

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

### **October to December 2017**

Croydon's DASV services are delivered through a hub and spoke model, with the Family Justice Centre as the central hub, offering a drop-in service. Over the last eighteen months 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.

#### **Best Start IDVAs**

12% of all assessments completed by the DASV team in October, November and December were completed by the three community IDVAs.

In addition, as part of their role, each of the community IDVAs also completed case consultations; supporting professionals within the community to create a holistic approach to supporting individuals and families.

The three community based IDVAs referred 9 cases to MARAC.

From the end of December, one IDVA has been on maternity leave. It is currently being reviewed as to how best to cover this role to ensure minimal impact for clients. As such, the two IDVAs will no longer be working in just their planning areas in order to ensure they are reaching the whole borough.

#### **Police Based IDVA**

7% of all assessments completed by the DASV team in October, November and December were completed by the police based IDVA. The police based IDVA referred 8 cases to MARAC.

'I have been supporting a client who feels she has been let down by many services in the past. My client and her children have been experiencing domestic abuse for some time. My colleagues at the Family Justice Centre and I were able to support a move and the client and her children were in their new home in time for Christmas. I will continue to support the client during the court case and ongoing support will be provided by Children's Social Services.'

*Police based IDVA*

Following the successful pilot of the domestic abuse rapid response car in the summer 2016 and January 2017, the car was in operation again from the 25<sup>th</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> October, 18:00 to 02:00. An IDVA covered the DA car from the 2<sup>nd</sup> October to 11<sup>th</sup> October. All late turn officers were briefed regarding the DA car. It allowed victims to be provided with information of services and support that could be put in place as part of an immediate response call. Victims knew the process as it was clearly explained to them by the member of staff from the Family Justice Centre (FJC) and experienced CSU officers. The FJC staff were able to support and ensure that thorough statements were taken, in order to avoid the victim having to repeat their story to the police and the Family Justice Centre.

### **MERLIN data**

341 Merlins were received for Domestic Abuse and 148 Non-crime domestic Merlins were received during October, November and December, as seen in Table 1. This is a total of 489 Merlins during the three months.

The total number of police call outs during this period of time would be considerably higher, as the Merlins are only generated when a child is present during the reported incident. In addition to these Merlins, the council are notified when the police are called to a domestic incident and a vulnerable adult is present.

*Table 1 (source: MASH team)*

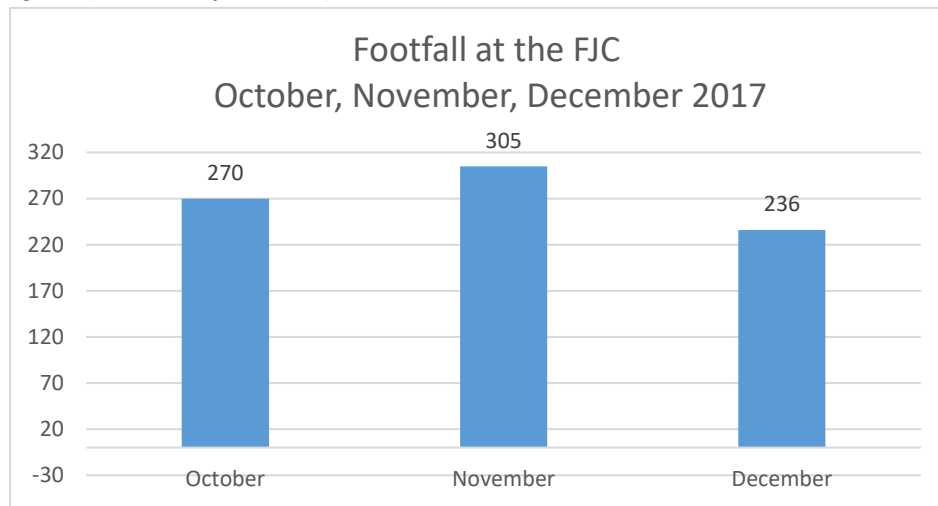
Month	Domestic	Non-crime Domestic
October	78	38
November	149	62
December	114	48

## Family Justice Centre (FJC) Data

During October, November and December there were 811 visitors to the FJC. The centre was open four days a week, meaning an average of 17 visitors to the centre a day. This is a significant increase on the previous quarter. However, quarter 2 was during the school summer holidays when it is typically quieter at the Centre.

The footfall is slightly less in December, as seen in Figure 1, but this month included two bank holidays. From trends in previous reports, an increase in the number of referrals for January can be anticipated.

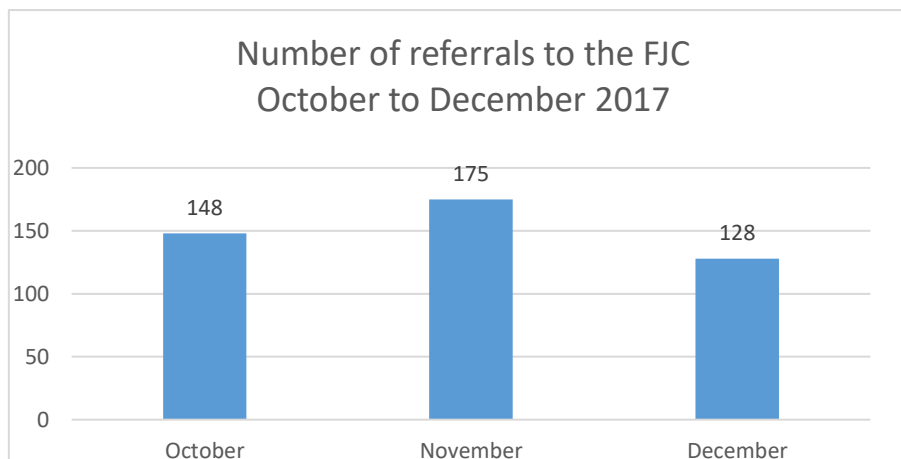
Figure 1 (source: Footfall Tracker)



111 contacts were made with individuals in October, November and December 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. 55% of contacts made did not result in an assessment as the client did not want the support of the service and withdrew consent.

451 referrals were made to the Family Justice Centre during the third quarter 2017-18, as seen in Figure 2. 10% of referrals received were for previous clients.

Figure 2 (source: Early Help Module)



## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: October to December 2017 (Quarter 3)

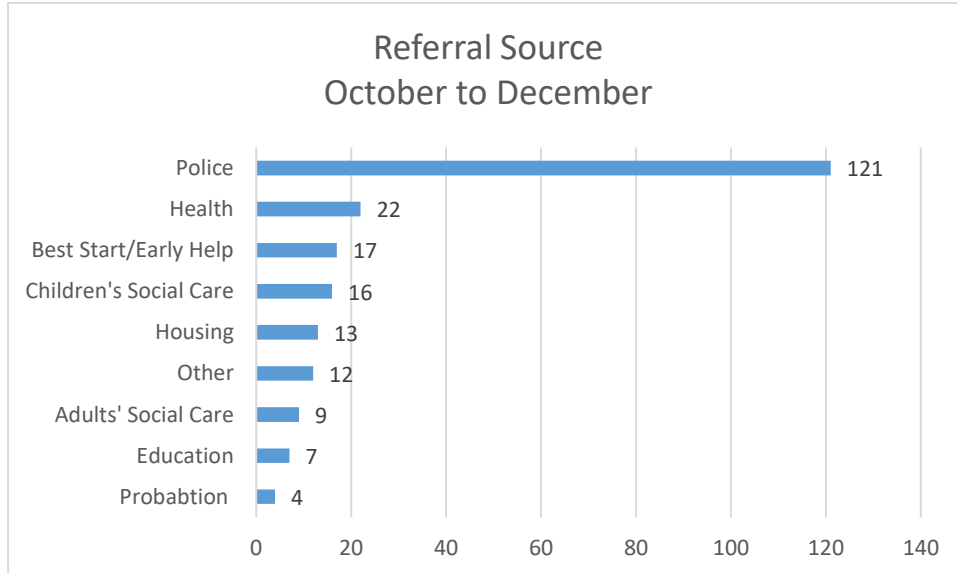
68% of referrals received during October, November and December were from agencies directly referring or signposting clients. The remaining 32% self-referred, meaning they found the service online or via physical advertising and presented themselves to the FJC. The number of self-referrals has increased from the previous quarter and can be attributed to the work of the Communications team. The information is presented in the table below.

Table 2 (source: Early Help Module)

Type of referral	Total
Direct referral	40%
Self-referral	28%
Signposting	32%

Those directly referred or signposted to the FJC have been broken down by referral agency in figure 3, with police again referring the most during the quarter. The category other includes the Youth Offending Service, Local MP and Bromley Croydon Women's Aid. The number of referrals from Adults' and Children's Social Care have decreased. 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 GPs.

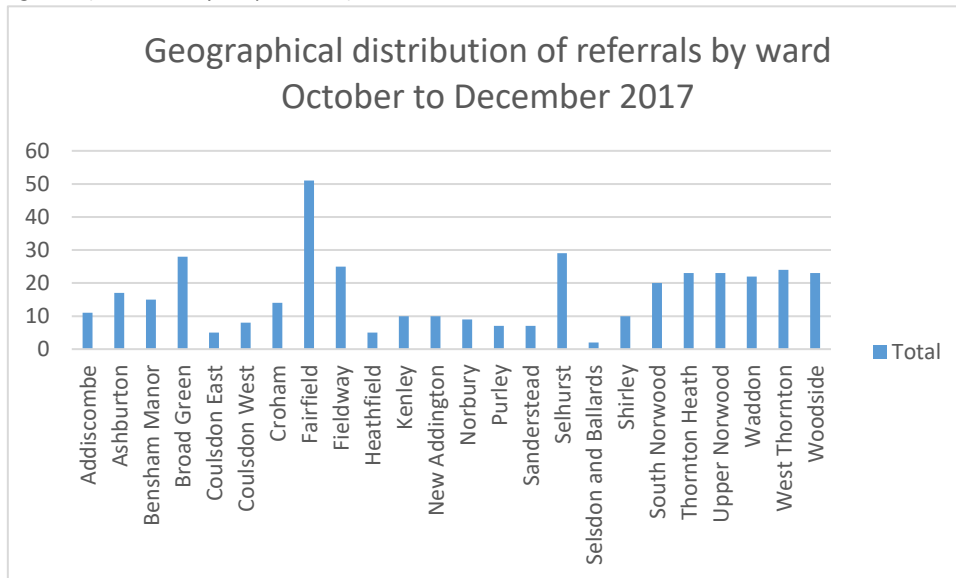
Figure 3 (source: Early Help Module)



Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: October to December 2017 (Quarter 3)

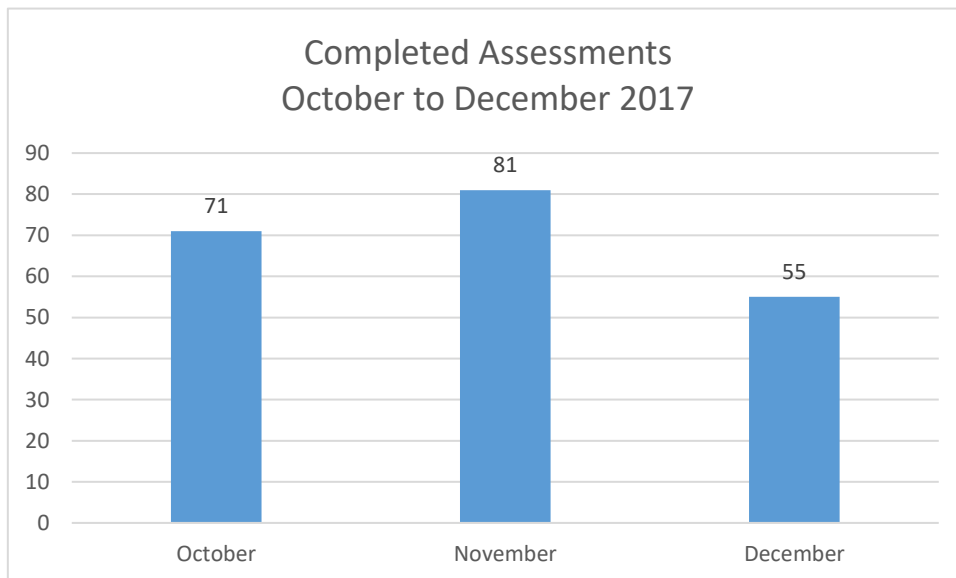
The following graph (figure 4) shows the distribution of all referrals by ward, with Fairfield and Selhurst having the highest number of referrals. More referrals were received from central to north of the borough than any other area.

Figure 4 (source: Early Help Module)



Of the 451 referrals, 207 assessments were completed at the FJC during the third quarter of the year 2017-8, as seen in figure 5. This is consistent with the previous quarter. Note, this is the total number of assessments completed by the team, including those within the community. December is quieter than October and November but this includes a holiday period and two bank holidays.

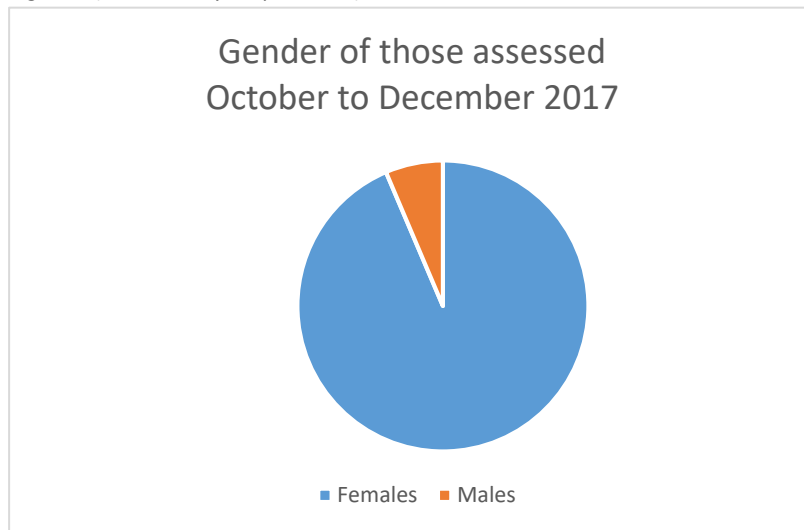
Figure 5 (source: Early Help Module)



## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: October to December 2017 (Quarter 3)

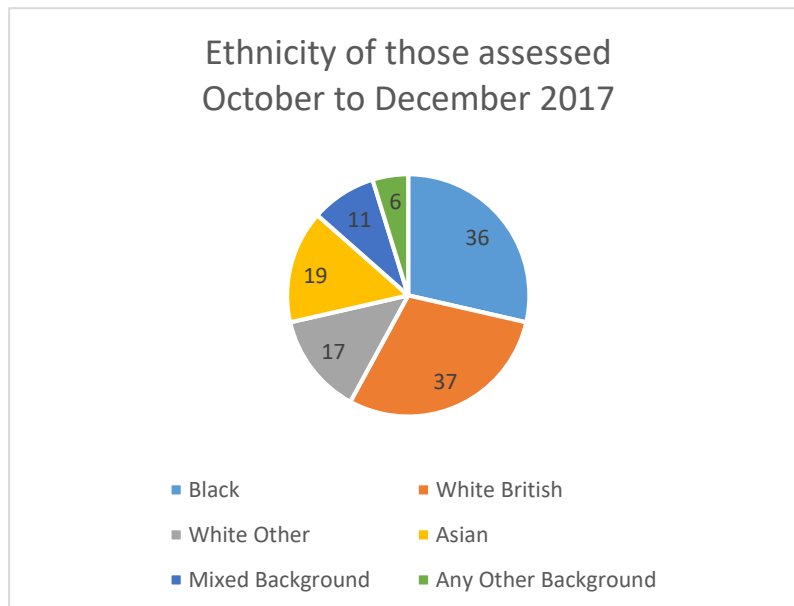
93% of those assessed in quarter 3 were female and is consistent with the previous quarter. Figure 6 highlights the gendered nature of reported domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Figure 6 (source: Early Help Module)



The following graph (figure 7) breaks down the ethnicity of those assessed at the FJC during quarter 3 of the year 2017-18.

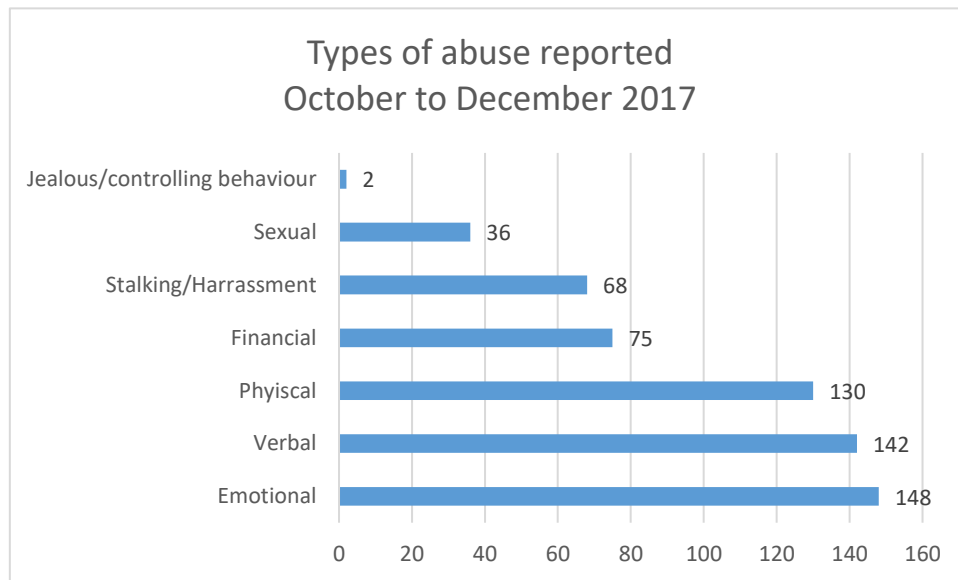
Figure 7 (source: Early Help Module)



## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: October to December 2017 (Quarter 3)

The following graph (figure 8) demonstrates the different types of abuse that have been reported by clients, as part of the assessments conducted in Q3. Following previous trends, emotional and verbal abuse were the most commonly reported. 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 often being blurred. The statistics will be lower than the real abuse levels due to such data being based on self-reporting.

Figure 8 (source: Early Help Module)



## 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 Q3, 128 referrals were received and heard at Croydon’s MARAC. This is the same as Q2 this year and the same period last year. 23% of the cases referred were repeat clients who had previously been heard at MARAC. This is slightly lower than the national average, with SafeLives estimating 28-40% of MARAC referrals being for repeat clients.

Figure 9 (source: MARAC Tracker)

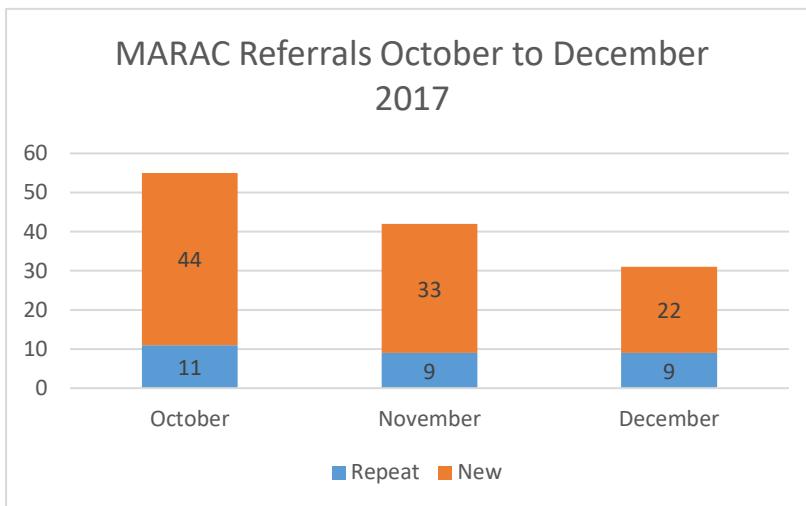
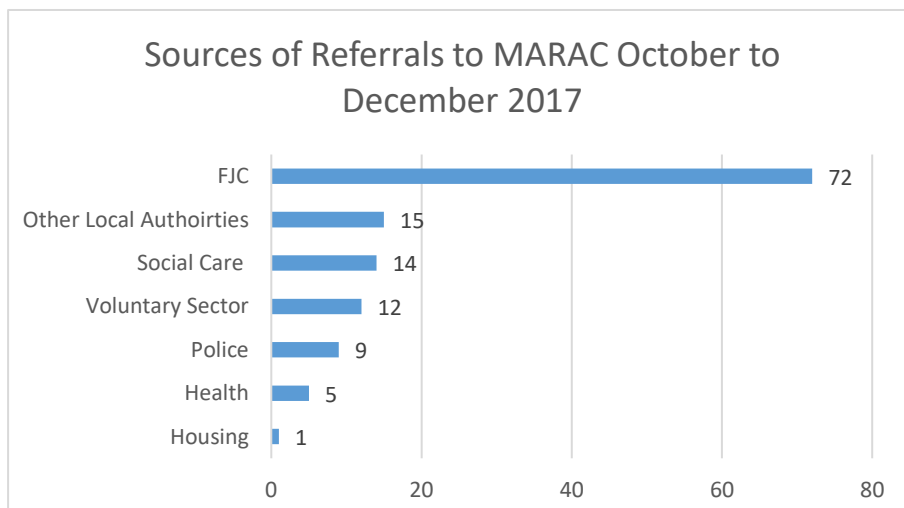


Figure 3 (source: MARAC Tracker)

Month	Total Referrals
October	55
November	42
December	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

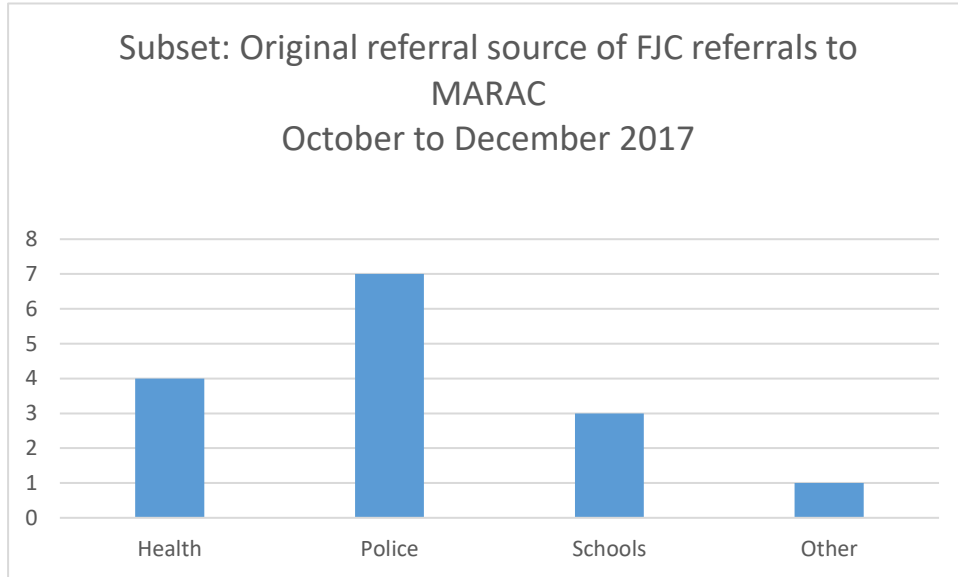
As expected, 54% of referrals to MARAC in October, November and December were made by the Family Justice Centre itself. However, these would not all have been self-referrals originally. Many of these would have been referred to the FJC from other agencies originally. Following an assessment completed by the FJC, they have then been referred to MARAC. This subset of data is shown in figure 11. Figure 10 (source: MARAC Tracker)





Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: October to December 2017 (Quarter 3)

Figure 11 (source: MARAC Tracker)



66% of MARAC referrals received in October, November and December 2017 had children. This is the same as the previous quarter.

7 of the women were pregnant at the time of the referral being made to MARAC. It is important to note as 30% of domestic abuse starts or increases in severity during pregnancy.

Figure 12 (source: MARAC Tracker)

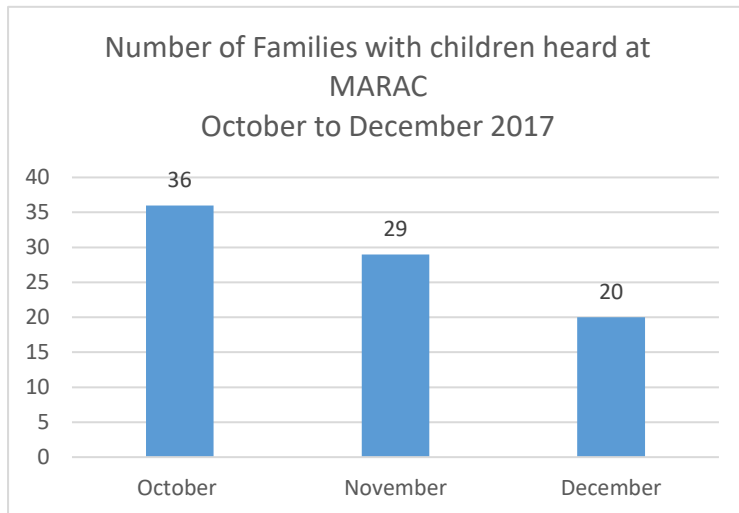


Table 4 (source: MARAC Tracker)

Month	% of MARAC referrals
October	65%
November	69%
December	65%

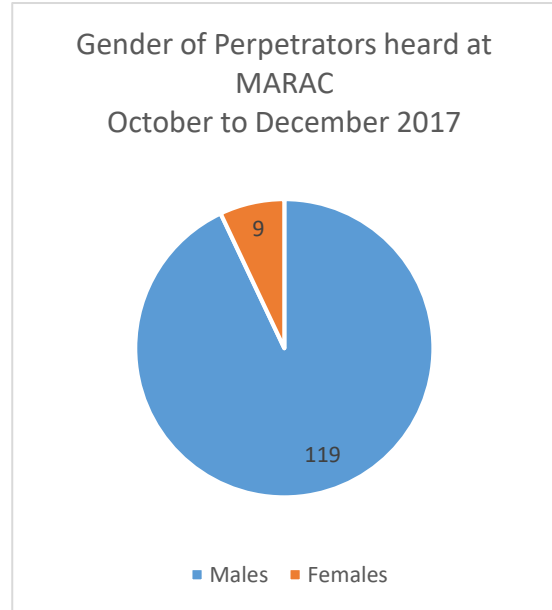
Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: October to December 2017 (Quarter 3)

From Figure 13 and Figure 14 the gendered nature of domestic abuse is clear. Only 3% of victims heard at MARAC in Q3 were male yet 93% of the perpetrators heard at MARAC were males.

Figure 13 (source: MARAC Tracker)

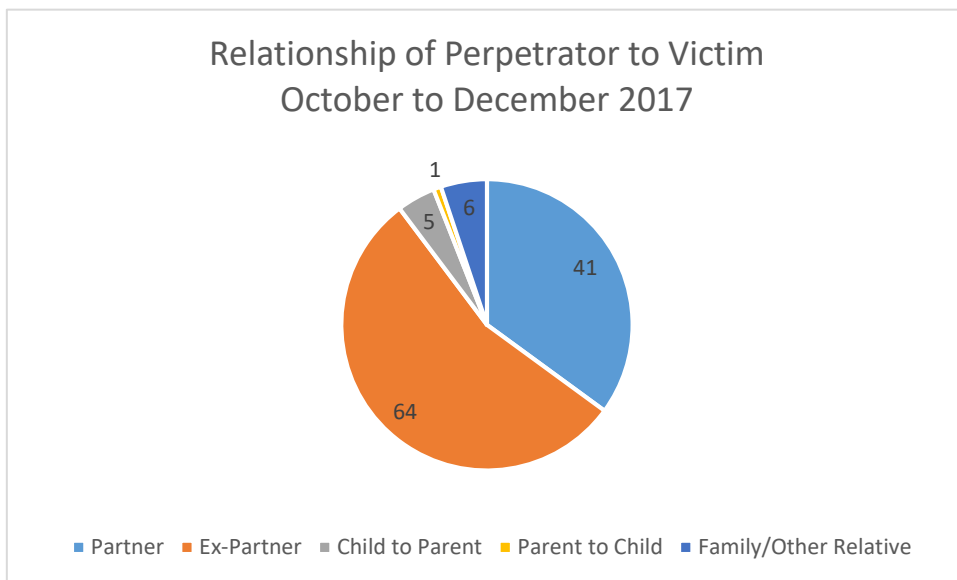


Figure 14 (source: MARAC Tracker)



90% of MARAC referrals in October, November and December 2017 were due to partner or ex-partner abuse, with the remaining referrals being due to familial abuse. The percentage is slightly higher for intimate-partner abuse than the previous quarter.

Figure 15 (source: MARAC Tracker)



Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: October to December 2017 (Quarter 3)

The largest age group in terms of victims and perpetrators is 21-30years as seen in figures 16 & 17. This is younger than the previous quarter, in which 31-40years was the largest. This will be observed over the next few months to see if this was an anomaly or a new trend.

Figure 16 (source: MARAC Tracker)

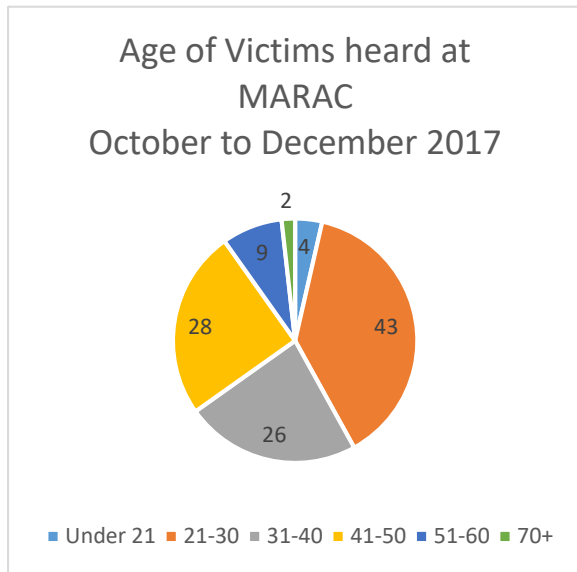
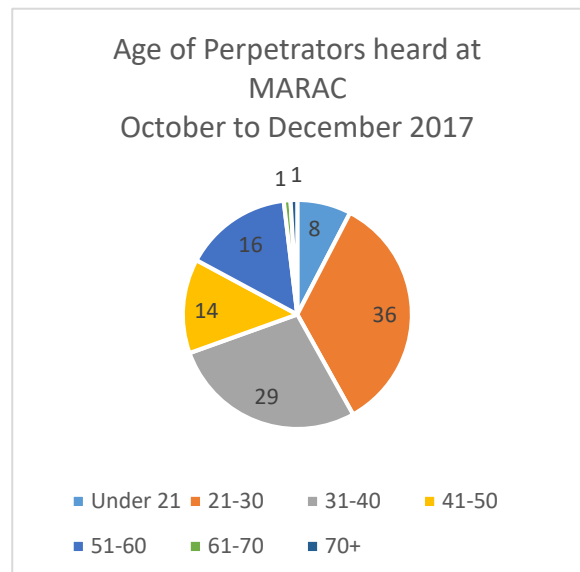


Figure 17 (source: MARAC Tracker)



Figures 18 & 19 demonstrate the ethnicities of both the victims and the perpetrators that are heard at MARAC.

Figure 18 (source: MARAC Tracker)

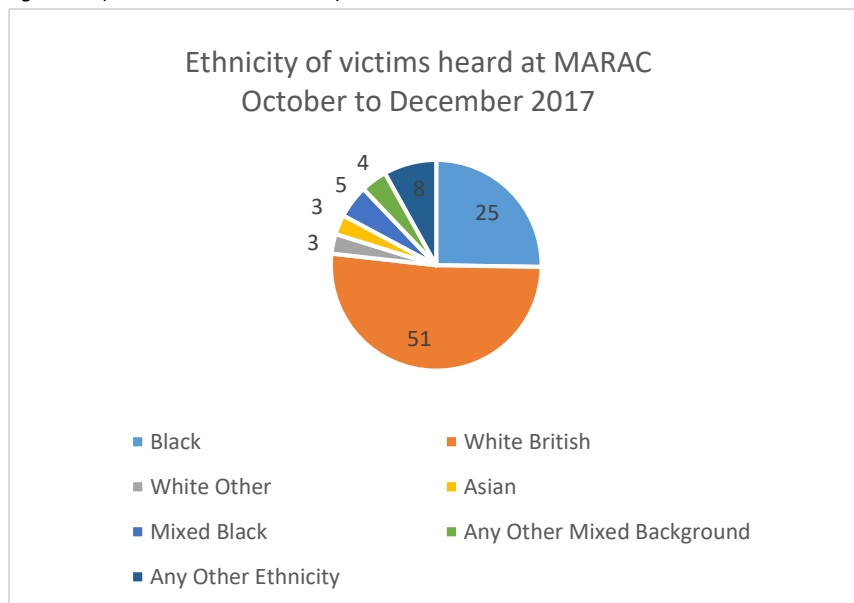
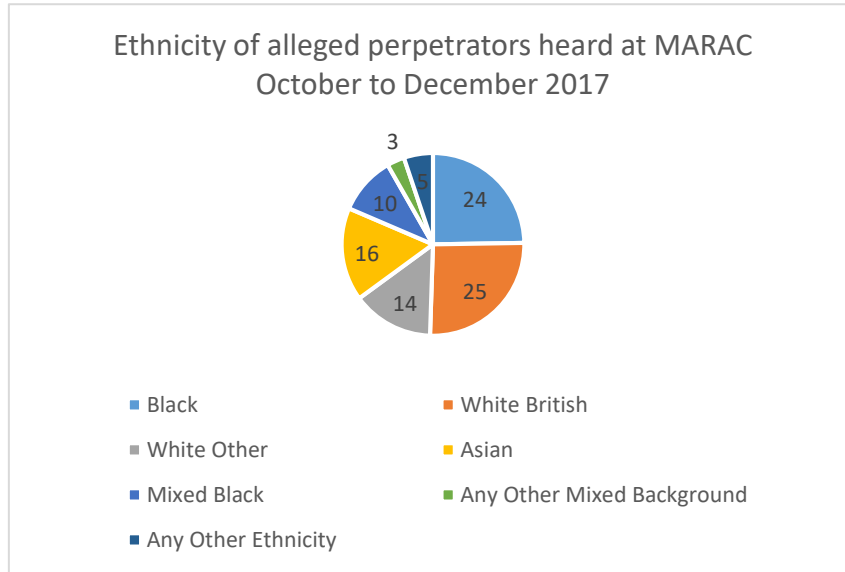


Figure 19 (source: MARAC Tracker)

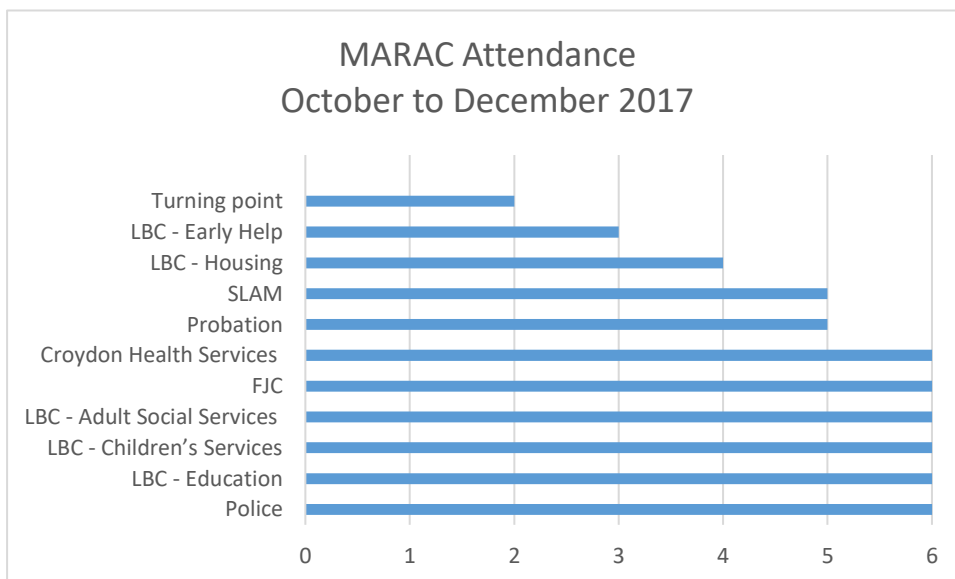


97% of the victims heard at MARAC identified as heterosexual, 1% homosexual and 2% bisexual.

30% of perpetrators reportedly abuse alcohol and/or drugs whilst 9% of perpetrators reportedly experience mental health issues. This is in comparison to 1.5% of victims reporting abuse of alcohol and/or drugs and 22.66% of victims reporting a mental health issue and/or a disability. These statistics are slightly lower than the previous quarter. Caution should be taken when using this data, as such information is reported to the IDVAs by the victims, as opposed to by the perpetrators themselves.

6 MARACs took place during quarter 3. Figure 20 below demonstrates the range of agencies that regularly attend MARAC.

Figure 20 (source: MARAC Tracker)



## Supporting the Partnership

### CSCB Training

Training is delivered as part of the CSCB's Learning & Development programme on a monthly basis. The three sessions in October, November and December were in total attended by 47 delegates, including social care, family support workers, health, schools and other education settings, children's centres, nurseries and community and voluntary settings.

All of those who attended reported having a greater understanding of knowledge regarding DASV following the training.

### DASV Partnership Forum

November's DASV Partnership Forum was attended by 52 professionals. The Forum was hosted by Croydon Voluntary Action and focused on the 'trio of triggers'. Speakers included Adults Safeguarding, Community Safety Unit (the police), Turning Point, SLAM and RISE.

All feedback received from the forum was positive. Examples of feedback include:

- Relevant to topic - loads of knowledge in the room
- Thank you – really passionate speakers and supportive host
- A useful session – great to have so many guest speakers

The next forum will be taking place in March and again will be hosted by Croydon Voluntary Action.

### DASV Bulletin

You can access November's bulletin on [Practitioner's Space](#). It was sent to over 300 professionals within Croydon.

### DASV Leads in Schools & GP practices

The DASV Leads form a professional network of 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 we know are impacted by abuse.

79% of schools have now identified a DASV lead. 31 schools attended DASV lead training sessions in November, with good feedback. To further raise awareness of the training, it was presented at the School's Safeguarding Forum at the start of November and has been included in two of the schools' bulletins.

60% of GP practices have now identified a DASV lead. The DASV team attending the GP forum in November and continue to contribute to the monthly DASV bulletin.

### Pharmacy Training

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence training was offered to pharmacies for the first time in October. All pharmacies were contacted by letter and by the Public Health team via email. Two training sessions were held and attended by 7 pharmacies. All pharmacies gave the training very positive feedback. The training is being offered again to pharmacies in January.

The training was developed following market research with nine pharmacies across the borough. It was highlighted during the market research that more material was needed in different languages and so the marketing team developed the following poster, using the top five most spoken languages in Croydon.



## Volunteer Programme

The first round of Volunteer Training is due to start on Monday 29th January and will be 3 days (29th, 31st Jan & 1st Feb). We currently have 8 volunteers signed up to attend. The current participants are a mixture of LBC employees and others who are not employed by LBC. The Volunteer Coordinator is still recruiting for more volunteers and is advertising on Do-it.org & through Croydon Voluntary Action. The request for volunteers on the intranet gathered a lot of interest amongst different teams.

## Workplace Ambassadors

25 new DASV Workplace Ambassadors, both male and female, have been trained during quarter 3. The ambassadors are based across the council and will provide comfort and hope to Croydon Council employees who are experiencing or impacted by domestic abuse. The ambassadors listen non-judgementally and signpost those in need of support to appropriate professional help. An ambassador's role is not to actively intervene.

Ongoing support and training will be provided to the ambassadors. Comments below are from some of the new ambassadors:

'I signed up for the course because I am well aware that Domestic Abuse Stigma prevents people who are affected from seeking help. I would like to reduce this stigma by helping someone improve their safety, offer support, guide them towards access the relevant support. Most of all, raise awareness of domestic abuse and its impact on the individual and their families. Domestic abuse can affect anyone. It will be beneficial to my work and colleagues, knowing that they can approach me and talk confidentially, also provide them some comfort and hope.'

'I found the training to be very engaging, informative and thorough with excellent examples and impactful stories. The training had a much larger influence on my train of thought than nearly all other training courses I have attended.'



## Marketing

In December the DASV team had a two week slot on the Decaux boards around the borough which the marketing team developed and supported with a press release. The press release led to Councillor Hamida Ali being interviewed by the London Live television channel, discussing the impact of domestic abuse in Croydon, particularly during the festive period and how to access support.

In addition, the marketing team have supported the promotion of the DASV Workplace Ambassadors through various internal channels.

### October Data Project

For the month of October the following services counted the number of domestic abuse incidents, referrals or discussions that took place in order to better understand the prevalence and geographical distribution of DASV within Croydon:

Children's Social Care	Early Help
Referrals to the Family Justice Centre	Referrals to MARAC
Freedom Together Programme	Domestic Abuse Merlins
Police Call Outs	Croydon Drop-In
Youth Offending Service	Housing
Accident & Emergency	

The report can be found on the [Croydon Observatory](#).

*"I am now able to stand confidently again; I was so broken as a human just because of my husband"*

*- FJC client, Autumn 2017*