

## **Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report**

### **July – September 2017**

Croydon's services are delivered through a hub and spoke model, with the FJC as the central hub, offering 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.

During Q2 various posts within the DASV team have been successfully recruited to, this includes 3 IDVAs, an Information Monitoring and Data Support Officer, a new Senior Practitioner and the new role of Volunteer Coordinator.

#### **Best Start IDVAs**

As part of their role, each Best Start IDVA completed on average 7 case consultations a week; supporting professionals within the community to create an holistic approach in supporting individuals and families.

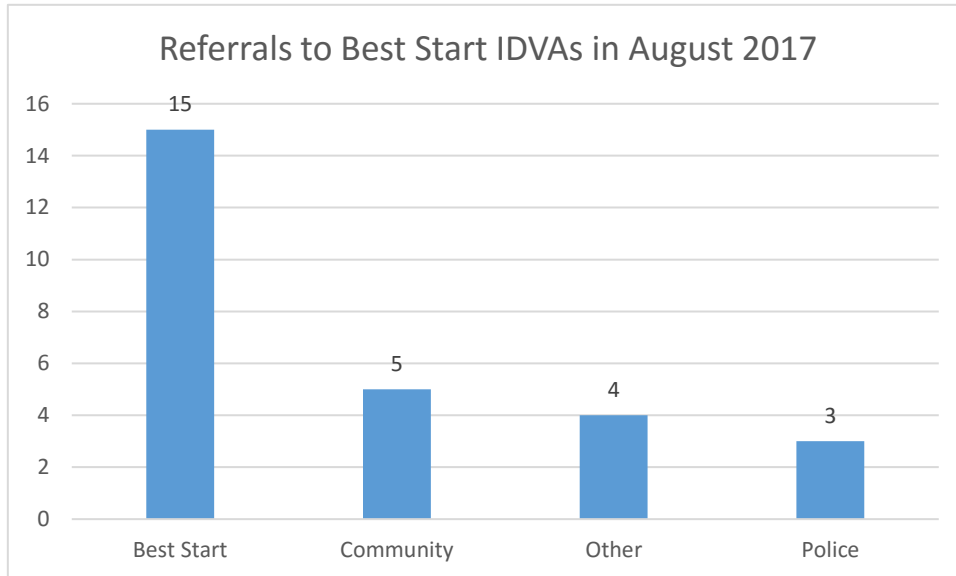
The Best Start IDVAs referred 21 of their cases to MARAC during July, August and September. In the month of August 8 cases were referred to Social Care by the three Best Start IDVAs.

#### ***Impact example of Best Start IDVAs – planning area 1:***

“After a case discussion with the Best Start worker who had triaged a client, I asked her to refer to me as there were concerns around the level of control her partner had. I met with the client at a children's centre along with her 3 month old baby, completed an assessment and worked alongside the Best Start case worker. We worked on a safety plan and prepared her for fleeing. She is an EU national that had not worked here long enough to claim benefits and so I referred her to BCWA who advocated to Children's social care, who were able to provide accommodation for her and her baby to be safe away from the perpetrator.”

Figure 1 shows the source of referrals made directly to the Best Start IDVAs for the month of August, demonstrating how closely the IDVAs work with the Best Start team and wider community. 'Other' includes that of health, Education and the FJC.

Figure 1



Source: New IDVA (Community) Tracker

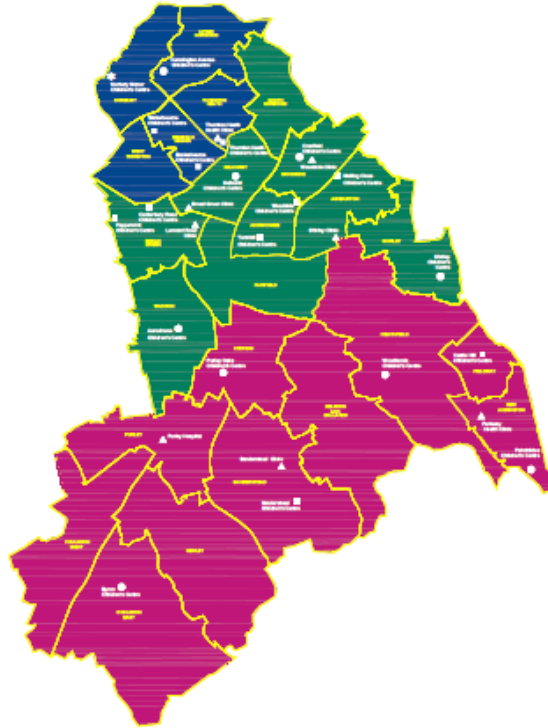
**Impact example of Best Start IDVAs – planning area 2:**

“I supported a young woman who had been in an abusive relationship with her partner for 7 years, she was a high risk victim but kept engaging with the perpetrator after the relationship had finished because of child contact. The perpetrator was stalking the client around her property and in the local area, he would turn up at her house and kick her door demanding to see her, he was accessing her social media and pretending to be her, he was physically abusive and also made threats to kill her.

I assisted the client with safety planning, obtaining a non-molestation order and sanctuary measures, she was accepted for a management transfer and she has now moved to a new location. She said that she feels like she has a new lease of life and she could not of got out of the situation without the help of the FJC. She said the children’s behaviour has improved and she is looking forward to not having to look over her shoulder or worry about the perpetrator waiting outside of her home anymore.”

**A map showing the three Best Start planning areas**

(PA1 is blue, PA2 is green & PA3 is pink)



***Impact example of Best Start IDVAs – planning area 3:***

“I am currently working with a client who had just given birth to a baby and when she came to meet me after being referred by the police IDVA. I was very concerned about her demeaning appearance as the client was extremely exhausted and also showing signs that her mental health was unstable.

During the assessment it was clear that the client had suffered physical abuse and was also being coercively controlled by her husband. During the assessment she was minimising the physical abuse and did not identify his controlling behaviour with domestic abuse.

Following feedback from the client I believe that I have impacted her by firstly bringing awareness to her about what domestic abuse is and how it impacts not just the victim but their children to allow her to make positive changes. This has empowered my client to separate from her abusive husband and to accept additional support by being referred for counselling and The Freedom Programme.

As a result of my client making positive changes she has been offered a new career opportunity. She stated that she would have never considered going to work as her abusive husband had always demeaned her and told her that she could not succeed at doing anything.”

## Police Based IDVA

The police based IDVA received 112 referrals for July to September, as seen in Table 1. Following this the IDVA completed 76 assessments, 17 of which were referred to MARAC. In addition, the police based IDVA completed on average 9 case consultations with other professionals a week.

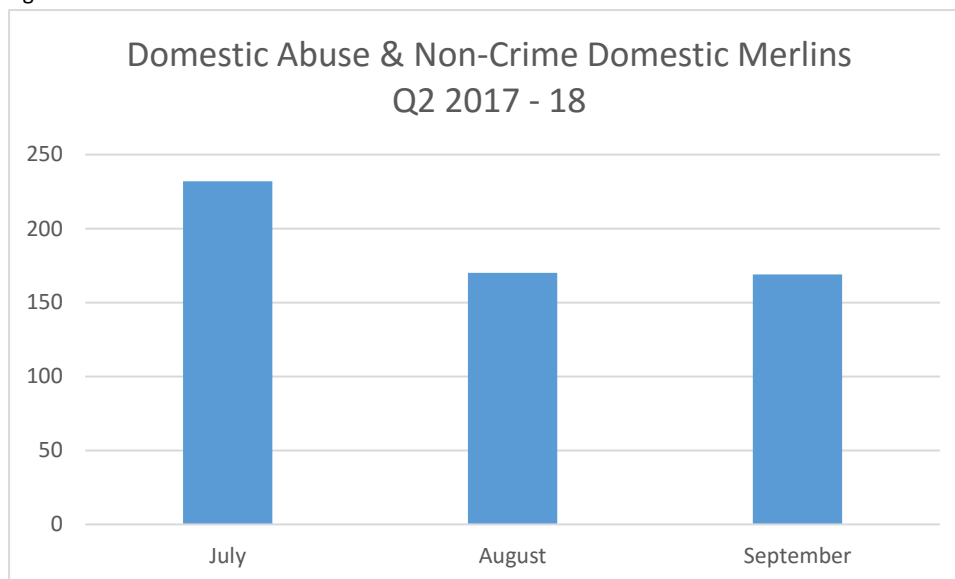
Table 1

Month	Total
July	42
August	38
September	32

Source: Early Help Module

Within the borough of Croydon, 571 domestic abuse and non-crime domestic Merlins were generated during July, August and September, as seen in figure 2.

Figure 2



Source: Sgt. Debbie Narrowway's weekly emails

The police IDVA, along with the Operations Manager, will be piloting the use of the DA car and working night shifts with Croydon's Community Safety Unit in October, with the potential for this to be continued throughout quarter 3.

### ***Impact example of police based IDVA:***

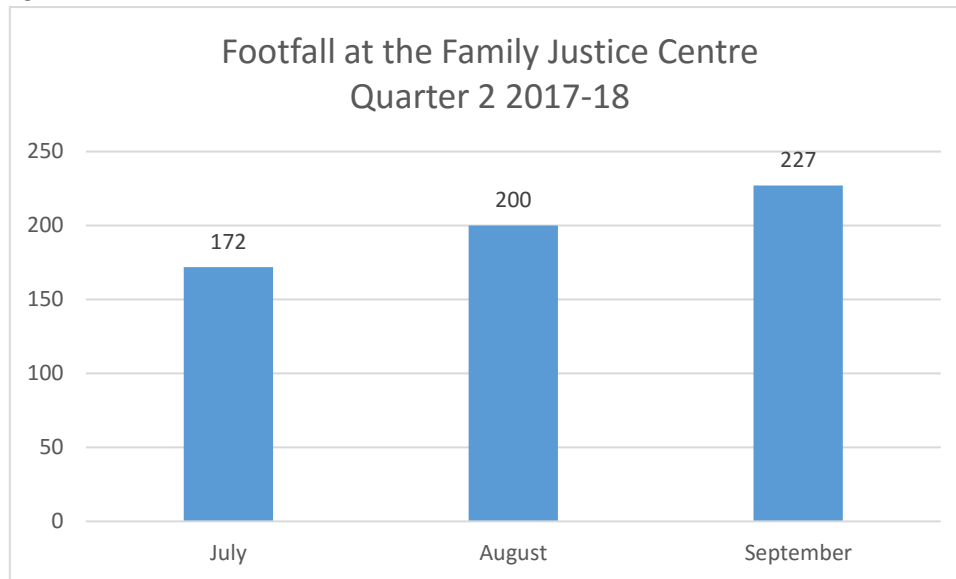
The IDVA supported a client over the summer with the court process and her immigration status. The perpetrator was found guilty on 2 accounts of assault and the client was granted Indefinite Leave to Remain.

The client is now in a new job, living in a new property and living free of abuse.

## Family Justice Centre (FJC) Data

During July, August and September there were 599 visitors to the FJC. The FJC was open three days a week during this quarter, meaning an average of 17 visitors to the Centre a day. This is a decrease on the first quarter of the year in which there were 745 visitors to the FJC. However, it is typical for the FJC to have a quieter period during the holidays with a spike in visitors after, this is apparent in figure 3 in which the number of referrals increases in the month of September.

Figure 3



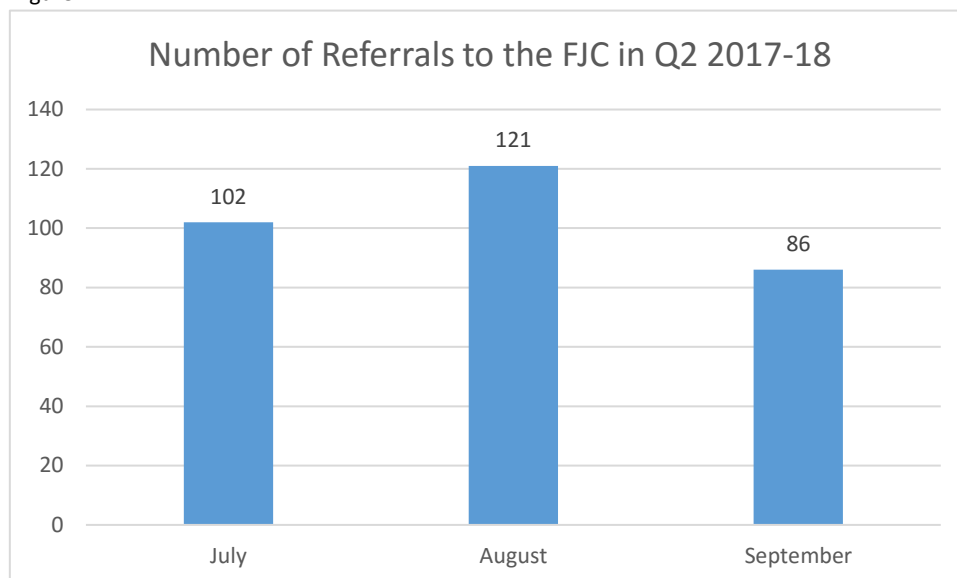
Source: FJC Footfall Tracker

72 contacts were made with individuals during July, August and September 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 decided that other support could be provided to the client, outside of the FJC, and so a full assessment was not carried out.

309 referrals were made to the Family Justice Centre during the second quarter 2017-18, as seen in Figure 4. 13% of all referrals made were for repeat clients.

## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September 2017 (Q2)

Figure 4



Source: Early Help Module

14 of those referred to the FJC during the second quarter had no recourse to public funds. In August of this year, an NRPF IDVA, through Bromley and Croydon's Women's Aid joined the team to work directly with this particular cohort of clients. Due to the success of this role, a second IDVA from Bromley and Croydon's Women's Aid will be joining the team in October to focus on EU clients.

Of the 309 referrals, 74% were from agencies directly referring or signposting clients. The remaining 26% self-referred, meaning they found the service online or via physical advertising and presented themselves to the FJC on their own accord. The breakdown of referrals is demonstrated in Table 2.

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

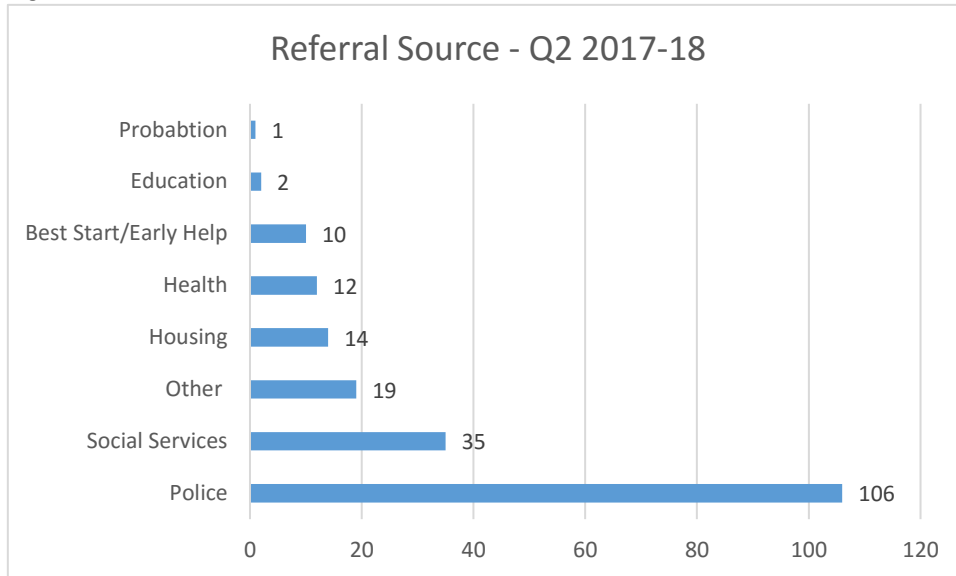
Type of Referral	Total
Direct referral	156
Self-Referral	78
Signposting	95

Source: Early Help Module

Those directly referred or signposted have been broken down by referral agency in Figure 5, with the police referring the most during the second quarter. It is anticipated that the number of referrals from Health and Education will increase towards the end of the financial year, due to training being delivered to pharmacies, DASV School leads and all GPs in Q3.

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September 2017 (Q2)

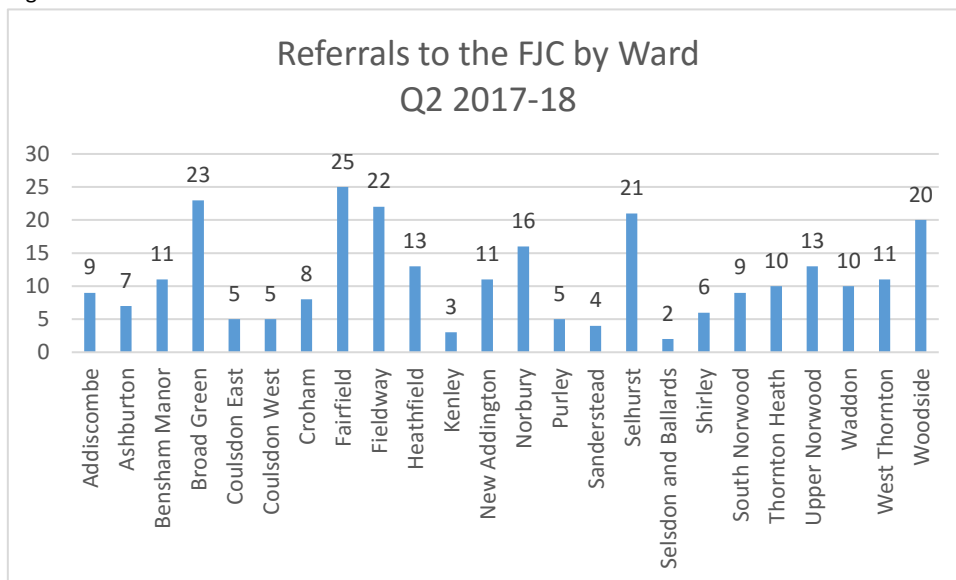
Figure 5



Source: Early Help Module

The following graph (Figure 6) shows the distribution of all referrals (those directly referred or signposted) by ward, with Fairfield and Broad Green having the highest number of referrals. A greater understanding of the prevalence and distribution of domestic abuse within Croydon will be established in Q3 due to a large data project being completed in which a range of different services will be recording all domestic abuse reported for the month of October.

Figure 6

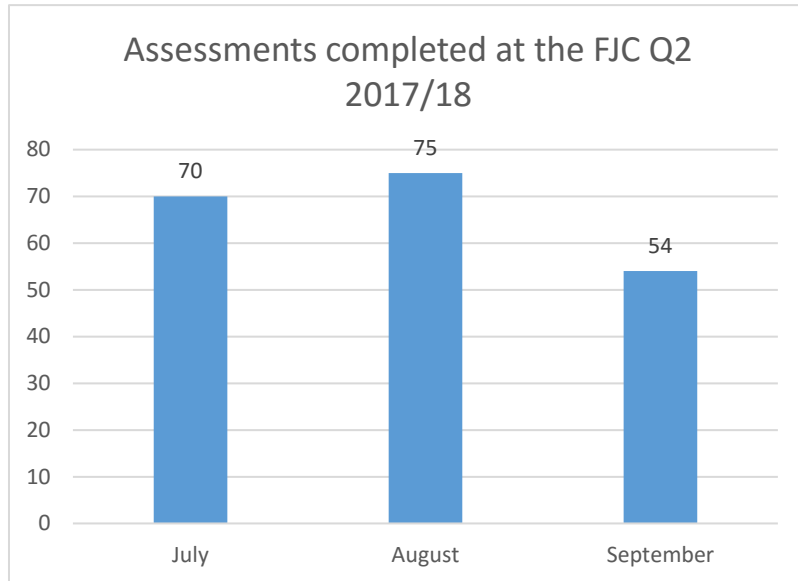


Source: Early Help Module

Of the 309 referrals, 199 Assessments were completed at the FJC during the second quarter of the year 2017-18, as seen in Figure 7. This is significantly less than the previous quarter in which 256 individuals were assessed at the FJC. This follows a trend over previous years in that holiday periods are quieter.

## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September 2017 (Q2)

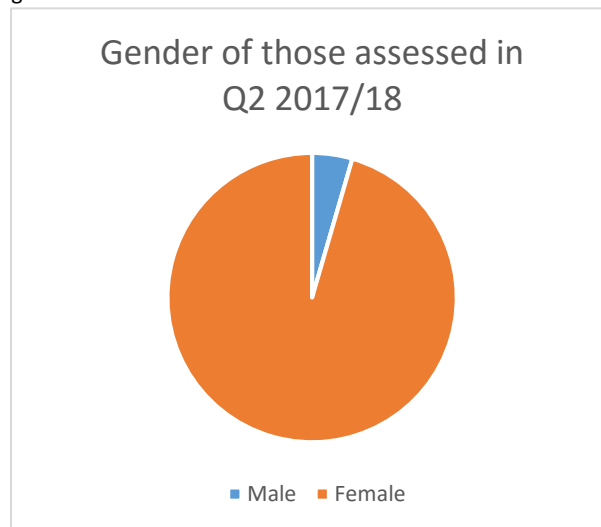
Figure 7



Source: Early Help Module

95% of those assessed in quarter 2 were female, this is consistent with the previous quarter. The following graph highlights the gendered nature of reported domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Figure 8

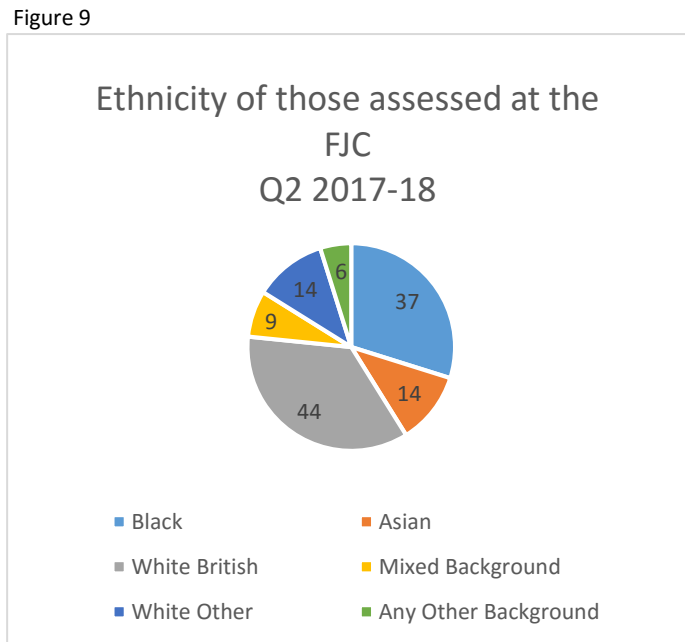


Source: Early Help Module



Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September 2017 (Q2)

The following graph (figure 9) breaks down the ethnicity of those assessed at the FJC during quarter 2 of the year 2017-18.



Source: Early Help Module

The table below shows that 99% of clients assessed by the FJC in the last quarter were heterosexual, meaning that the LGBT community is highly 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.

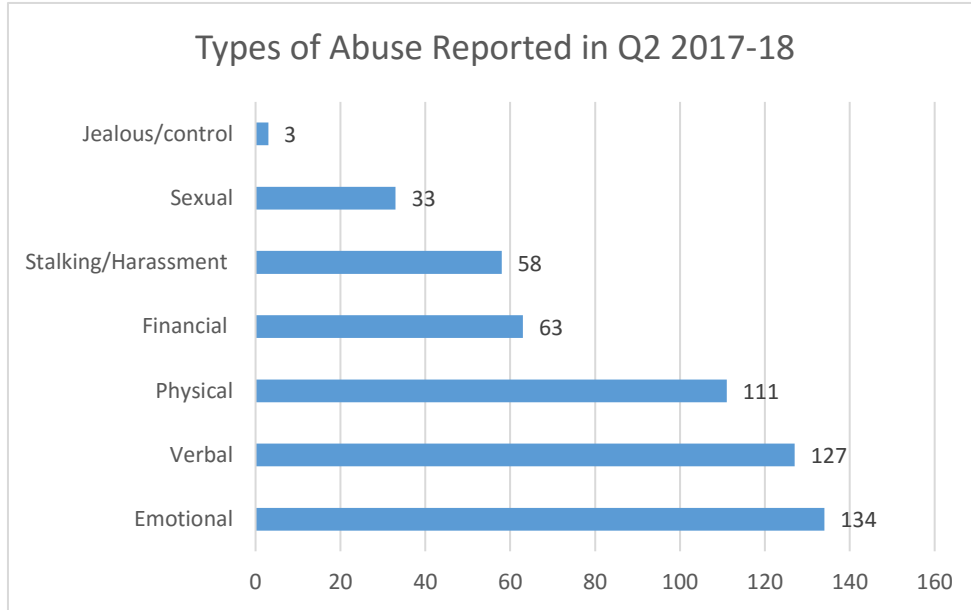
Table 3

Sexual Orientation	Total
Heterosexual	189
Homosexual	2

Source: Early Help Module

The following graph (figure 9) demonstrates the different types of abuse that have been reported by clients, as part of the assessments conducted in Q2, with emotional and verbal abuse being the most common. 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 abuse, as well as the boundaries between some of these behaviours are often blurred. The statistics will be lower than the real abuse levels due to such data being based on self-reporting.

Figure 9



Source: Early Help Module

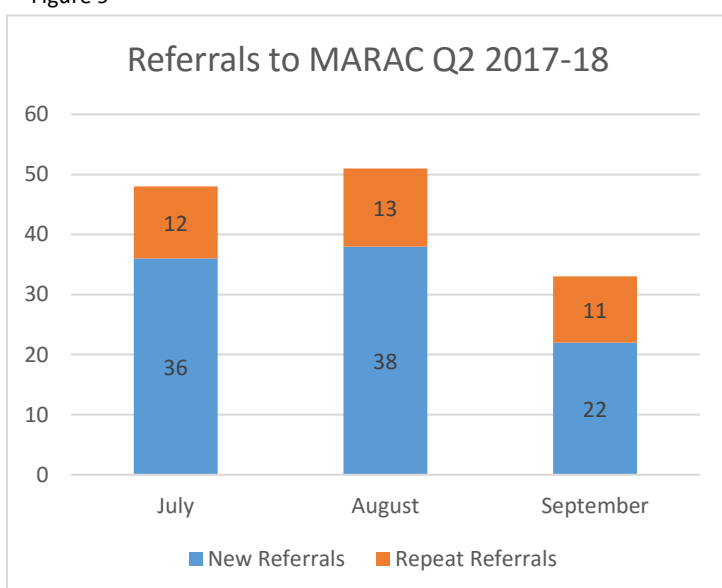
16 of those assessed during July, August and September self-reported that they abuse alcohol and or other substances, this is consistent with the previous quarter. Again, caution with such statistics as this information relies on self-reporting.

## 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 includes 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.

For Q2, 132 referrals were received and heard at Croydon’s MARAC. This is a 10% decrease in referrals compared to Q1 this year, in which 142 referrals were received. 27% of cases referred, were repeat clients who have been heard previously at MARAC, as seen in Figure 9.

Figure 9



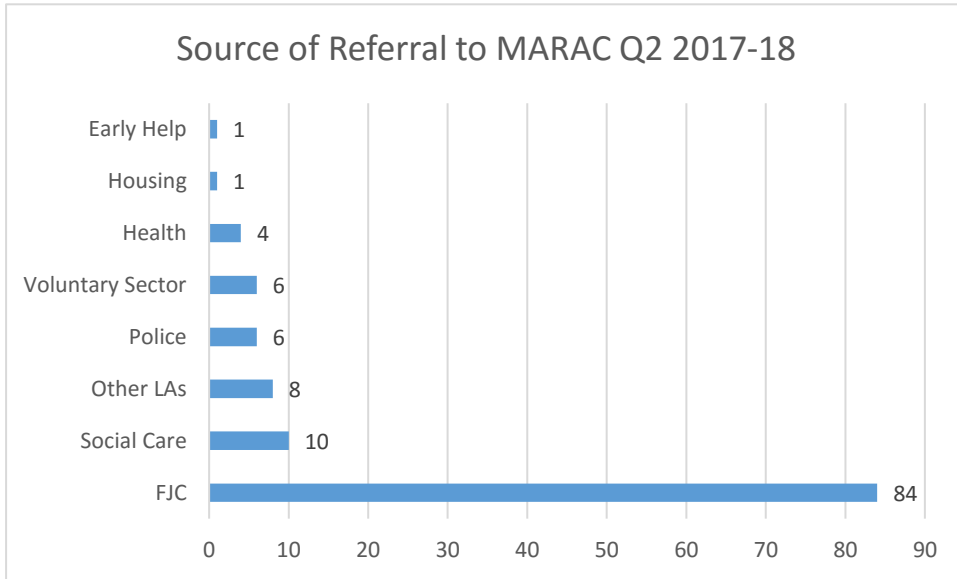
Source: MARAC Tracker

Table 4

Month	Total MARAC Referrals
July	48
August	51
September	33

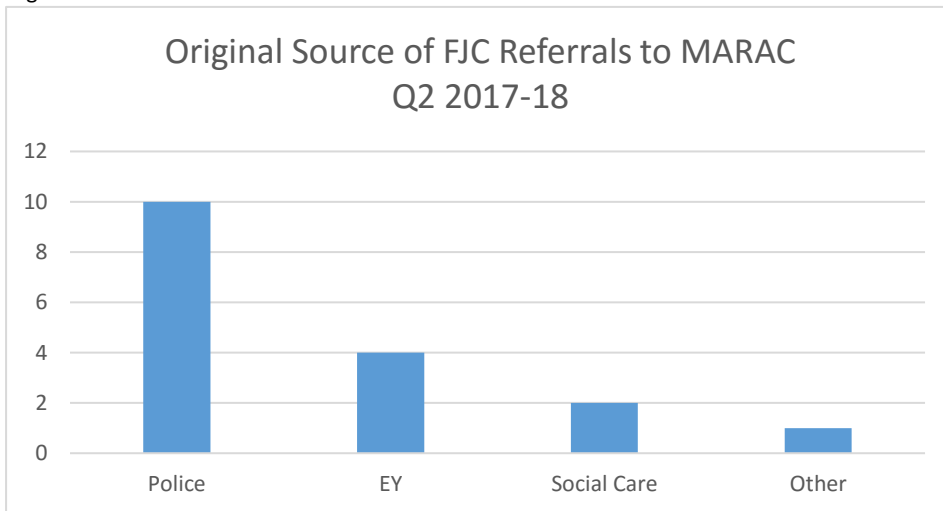
As expected, Figure 10 shows 64% of referrals to MARAC in July, August and September were received from the Family Justice Centre itself. However, these would not have all been self-referrals originally. Many of these would have been referred to the FJC from other agencies originally. Following an assessment completed by the FJC, they have then been referred to MARAC. This subset of data is shown in Figure 11.

Figure 10



Source: MARAC Tracker

Figure 11

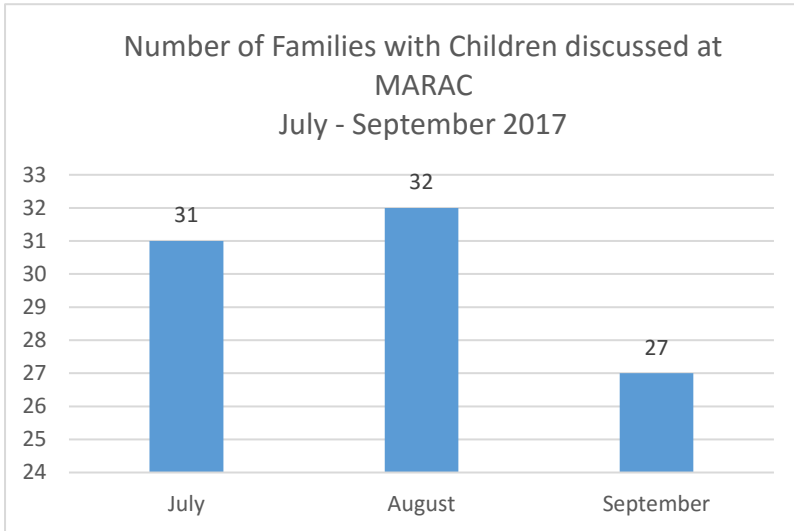


Source: MARAC Tracker and Early Help Module

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September 2017 (Q2)

65% of MARAC referrals received in July, August and September 2017 have children. This is slightly lower than the previous quarter, in which 69.3% of referrals received had children.

Figure 12



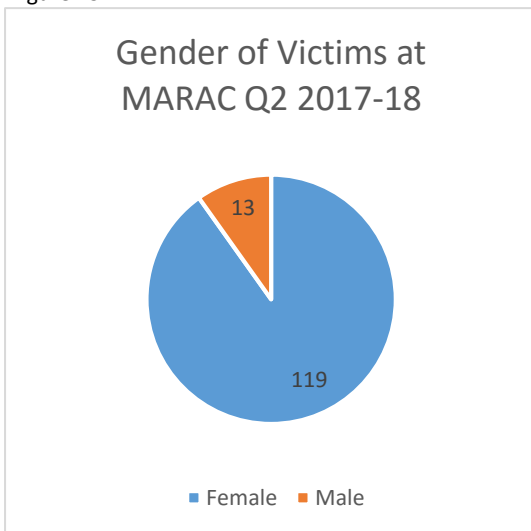
Source: MARAC Tracker

Table 5

Month	% of referrals to MARAC with children
July	22%
August	23%
September	20%

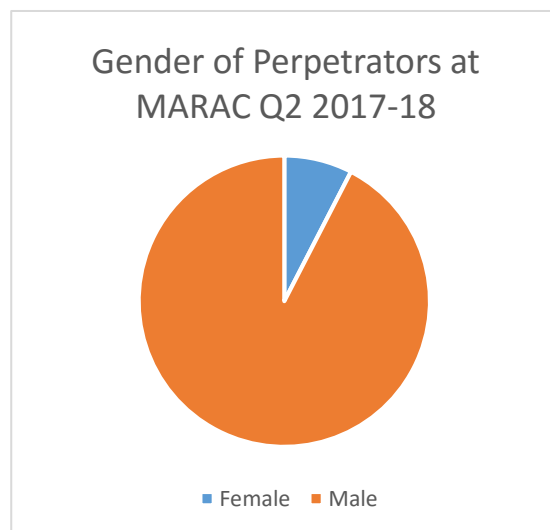
90% of victims heard at MARAC are female, whilst only 1% of perpetrators are female, as seen in Figures 13 & 14. This reflects the gender trends observed earlier in the report with regards to FJC assessments.

Figure 13



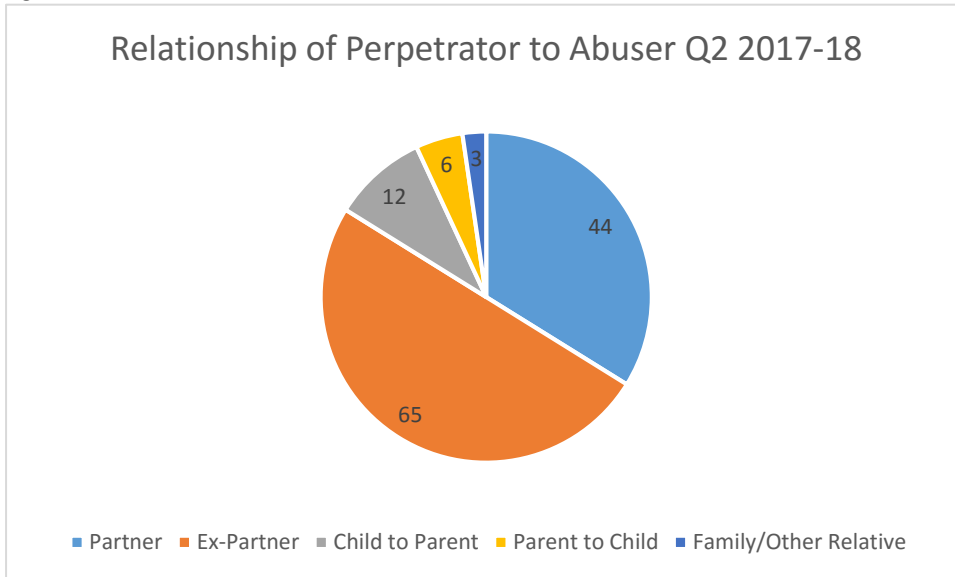
Source: MARAC Tracker

Figure 14



84% of MARAC referrals for July, August and September 2017 were due to partner or ex-partner abuse, with the remaining referrals being due to familial abuse. This percentage is the same as the previous quarter.

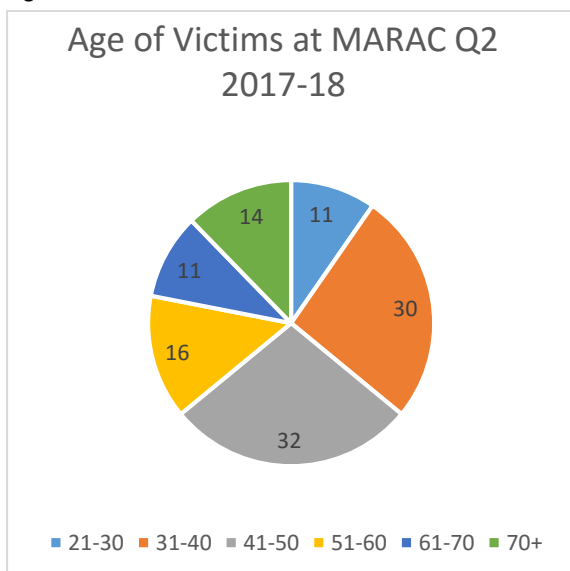
Figure 15



Source: MARAC Tracker

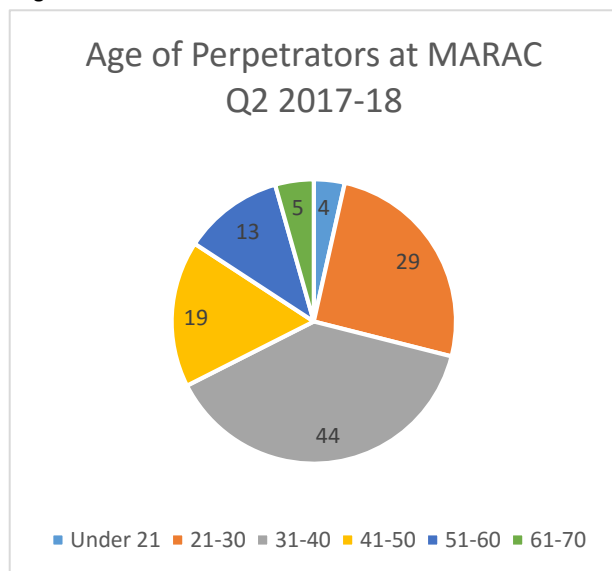
The largest age group in terms of victims and perpetrators is 31-40yrs, as seen in Figure 16. However, collectively, perpetrators are younger than victims. Compared to the previous quarter, the average age of victims and perpetrators at MARAC has increased, as the largest age group of victims and perpetrators was 21-30.

Figure 16



Source: MARAC Tracker

Figure 17

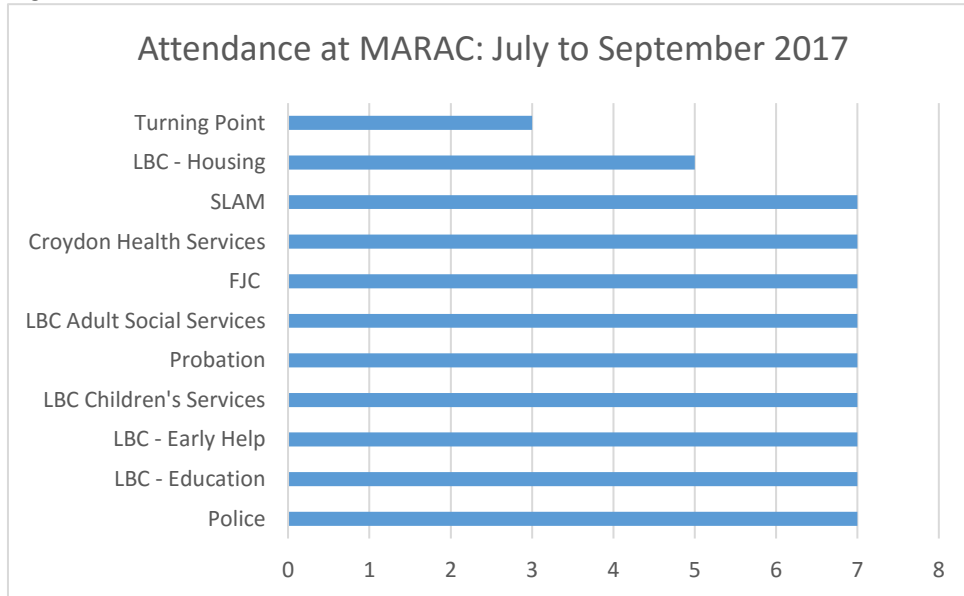


## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September 2017 (Q2)

42% of perpetrators reportedly abuse alcohol and or drugs. 22% of perpetrators reportedly experience mental health issues and/or have a disability. This is in comparison to 0.4% of victims self-reporting alcohol and or substance misuse and 30% experience mental health issues and/or having a disability. Caution should again be taken with these statistics, as such information is reported to the IDVAs by the victims, as opposed to by the perpetrators themselves.

7 MARACs took place during quarter 2. Figure 18 below demonstrated the range of agencies that regularly attend MARAC.

Figure 18:



Source: MARAC Tracker

## Supporting the Partnership

### Strategy 2018-2021

With the support of the DASV Committee, the 2018-2021 DASV Strategy has now been drafted. This sets out the priorities for the DASV service in Croydon for the next three years, focusing on the VAWG themes of prevention, service provision, partnership working and pursuing perpetrators. In November the strategy will be presented at the Safer Croydon Partnership Board then at Cabinet in December.

### CSCB Training

Training is delivered as part of the CSCB's Learning & Development programme on a monthly basis, with an average of 10 attendees per session, including from Education, Health and the Local Authority as well as from the community and voluntary sector.

96% of attendees rated the training 'excellent' or 'good' and all attendees felt they had a good understanding of domestic abuse following the training. The success of the training is reflected in that the team will also be delivering the same training for the Adults' Safeguarding Board in the remaining half of this financial year.

### DASV Partnership Forum

July's DASV Partnership Forum was attended by 44 professionals. The Forum focused on the impacts of domestic abuse on children, with speakers including from the NSPCC, from the Parenting and Relationships Hub, from Safer London and a Systemic Psychotherapist. The next Partnership Forum will be held in November in partnership with Croydon Voluntary Action and will focus on the 'trio of triggers'.

Examples of feedback from July's Forum:

'Very useful/informative – thank you'

'Really good session, great to hear services coming together to make a change'

'The sharing of information is always helpful for when we are supporting parents'

### Newsletter

Some people fed back at the forum that they found the DASV newsletter really helpful and would like this reintroduced. The DASV newsletter has been redesigned and will be issued on a bi-monthly basis, providing updates, useful information, including that of training opportunities. The first newsletter was sent in September to over 200 professionals within the borough of Croydon.

### DASV Leads in Schools & GP Practices

September has seen an increased focus in ensuring every GP practice and School within Croydon has a DASV lead. The DASV leads form a professional network of lead officers that as a service we can impart specialist knowledge to, including training offers and to form a cohesive pathway to share information about clients who we know are impacted by abuse.

51% of GP Practices have now identified a DASV Lead and 30% of schools have not yet identified a DASV lead. During the next quarter, training will be delivered to School Leads at twilight sessions and to GPs at the network forum. The target for the end of the financial year 2017-18 is for 100% of schools and GP practices to have identified a DASV lead.



**New Volunteer Coordinator**

Towards the end of the quarter, the new DASV Volunteer Coordinator was recruited. The Coordinator will be recruiting, training and supporting volunteers who will offer emotional and practical support to individuals and families who are experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence, to help reduce feelings of isolation and to encourage links with other organisations and agencies.

Practical support may include; helping to settle into a new area, establishing local community links, accessing local services, attending court or other appointments such as housing, solicitors and health. Emotional support may consist of meeting with a client for a cup of coffee or providing a listening ear over the phone.