

## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report

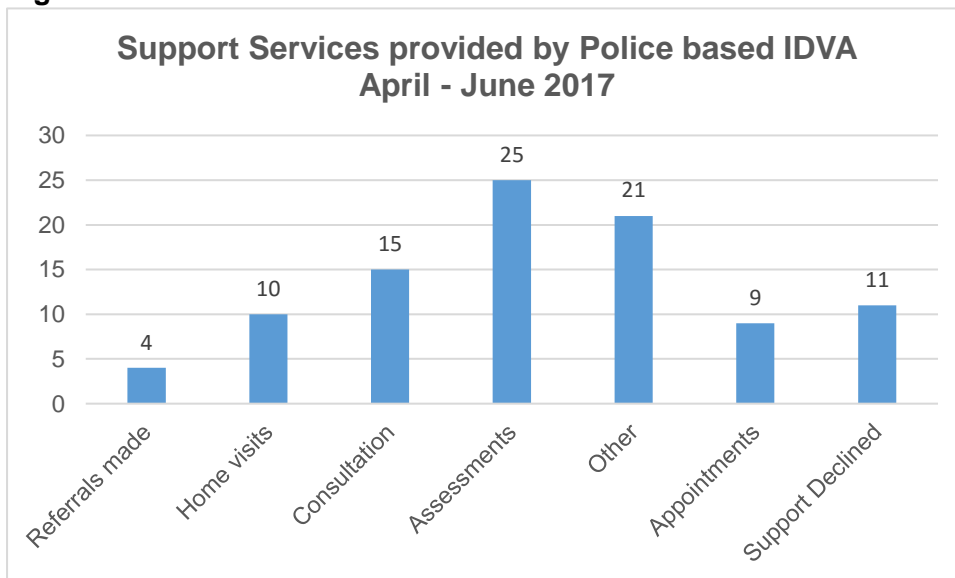
### April to June 2017

Croydon’s services are delivered through a hub and spoke model, with the FJC as the central hub, which offers a drop-in service. In the last year there has been an increase in providing community based support with IDVAs at Croydon University Hospital and within the police station, as well as the creation of three Best Start Domestic Abuse Advisor roles covering the borough.

#### Police based IDVA

The police based IDVA supports individuals experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence by developing safety plans and working in close partnership with the Police. Figure 1 demonstrates the range of support services provided by the Police based IDVA. Please note ‘Other’ includes information sharing between the Police and the FJC.

**Figure 1**



Source: Police based IDVA tracker

Through working closely with the Police and MASH, 331 Merlins were received in Croydon in May and June that were domestic abuse related (as seen in Table 1). This highlights the demand and need to continue to work closely with the Police. This is newly collected data and something we hope to expand upon in the future.

**Table 1**

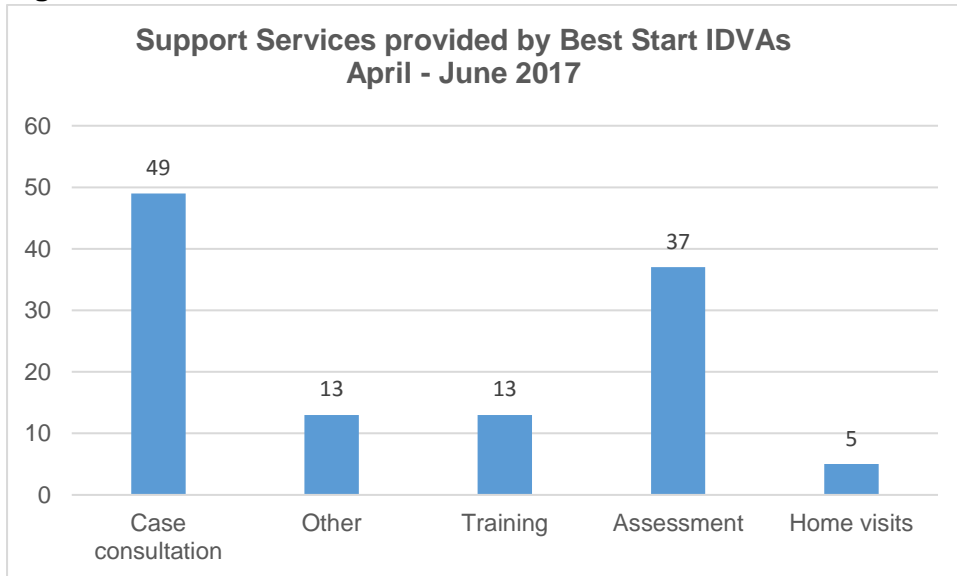
Month	Total No. Merlins
May	153
June	178

Source: Merlin weekly emails

### Best Start IDVAs

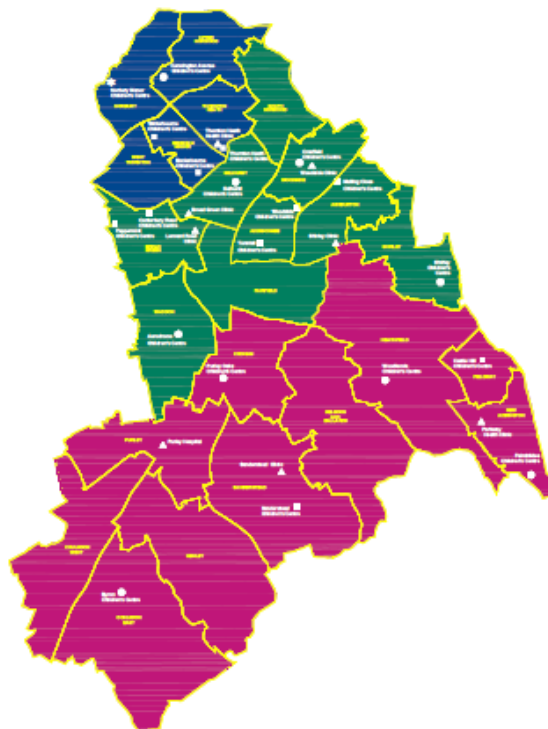
Figure 2 demonstrates that the three Best Start IDVAs' work centres around completing assessments and case consultations; supporting professionals within the community to create an holistic approach in supporting individuals and families.

**Figure 2**



Source: Best Start IDVAs' trackers

**A map showing the three Best Start planning areas**  
(PA1 is blue, PA2 is green & PA3 is pink)



All community aspects of the service have been greatly supported by the Communications team, through press releases, social media, bulletins and posters.

### **MASH based IDVA**

We piloted placing an IDVA in our MASH team over a three month period. The strength of this approach has been acknowledged and as such we have had an uplift in our establishment, to facilitate this post permanently.

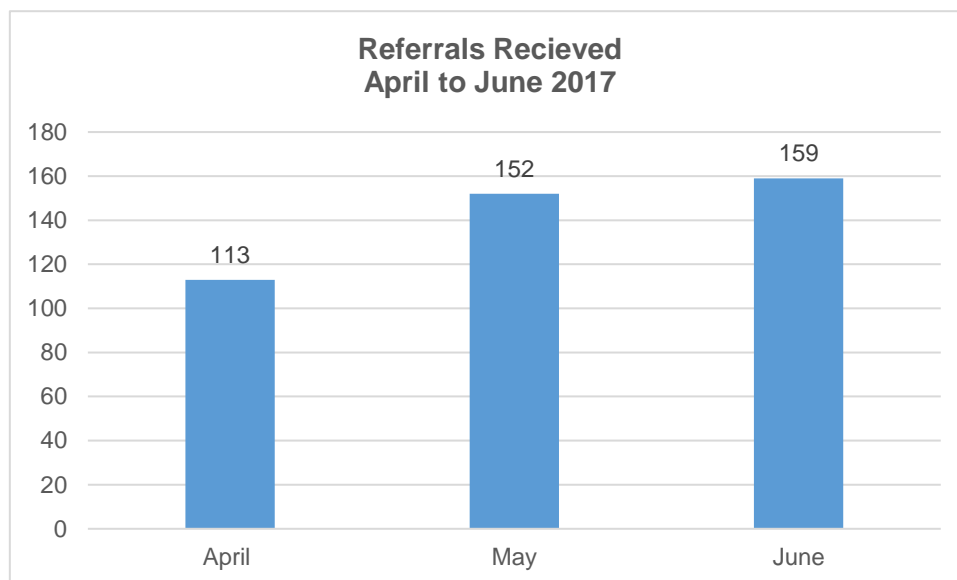
## Family Justice Centre (FJC) Data

During April, May and June there were 745 visitors to the FJC. The FJC opened four days a week in April and May and only three days a week in June due to staffing. Based on these opening hours, the FJC has seen on average 16 people a day. This is an increase on last year's average of 12 visitors to the FJC a day.

124 contacts were made with individuals during the first three months of 2017/18 financial year that did not result in an assessment. This means that a conversation took place with a client and potentially other professionals to establish the client's situation and the best form of support, and it was established that other support could be provided to the client outside of the FJC.

424 referrals were made to the FJC during the first quarter of the financial year, as seen in Figure 3 the number of referrals received increased throughout the quarter.

**Figure 3**



Source: EHM Report

27 of those referred to the FJC during the first quarter had no recourse to public funds. Through working with Bromley and Croydon's women's Aid an NRPF IDVA will be based at the FJC for 12 months from August 2017 to work directly with these clients.

Of the 424 referrals, 79% were from agencies directly referring or signposting. The remaining 21% self-referred meaning they found the service online or via physical advertising and presented themselves to the FJC on their own accord.

Some of the self-referrals can be attributed to the work that the Communications team has undertaken, promoting the service across the borough.

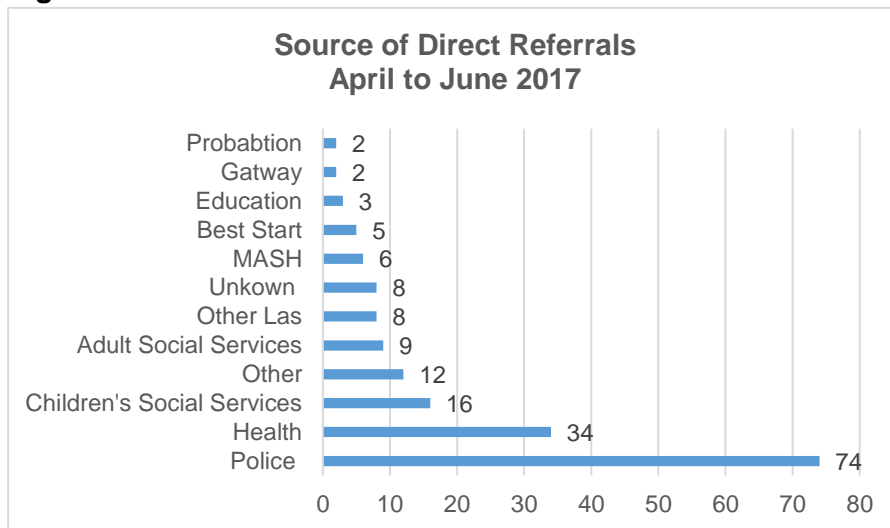
**Table 2**

Type of Referral	Total
direct referrals	179
Signposting	157
Self-referral	88

Source: EHM report

The 179 direct referrals to the FJC (made by another organisation or agency) have been broken down by referral agency in figure 4 with the police referring the most during the first quarter. In the coming quarters it can be anticipated that the number of direct referrals from Health and Education will increase, with targets to ensure 100% of GP practices and Schools identify DASV leads, supported by a marketing campaign focusing on pharmacies and GPs. This includes the communications team designing a poster in the top five most spoken languages in Croydon.

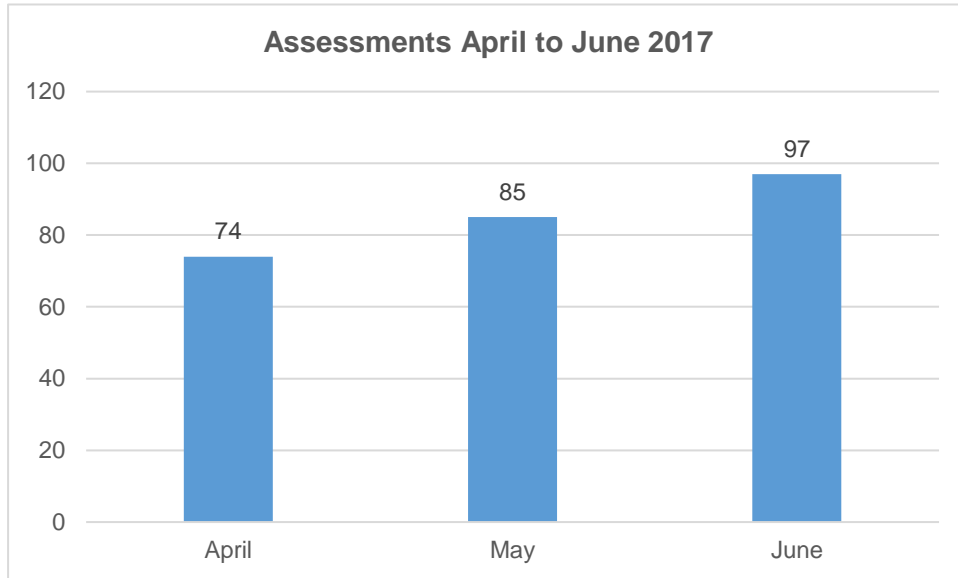
**Figure 4**



Source: EHM report

From the 424 referrals, 256 resulted in assessments being completed by IDVAs at the FJC and community based advisors in the first quarter of 2017-2018, with a 12% increase in assessments each month, as seen in figure 5. 212 of these were new clients, with 43 (17%) having been assessed by the FJC previously.

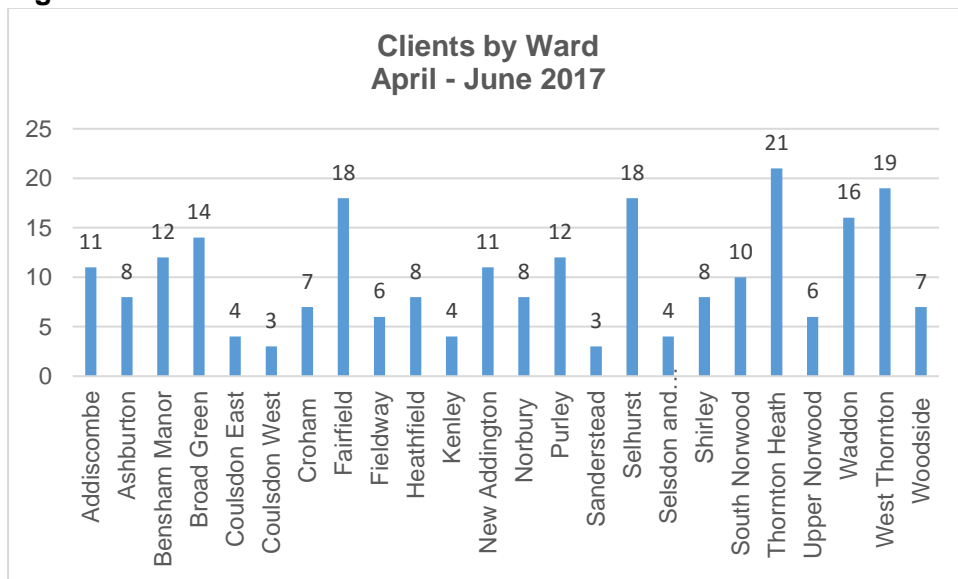
**Figure 5**



Source: EHM report

Figure 6 shows the breakdown of clients assessed in April to June 2017 by ward, with Thornton Heath and West Thornton, in the north of the borough, have the highest number of clients, whilst Sanderstead and Coulsdon West in the South of the borough had the least number. This reflects a trend of the last two years, in that more domestic violence incidents are reported in the north of the borough compared to the south.

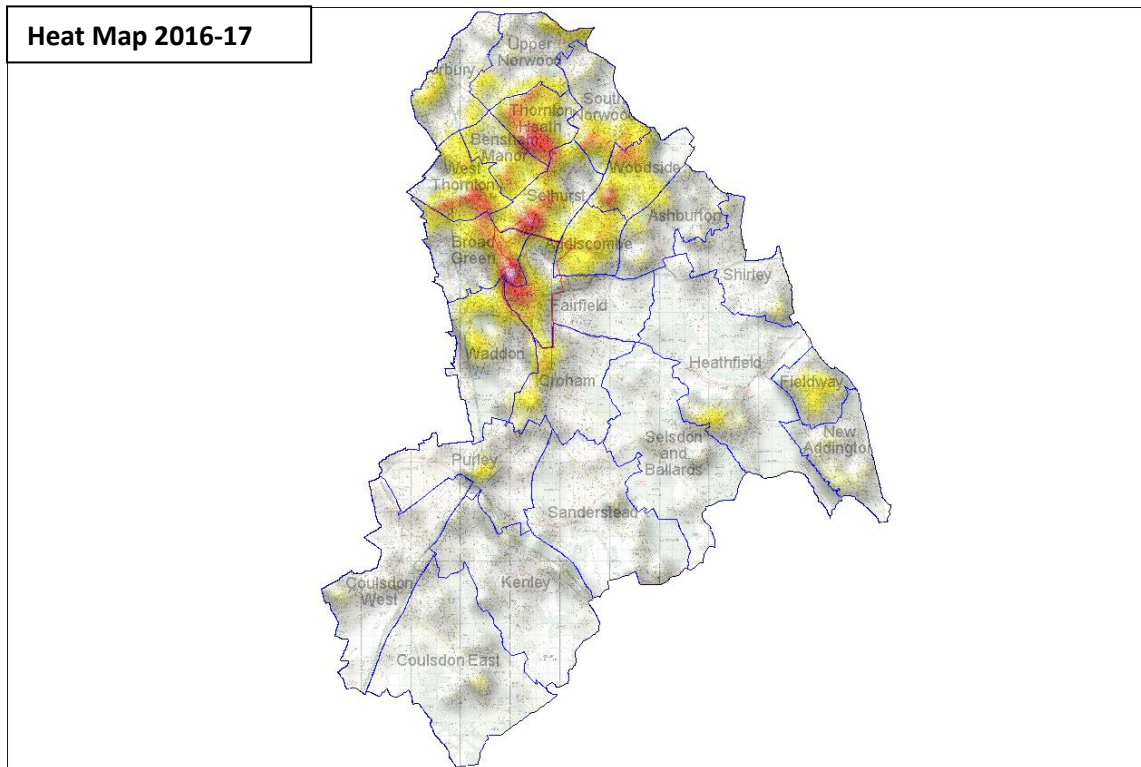
**Figure 6**



Source: EHM extract

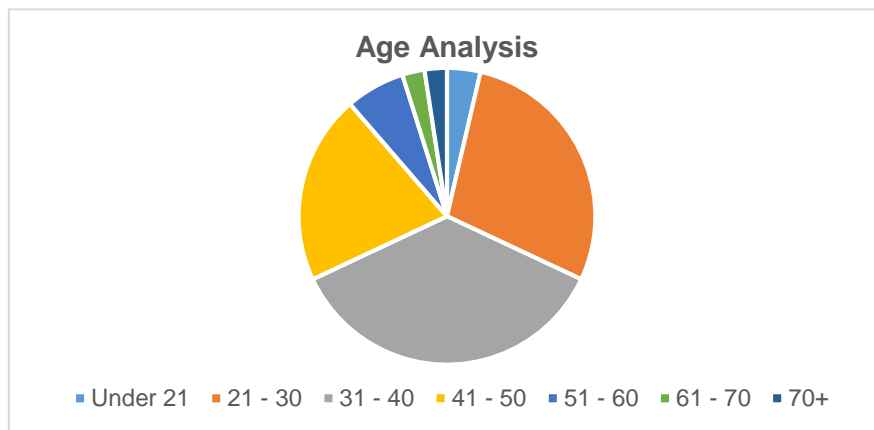
Figure 6 is representative of the following heat map, which shows the location of violent incidents and other non-violent allegations of domestic violence that have occurred across the borough.

## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: April to June 2017 (Quarter 1)



The following four figures (7, 8, 9 & 10) analyse the demographics of the 256 assessed clients in April to June 2017. As seen in Figure 7, the majority of victims are aged between 21-30 and 31-40. This follows trends over the last few years.

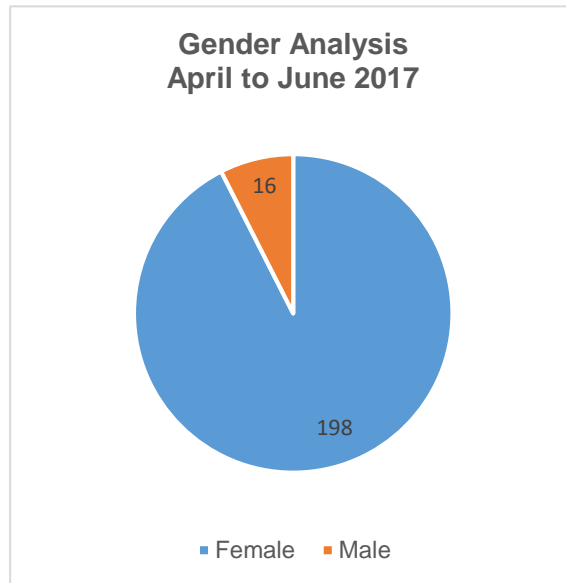
**Figure 7**



Source: EHM Extract

Figure 8 shows that 93% of clients who accessed the FJC within the first quarter of the year were female. Whilst the FJC will support male and female victims, figure 8 clearly highlights the gendered nature of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

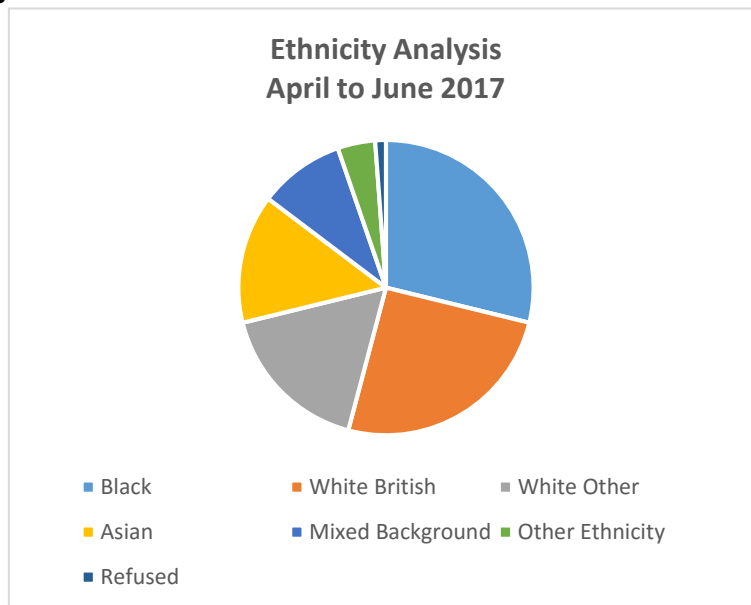
**Figure 8**



Source: EHM extract

Figure 9 shows the breakdown of clients by ethnicity.

**Figure 9**



Source: EHM extract

Table 3 shows that the 92% of clients seen by the FJC quarter 1 were heterosexual, meaning that the LGBT community is hugely under represented. The DASV strategy for Croydon 2018-2021 identifies the need to work more closely with the LGBT community and will hopefully be achieved through the service remodelling.



**Table 3**

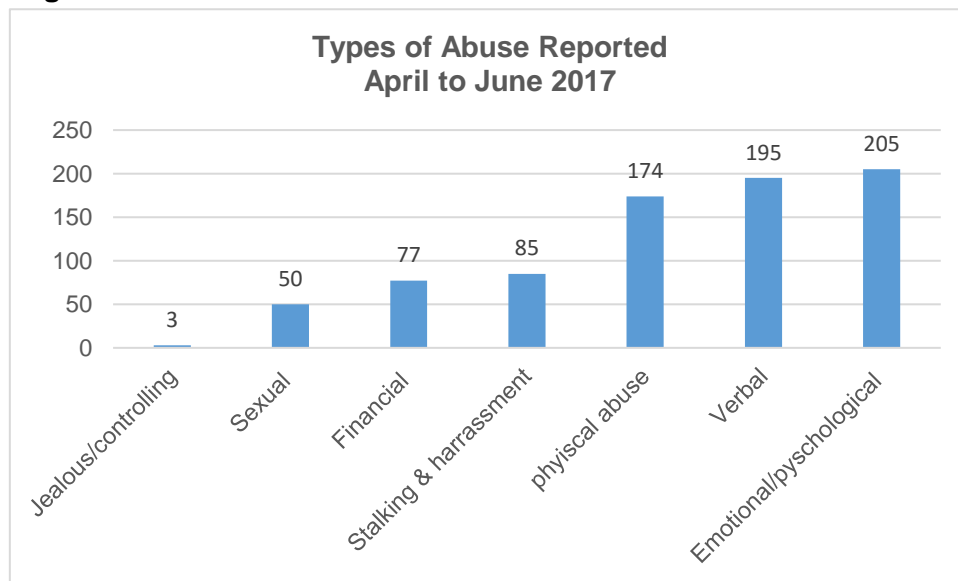
Sexual Orientation	Total
Heterosexual	237
Bisexual	3
Homosexual	3

Source: EHM Extract

Additionally, 2 clients described themselves as disabled whilst 6% identified that they abused substances or alcohol.

The following graph demonstrates the different types of abuse that have been reported by clients during the first three months of this financial year, with emotional and psychological abuse being the most common. From this graph, on average each victim has experienced at least three different types of abuse. This is common for domestic abuse cases as abusers behave in ways that include more than one type of domestic violence and the boundaries between some of these behaviours are often blurred. The figure will be lower than the real abuse levels due to such data being based on self-reporting.

**Figure 11**



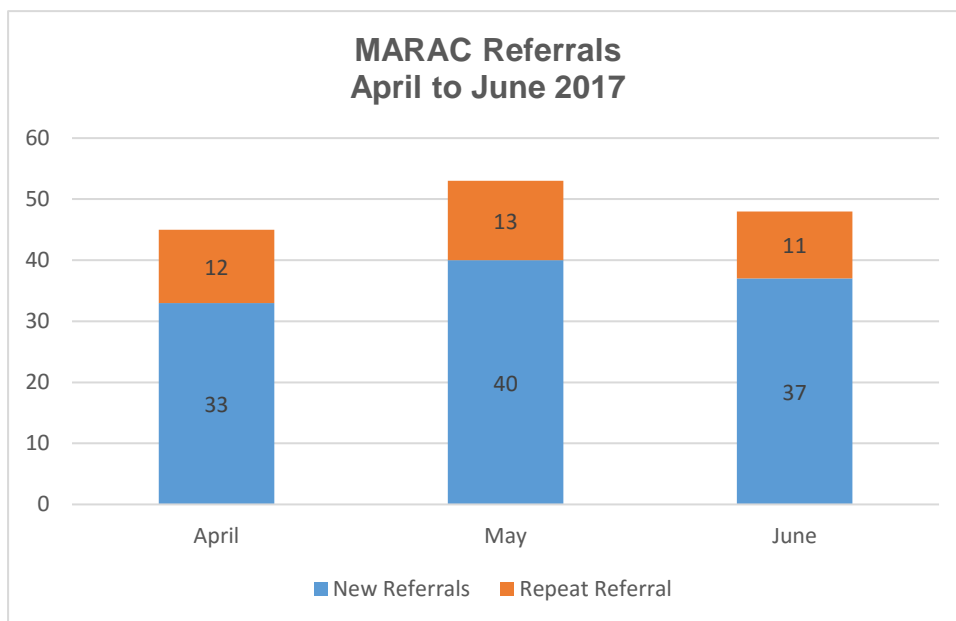
Source: EHM Extract

## Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

Upon completion of the Safer Lives DASH Risk Identification Checklist (RIC), cases are deemed high risk if scoring 14 and above or if due to professional judgement risk factors presented are considerable regardless of the score, this could include a high number of police call outs. These cases are referred to the Croydon MARAC which is held fortnightly. They are then allocated to an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) to work with the victim to reduce or eliminate the risk of abuse.

During the first three months of 2017/18 there were 146 referrals to MARAC. As seen in Figure 12 25% of these were repeat referrals. For the same period in 2016, only 16% were repeat referrals.

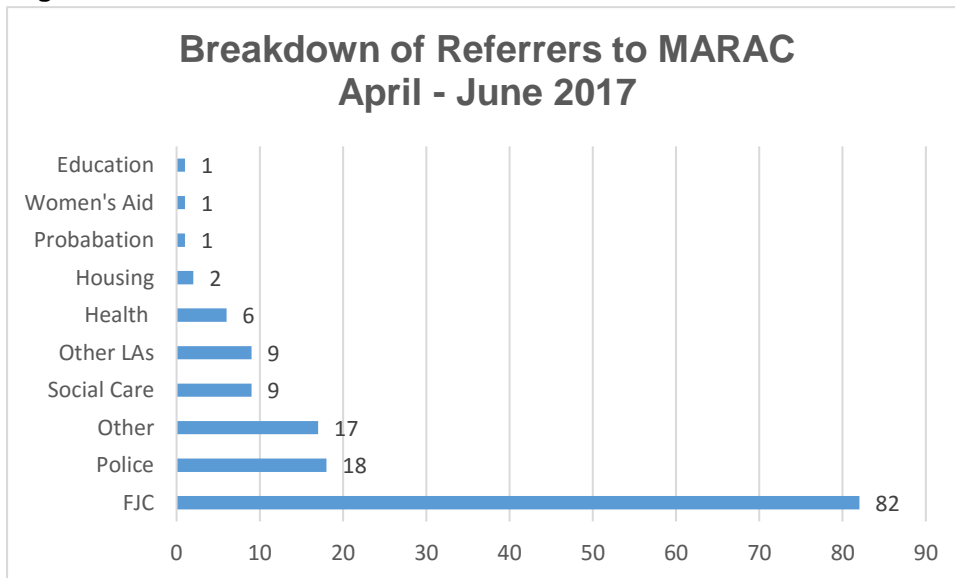
Figure 12



Source: MARAC tracker

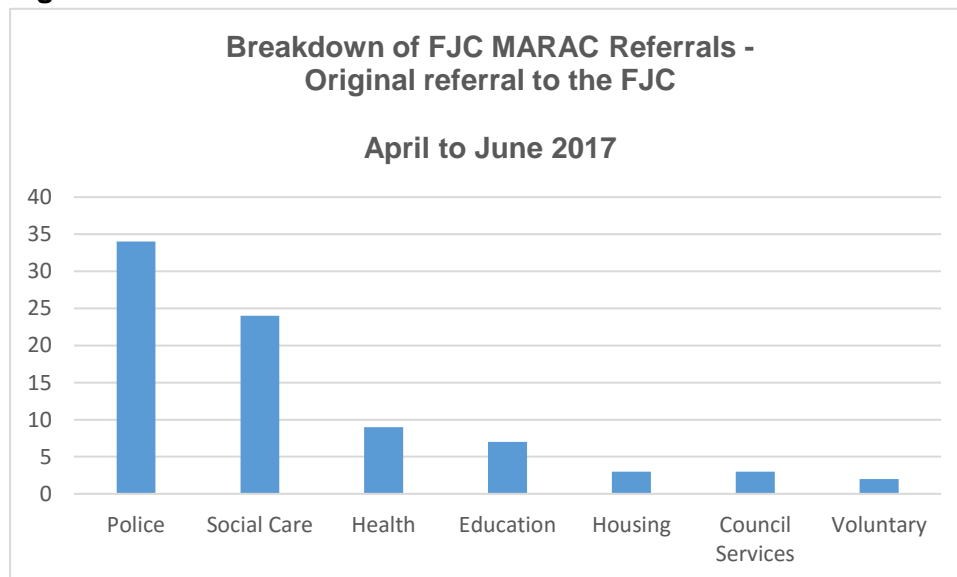
Figure 12 shows the breakdown of referrers to the MARAC during April to June 2017. As expected the majority of referrals are from the FJC. However, these would not have all been self-referrals originally. Many of these would have been referred to the FJC from other agencies originally. Following an assessment completed by the FJC, they have been referred to MARAC. This subset of data is shown in Figure 13.

**Figure 13**



Source: MARAC tracker

**Figure 14**



Source: MARAC Tracker

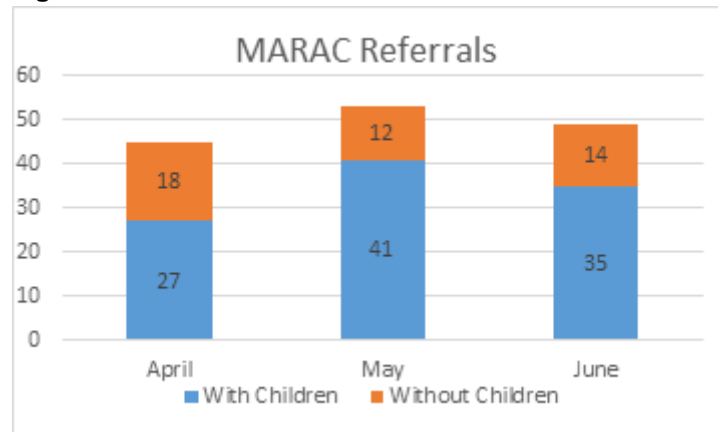
**MARAC Referrals with Children**

69.3% of MARAC referrals received in first three months of 2017/18 have children. This is slightly higher than the same period last year, in which 65% of referrals received had children.

**Table 3**

Month	Referrals with Children
April	60.0%
May	77.0%
June	71.0%

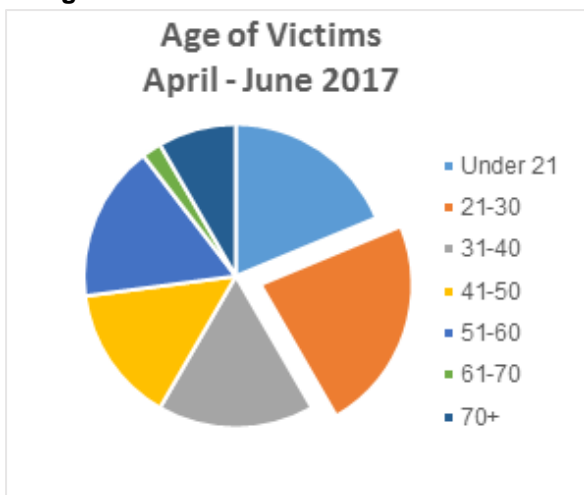
**Figure 15**



Source: MARAC tracker

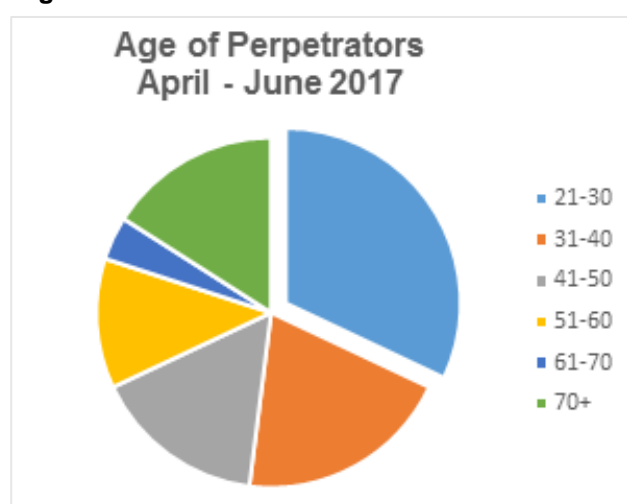
The biggest proportion of victims and perpetrators referred to MARAC are within the 21-30 and 31 – 40 age categories.

**Figure 16**



Source: MARAC tracker

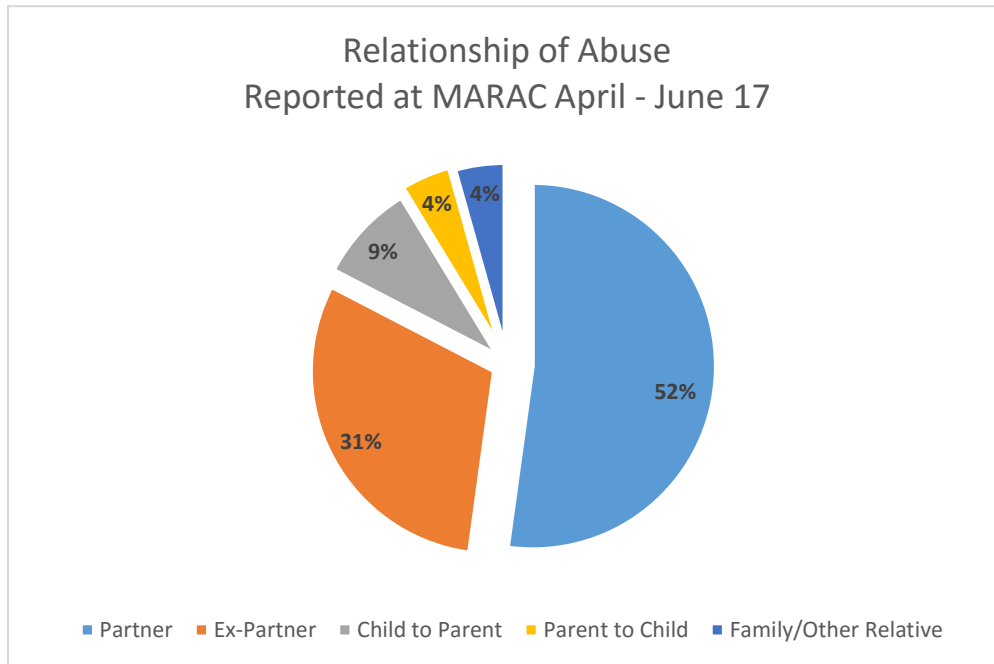
**Figure 17**



Source: MARAC tracker

The reason for 83% of MARAC referrals between April and June 2017 was due to partner or ex-partner abuse. The remaining referrals were due to familial abuse.

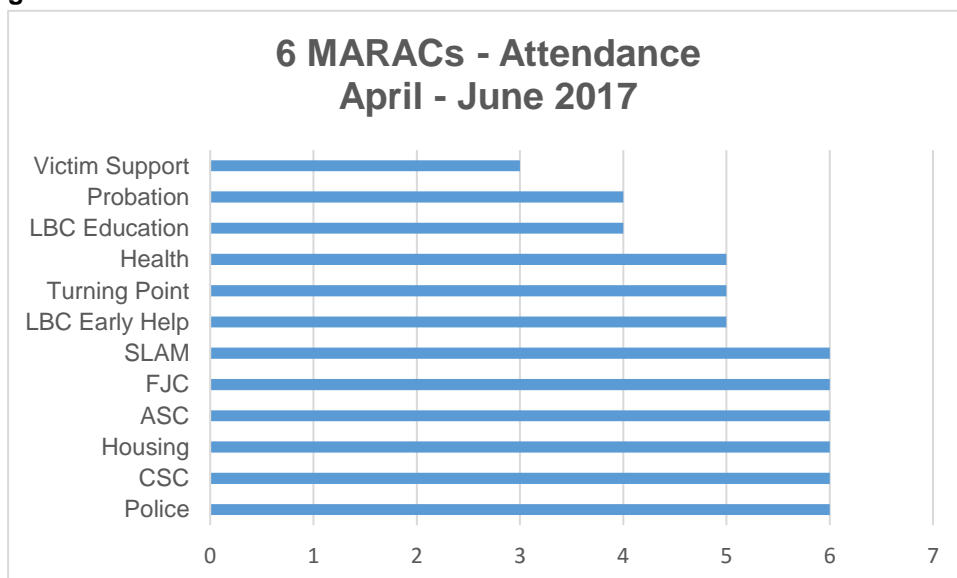
**Figure 18**



Source: MARAC tracker

There are a variety of agencies that are represented at the MARAC, including our partners and other specialist agencies from the voluntary and community sector. MARAC is held fortnightly and a total of 6 meetings were held over the last quarter.

**Figure 19**



Source: MARAC tracker

## **Supporting the Partnership**

A partnership forum was held at the start of the quarter, 20<sup>th</sup> April, and was attended by 33 individuals from a range of organisations including representatives from schools, health and the police. The forum focused on harmful practices including FGM and modern slavery.

215 delegates have been trained during the first quarter. This includes delegates from Gateway, Job Centre Plus and various Schools within the borough.

Moving forward, the Partnership Forum is being held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, with guest speakers focusing on the impacts of domestic abuse on children. The DASV Committee are meeting in July to approve the new Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy for 2017-2020.

199 delegates across the community, including those working in local schools and at the Job Centre have been trained across 9 training sessions delivered by the Best Start Domestic Abuse Advisors. Additionally, three DASV training courses have been delivered through the Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board.