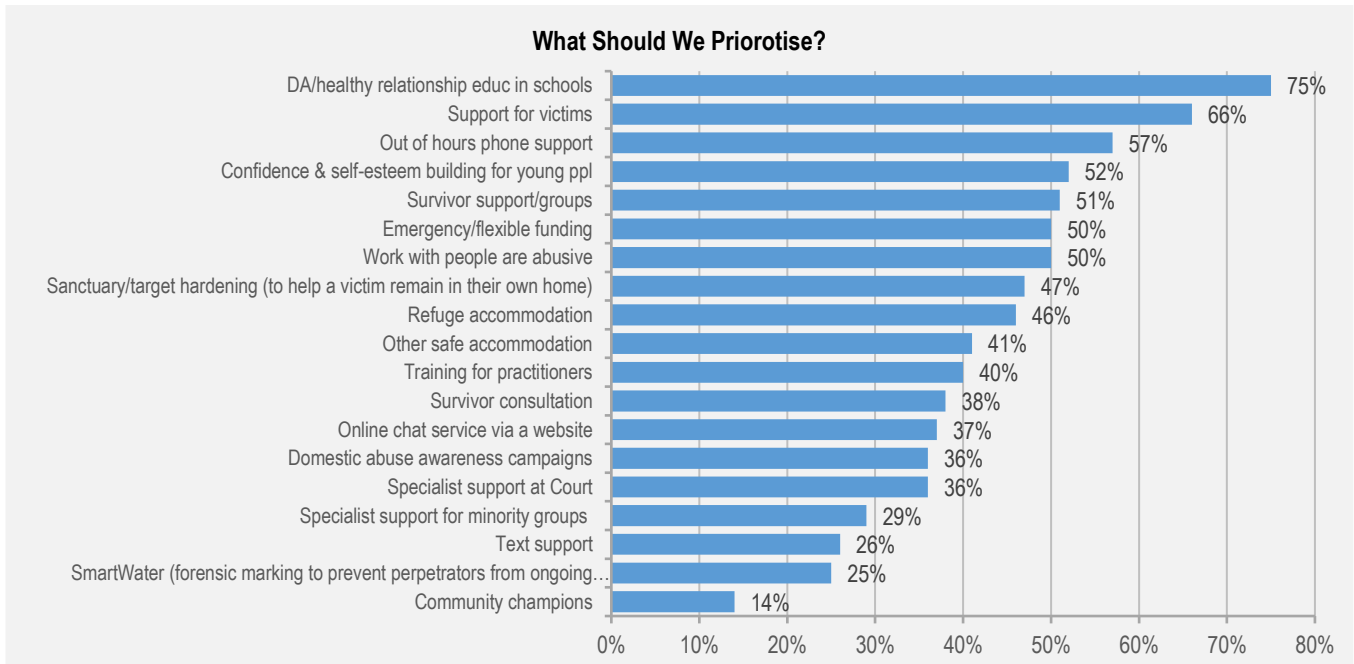
98% of responders thought there should be more awareness of DA generally. 99% felt more awareness raising aimed at young people is needed. Regarding what messages are most important in such a campaign, practitioners tended to focus on information about what services were available and how to access them; whereas the general public tended to focus more on what constitutes domestic abuse and its different types/forms.



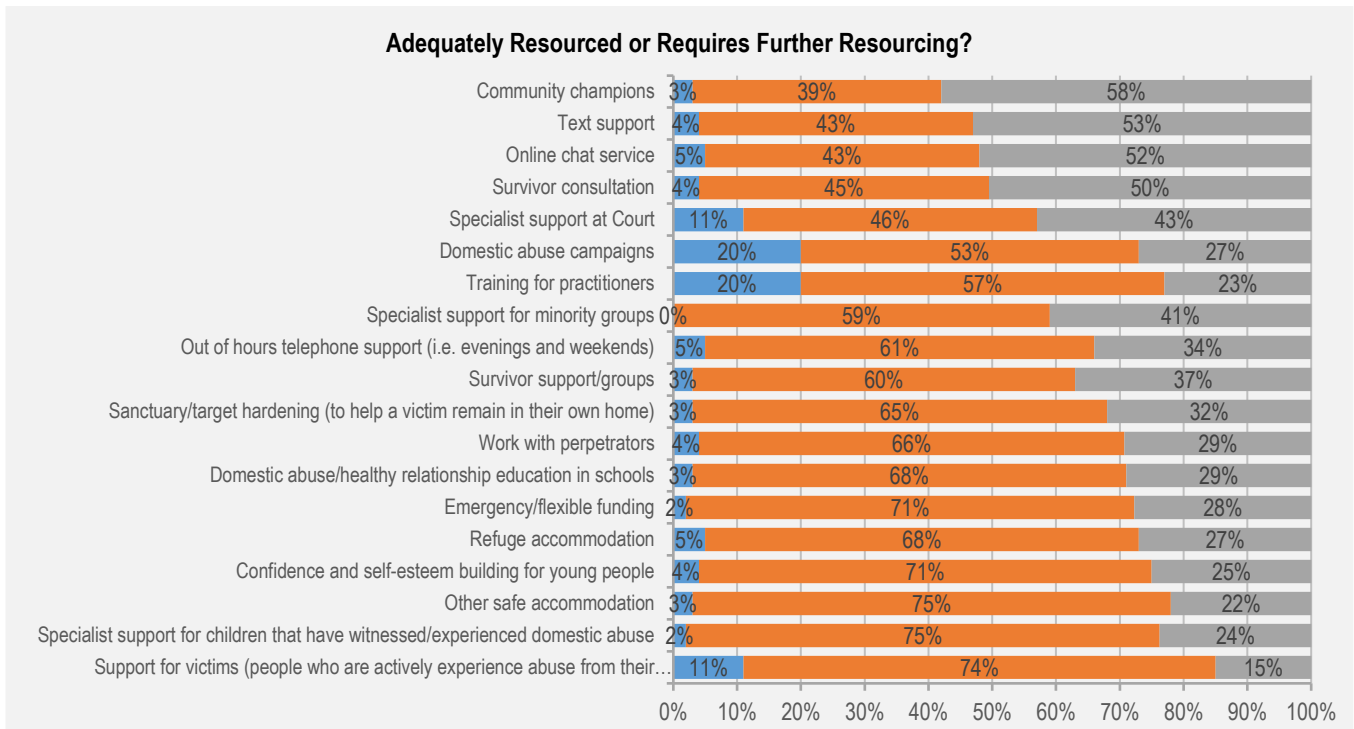
### Practitioners

Practitioner responses show a view that DA/healthy relationship education in schools should be the number one priority (75%) for the strategy, followed by the provision of support for victims (66%) and provision of out of hours services (evenings and weekends) (57%).

Secondary priorities, which scored 50%-52%, include self-esteem building for young people (which could link with the first priority); Survivor support, work with perpetrators of domestic abuse, and the availability of emergency/flexible funding that can be used for a range of needs.



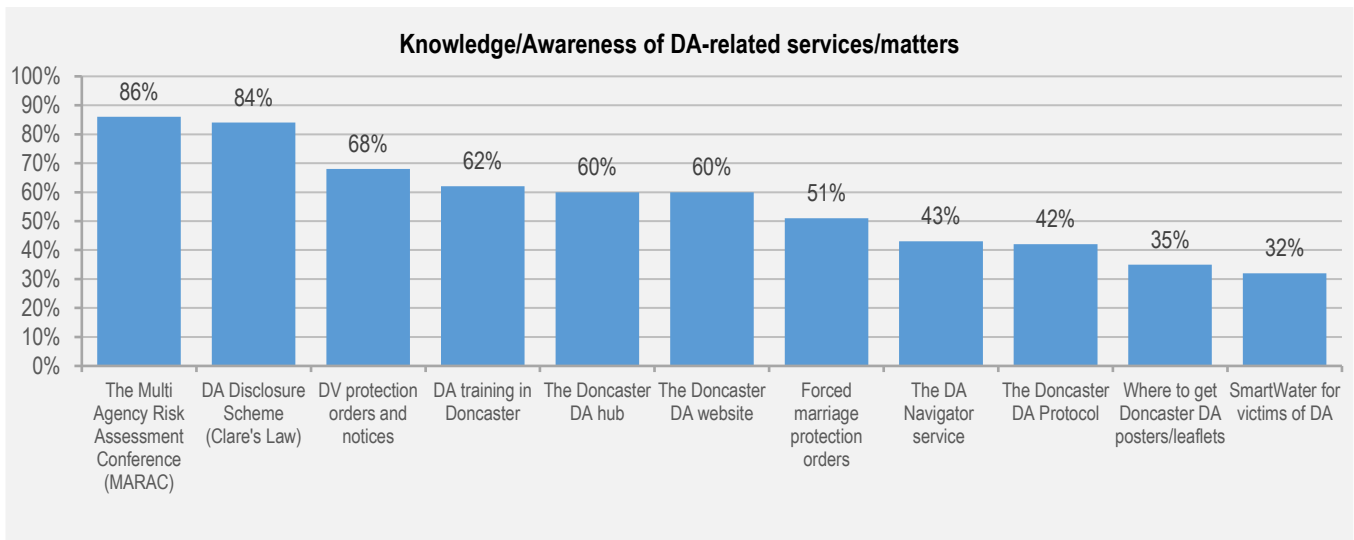
Around half to three quarters of practitioners think the majority of services and activity in response to or to prevent domestic abuse require further resourcing. Of the remaining, most were unsure of the adequacy of the provision. Very small proportions, often single digit percentages, felt that adequate resourcing was in place. The highest scoring areas were DA campaigns and training for practitioners for which only 1 in 5 thought were adequately resources; this drops to 1 in 9 for support for victims and specialist support at Court.



94% said there isn't sufficient accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse.

75% said survivor voices are not heard and lessons learned from their experiences within Doncaster.

Practitioner responses about knowledge/awareness of a range of DA-related services shows some relatively low proportions for a large number of services/matters. Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and Clare's Law scored in the mid 80s; but knowledge of DV protection orders and notices, DA training, the Doncaster Hub and the Doncaster DA website only scored 60%-68%. Only half had knowledge of forced marriage protection orders. Some issues such as the DA navigator service, the Doncaster DA protocol scored between 32%-43%.



## Victims and Survivors

Survivors of domestic abuse were asked to identify the key messages about domestic abuse that should be promoted. The top five were as follows:

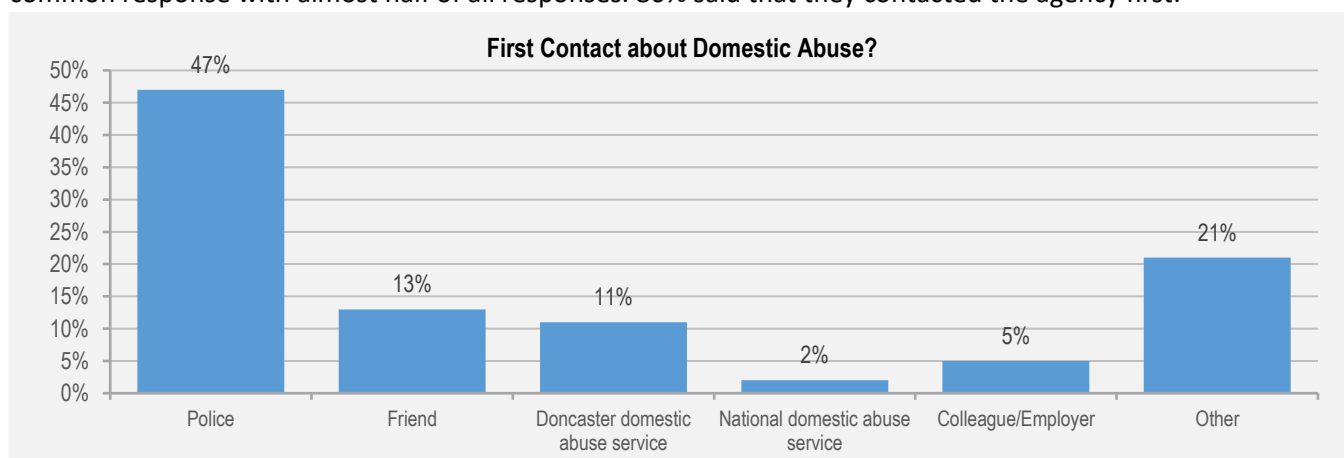
1. That domestic abuse also includes emotional abuse
2. What services are available and how to access them
3. How to support someone who is in a domestic abuse relationship
4. That abuse that continues after the relationship has ended is still domestic abuse
5. That domestic abuse can lead to mental ill health and suicide

Survivors identified the same top priorities as Practitioners:

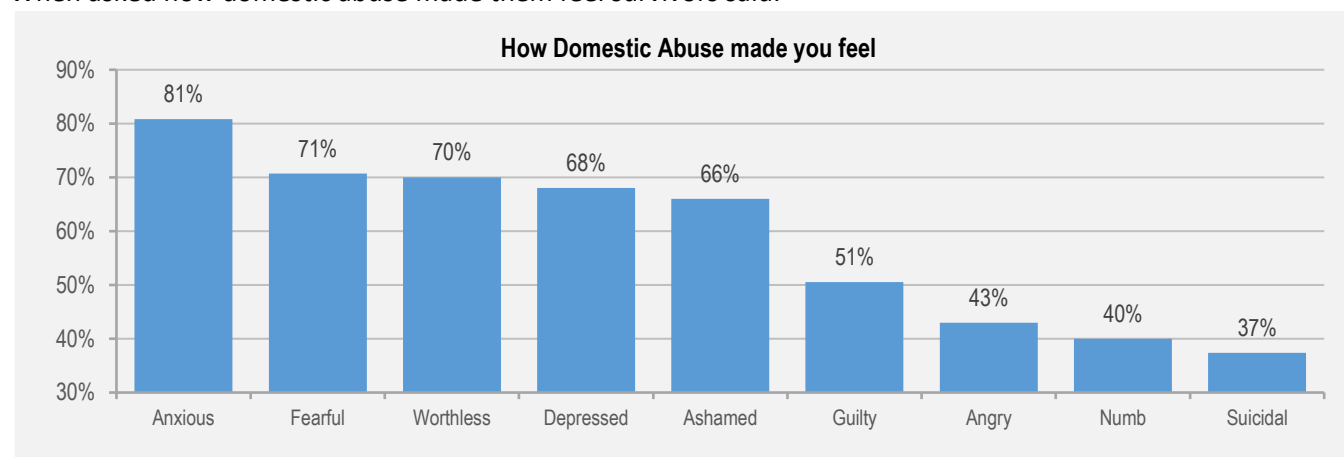
1. Domestic abuse/healthy relationship education in schools
2. Support for victims including children (people who are actively experience abuse from their abuser)
3. Survivor support/groups (people who have separated from an abuser but may also include support for ongoing post separation abuse)
4. Out of hours telephone support (i.e. evenings and weekends)
5. Confidence and self-esteem building for young people

86% of respondents felt that there was inadequate safe and suitable accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse

When asked which agency or person they contacted first (or contacted them first), the Police was the most common response with almost half of all responses. 80% said that they contacted the agency first.



When asked how domestic abuse made them feel survivors said:



- Almost three-quarters of responders said single-sex services are important (51% said extremely or very important, 22% said somewhat important). 14% said not so important and 12% said not important at all
- 48% of respondents are be interested in forming a survivors network that comes together to share learning and improve responses in relation to domestic abuse.
- 81% had children living with them at the time of the abuse; and 72% said that there was no support available for the children or whole family. 63% said that the children were still affected by the abuse
- 27% of survivors had also grown up in a household were there was domestic abuse.
- 17.5% of survivors had experienced domestic abuse within the past year with 43% having experienced domestic abuse more than 10 years ago.

## Perpetrators

Only 4 responses were received from perpetrators of domestic abuse. A summary of the responses are provided below.

- 50% were the only abuser, 50% said both parties were.
- 75% were abusive to a partner or ex-partner, 25% to a family member
- 75% of the victims were female, 25% male.
- 50% said they had children at the time of the abuse, and recognised they were probably scared as a result of it.
- 50% identified themselves as someone that was causing harm prior to intervention.
- 75% caused physical harm, all caused emotional harm.
- 75% received support to address their behaviour (all referenced Inspire to Change, 75% gave positive comments about this support)
- When asked about the term abuser/perpetrator, there was a mix of discomfort (but acceptance) and indifference.
- Responders said prevention measures should include education and work in healthy relationship work in schools; and breathing space, the ability to talk about problems and not being judged if seeking help to address their abusive behaviour.
- 50% said they grew up with or witnessed domestic abuse in their homes. 25% said they didn't experience any trauma or abuse as a child. 50% said they suffered physical abuse.
- Only 1 out of 3 responders were issued a warning notice about the use of SmartWater.

## Elected Members

Elected members have been consulted as part of the development of the strategy. An information paper about the strategy, the Domestic Abuse Bill and the consultation was circulated to all elected members shortly after the May 2021 elections. A briefing session was then held in June with very good attendance. Elected members were asked to share the consultation in their local areas and also ensure that their voice is heard by completing either the public consultation survey or the more detailed practitioner/community leader consultation.

During the briefing session there was a lot of discussion about the responses of statutory services to victims and prosecution of perpetrators of domestic abuse with some elected members having had personal experience of supporting constituents, friends or family members that have experienced domestic abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy has gone to the Scrutiny Committee responsible for oversight of domestic abuse prior to being presented to Cabinet for approval.