

Item 7. Briefing note

Joint Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) in the context of sex/gender

Male survivors accessing support for Domestic Abuse January 2022- December 2022

Following discussions at the Health and Well Being Board meeting on 9th Dec in relation to Goal 5C which aims to provide safe, suitable, and stable housing solutions for people who have or who are experiencing domestic abuse and/or sexual violence or abuse, partners have provided a more detailed written report in relation to support provision for male survivors of domestic abuse.

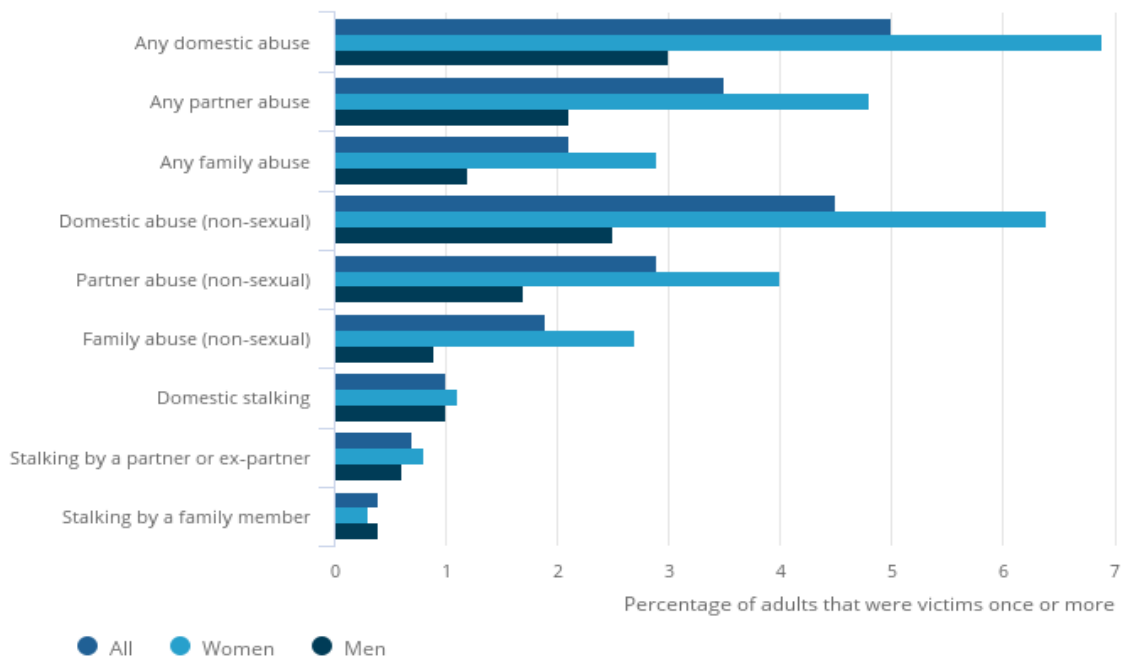
Understanding national data trends

For the year ending March 2022, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 1.7 million women and 699,000 men aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the last year. This is a prevalence rate of approximately 7 in 100 women and 3 in 100 men.¹ The chart below breaks down the types of domestic abuse experienced by men and women.

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[https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#:~:text=4.,Sex,100%20men%20\(Figure%201\).](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#:~:text=4.,Sex,100%20men%20(Figure%201).)

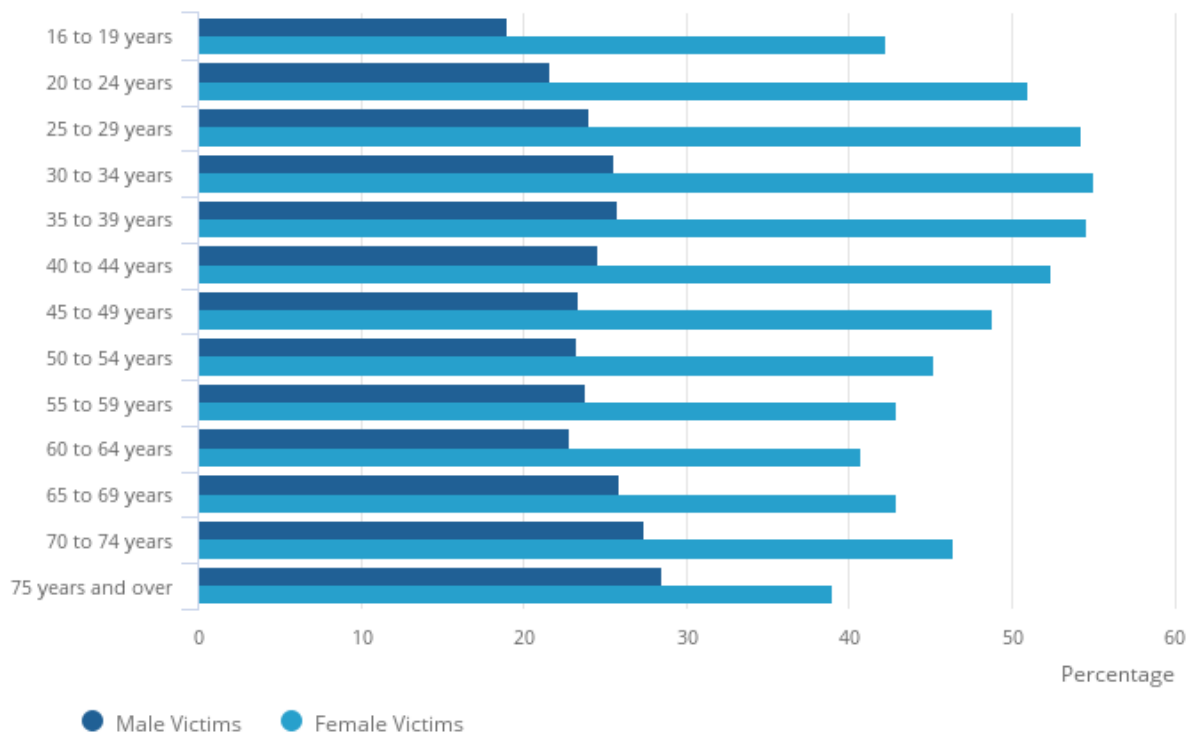
Prevalence of domestic abuse in the last year for adults aged 16 years and over, by sex and type of abuse, England and Wales, year ending March 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Crime Survey for England and Wales

The chart below details a further breakdown. Data supplied from 26 police forces showed that the proportion of violence against the person offences identified as domestic abuse-related in England and Wales was over 50% for women in age groups between 20 and 44 years. The proportion for men was between 20% and 30% for all age groups except men aged between 16 and 19 years .

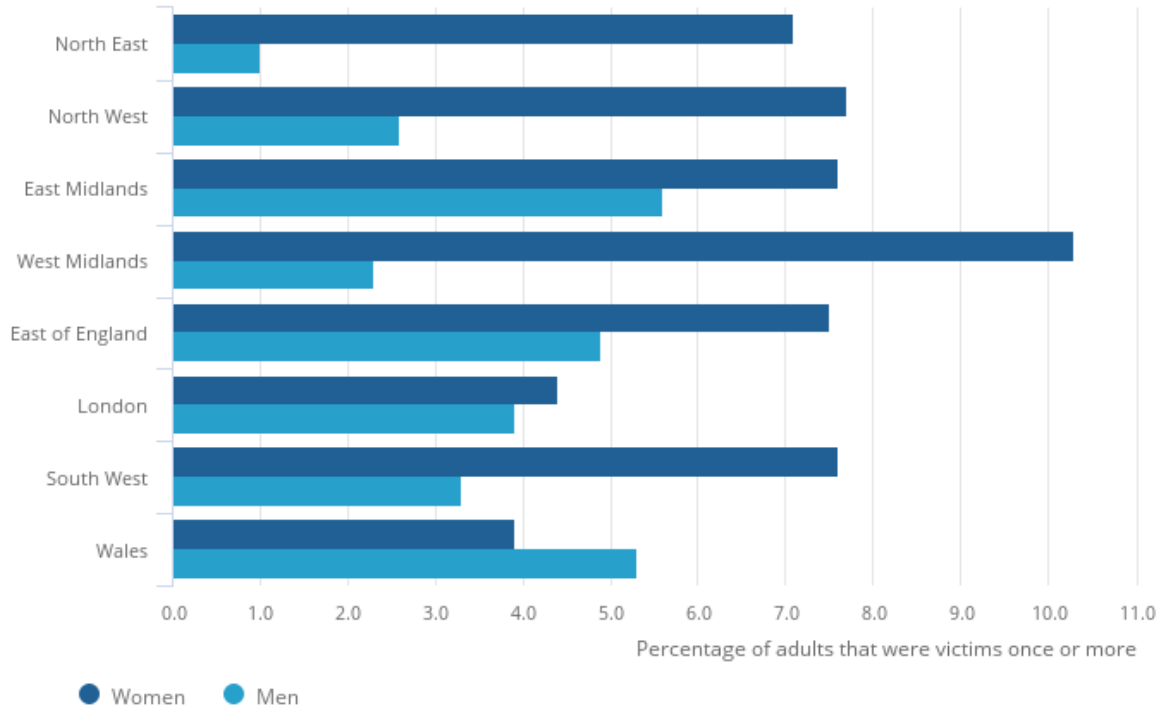
Proportion of violence against the person offences recorded by the police, which were identified as domestic abuse related, by age and sex of victims, England and Wales, year ending March 2022



Source: Home Office Data Hub – Police recorded crime

The regional estimates of any domestic abuse from the Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2022 mirrored national trends. There were significant differences seen in the North East, North West and West Midlands. The gap was largest for West Midlands, where 10.3% of women were victims of domestic abuse in the last year, compared with 2.3% of men. Higher rates for men compared with women are likely to be the result of a small sample size because estimates are based on six months of interviews.

Prevalence of domestic abuse in the last year for adults aged 16 years and over, by sex, English regions and Wales, year ending March 2022



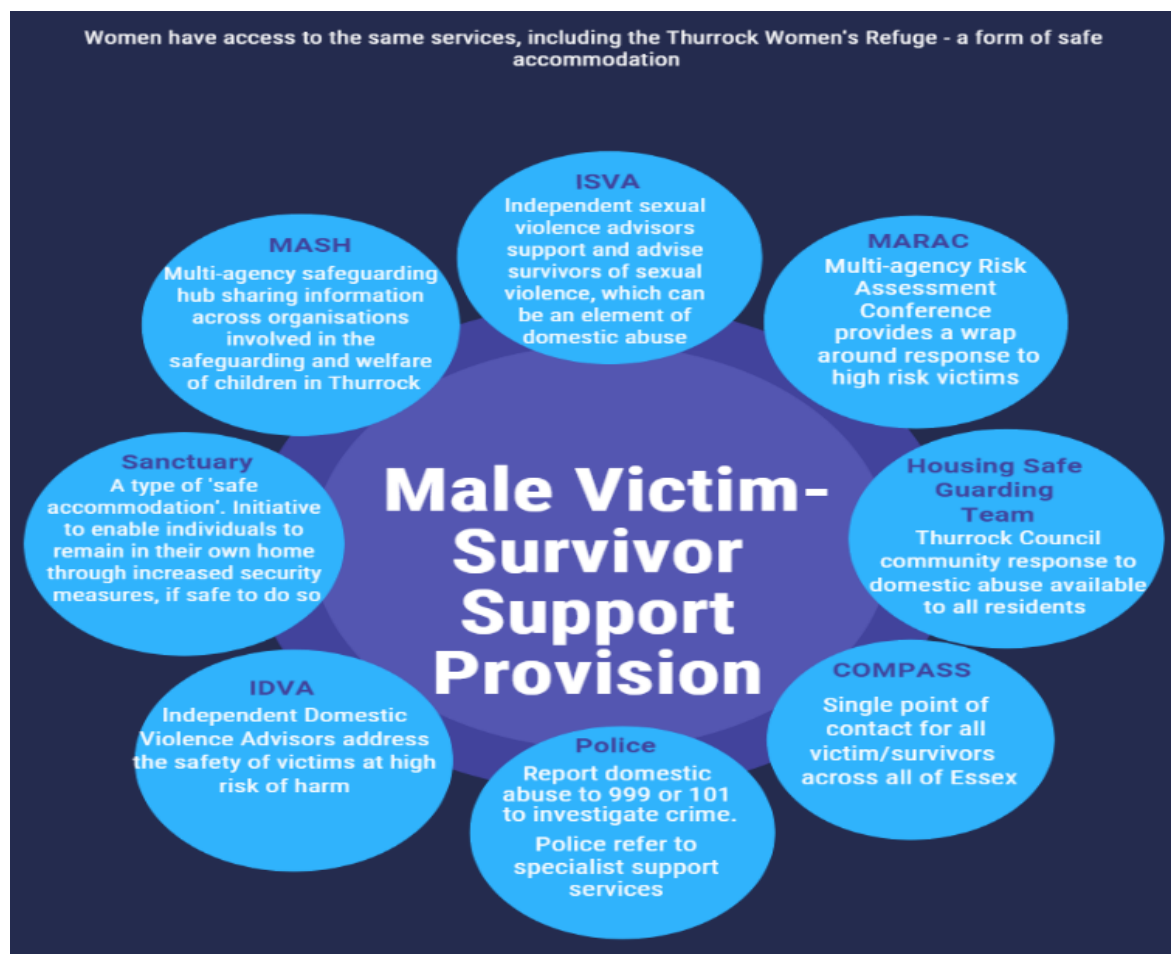
Source: Office for National Statistics - Crime Survey for England and Wales

Support for male survivors

The Housing Safeguarding Team (HST) is our community response to domestic abuse and other crimes and behaviours that fall under a safeguarding remit. They have an important role to play in the wider safeguarding agenda concerning many different types of abuse, and work closely with services across the borough, Essex wide and nationally. The HST are uniquely positioned within the housing team at Thurrock Council.

They are a highly skilled team of Domestic Abuse advisors, many of whom are trained Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA). They are well versed in partnership working with agencies such as Essex Police, COMPASS (a partnership of domestic abuse services in Essex), NHS services, Inclusions, (Drug & Alcohol support), Childrens Social Care, Adult Social Care and specialist organisations such as SERICC (rape and sexual abuse specialist service) for individuals experiencing certain crimes, such as Honour Based Abuse or rape and sexual abuse. These organisations are vital support so that people can receive the service that is right for them.

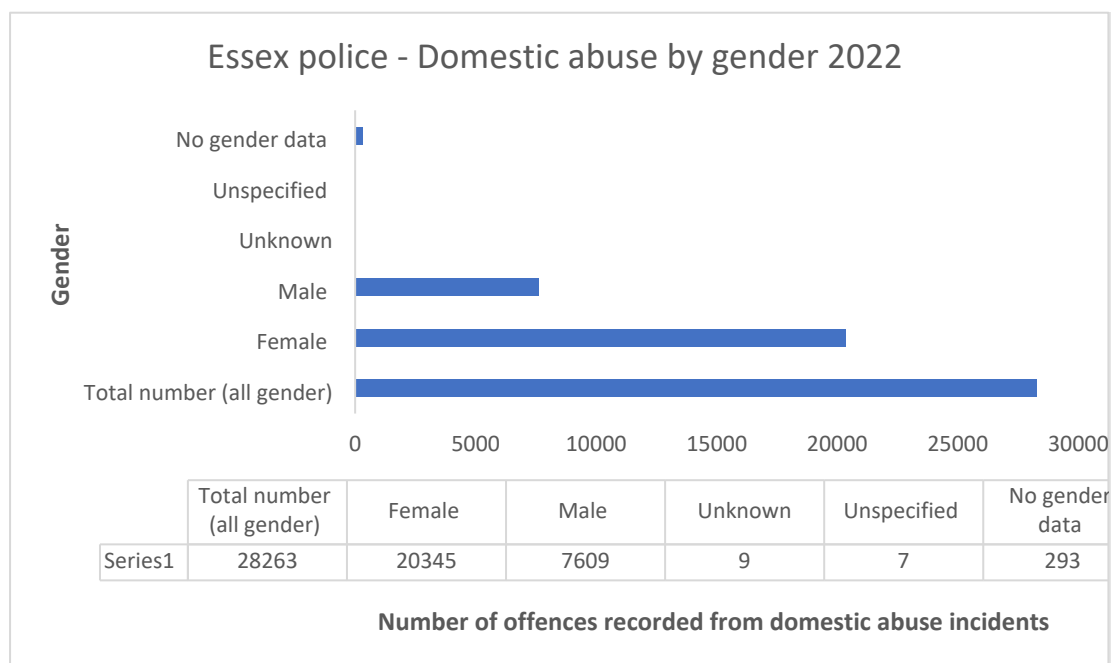
The team work closely with both the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and the Thurrock IDVA (High Risk support). These services provide the first-hand response to domestic abuse across Thurrock to ensure that the survivor receives support that meets their individual needs and circumstances.



Local data

Across Essex, Essex Police recorded the following data – The data shows all offences recorded from domestic abuse incidents.

Essex Police- Domestic abuse by gender in 2022



The data from local services below demonstrates not only the disproportionality of women experiencing a form of domestic abuse, but also that men are experiencing it too. The HST employ a male worker who assists any client; however, some men may feel more comfortable speaking to him about their experiences.

All data is 1st January 2022- 31 December 2022			
Agency	Male overall referral	Support is survivor led - male only commentary	Female overall referrals
IDVA	13	5 individuals were accepted. In the main, non-acceptances were due to survivor not wanting support or not being able to contact the survivor.	154

² <https://www.essex.police.uk/foi-ai/essex-police/other-information/previous-foi-requests/domestic-violence-complaints-2019-to-2022/>

Housing Safeguarding Team (HST)	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 did not want any support • 2 requested Sanctuary 'safe accommodation' support • 6 requested assistance to relocate 	773
MARAC	23	Majority of the males did not want or feel the need for further safeguarding or support from partner agencies.	191

Closing comments

The support offered by agencies across Thurrock are available to all our residents, and often individuals are supported by more than one agency. The HST can offer advice and support in the first instance, however, they will also seek specialist support assistance if needed from another agency, for example, via Karma Nirvana or the Forced Marriage Unit.

If someone has contacted an agency that is not best placed to support them, through our existing partnerships, the person will be helped to speak to the support service for their need. Supporting survivors of domestic abuse can be complicated, intersectionality plays a huge role and prioritising risk over need is a difficult balance. Through a trauma informed lens and intersectional approach, we can all follow best practice and make the referrals required to support individuals in the best way possible.

Case Study

A male in his early 20's with learning disabilities attended Thurrock Civic Offices because of being subjected to violent physical abuse from a male family member, which resulted in him losing control of his bodily function and urinating from fear from the traumatic incident he had suffered. He did not approach the police or seek medical assistance.

An officer on duty from the Temporary Accommodation Team contacted the Housing Safeguarding Team requesting immediate safeguarding support.

Two female members of the team responded and began by creating a rapport and building trust that he would be supported, before completing a risk assessment.

This young man had fled with nothing, he had no money and had not eaten since the attack. The proprietor of the Civic Café provided him a drink and a hot meal free of charge as he could see the distressed state the young man had arrived in.

Another male member of the team who lives locally provided the client with some of his own clothes, to make him more comfortable. At this stage he was willing to make a police statement about the incidents and an officer accompanied him to the police station to support him and continue to provide him with the confidence to make the report.

Police then escorted the client into safe and secure temporary accommodation which was provided by the Housing Solutions Team. A Domestic Abuse Officer from the Housing Safeguarding Team provided some cash to ensure he could pay for gas

and electric services. Another member of the team purchased essential toiletries, which they delivered to the temporary accommodation.

Following words of advice, he decided to go to a Refuge. A HST officer sought a suitable refuge space, ensuring they were able to assist clients with learning difficulties. The refuge provided us with a travel warrant under the 'rail to refuge' scheme. Due to the distance from the temporary accommodation to the train station, he felt unable to do this alone, so a Community Liaison Officer from the HST met the client from his temporary accommodation and accompanied him onto the train, seeing him safely on his way. We received a call from the client and the refuge stating that the client had arrived and is settling in well.

The role each team and officer played in this case demonstrates the importance that kindness and support can have on an individual's outcomes and the value of kindness in the local community to those most vulnerable and in need.