

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

### **April to June 2018**

Croydon's DASV services are delivered through a hub and spoke model, with the FJC as the central hub offering a drop-in service. Over the last two years there has been an increase in providing community based support with IDVAs at Croydon University Hospital and within the police station, as well as three community IDVAs working across the borough.

#### **Community IDVAs**

The three Community IDVAs work across the community, assessing clients and providing support to those with low to medium risk. Between April and June, the Community IDVAs have made 5 referrals to MARAC.

As part of their role, each of the community IDVAs also complete case consultations; supporting professionals within the community to create a holistic approach to supporting individuals and families. The community based IDVAs also deliver training, for example within Nurseries, and attend community events, including Best Start's summer event in Croydon High Street, to raise awareness across the borough.

Client: "I cannot thank you enough for your help and support in sorting out the temporary accommodation for me and my daughters. I know I haven't managed to see the property yet but I am sure the girls safety will be much improved being away from where we currently have been living and I want to thank you in helping the happen.

You have been a great support answering all the questions I have had and advising me on the correct people to contact regarding the move and for sitting with me at the council today as moral support, especially when it took so much longer than expected. People in my situation are so lucky to have people like you to go to when we need to protect ourselves and especially our children to make sure they are removed from any danger in their innocent lives."

#### **Hospital IDVA**

Due to the success of basing an IDVA within Croydon University Hospital, a new IDVA has been recruited and joined the team in June 2018. The IDVA will be based full time at the hospital and will provide support to staff and patients who are experiencing domestic abuse, as well as training hospital staff to support patients who are victims of DASV.

#### **Police IDVA**

The Police IDVA works closely with the Community Safety Unit (CSU) within Croydon's policing team, assessing and supporting clients who have reported domestic abuse. As part of the assessments, the Police IDVA has made 6 referrals to MARAC. The Police IDVA also supports CSU when carrying out welfare checks.

Due to the known increase of domestic abuse during major supporting events, the Police IDVA has been working late shifts on the Domestic Abuse car, on days when England have played matches during the football World Cup. The DA car allows victims to be provided with information of services

and support that could be put in place as part of an immediate response call. The Police IDVA can also provide support and ensure that thorough statements are taken, so that the victim does not have to repeat their story to the police and the FJC.

### **NRPF IDVA**

During the financial year April 2017 to March 2018, Bromley Croydon Women's Aid employed an NRPF worker to be based at the FJC as part of the Bridging the Borders project, supporting those who have experienced domestic abuse.

Due to the success of this role, the FJC have recruited an NRPF IDVA to continue this work. The IDVA joined the team at the start of June 2018.

### **MASH IDVA**

An IDVA is based in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) full time, to provide a consistent approach to risk regarding families experiencing DASV. The IDVA contributes to the assessment of risk and vulnerability for adults and children, whilst informing intelligence from a broader professional perspective and to increase efficiency and response where risk is assessed as high.

### **Merlin Data**

530 Merlins were received by MASH for Domestic Abuse and Non-Crime Domestic Abuse within Croydon, during the first quarter of the financial year. This is a slight increase on the same period in 2016-17, in which 482 referrals were received.

Table 1: Domestic Abuse related Merlins  
(Source: Sergeant in MASH)

Month	Non-Crime Domestic Abuse	Domestic Abuse
April	49	113
May	55	124
June	61	128

The total number of police call outs for domestic abuse during the year would be considerably higher. A Merlin is only generated when a child is present during the reported incident and those reported in Table 1 do not include domestic incidents that took place without the presence of children.

In addition, to the Merlins listed in Table 1, Adults Social Care are notified when the police are called to a domestic incident and a vulnerable adult is present.

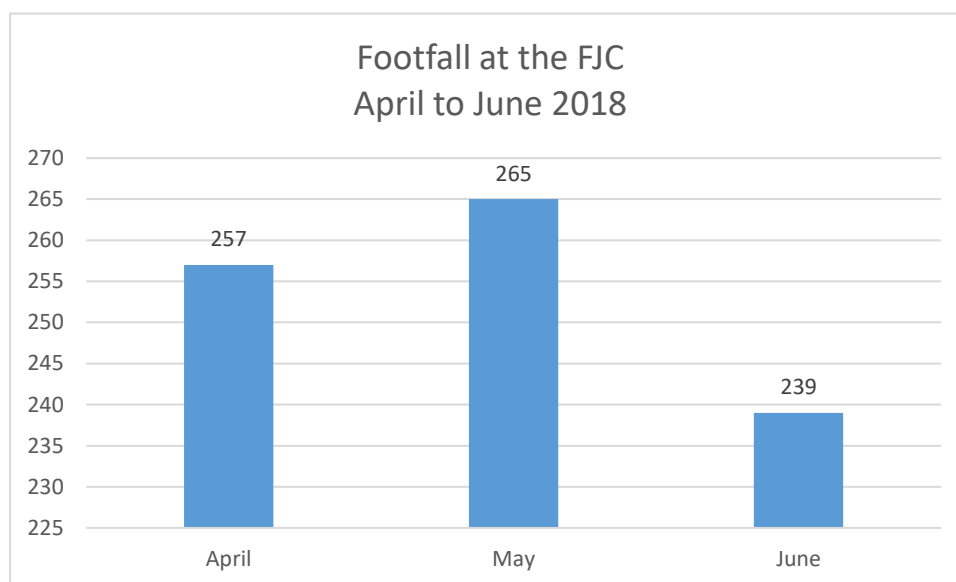
Moving forward there will be a greater emphasis on Merlin data, with the implementation of Operation Encompass across the Met towards the end of 2018. This means that all schools will be notified, the following morning, if a domestic incident took place the night before in the child's home and they were present. This is so that appropriate pastoral support can be offered to the child or young person. All Merlins are currently reviewed and processed within the MASH team.

## FJC Data

Between April and June 2018 there were 761 visitors to the FJC, which is consistent with the same period in 2017. Based on the service being open 4 days a week during the three months, this is an average of 16 visitors to the Centre every day. Visitors to the FJC include for assessments with an IDVA, to speak to a solicitor or to seek housing advice, attending women’s group, counselling, SLAM and to access volunteer support.

Despite a large number of visitors to the FJC, there are still many people in Croydon who are affected by domestic abuse and are not receiving support. It is estimated that 1 in 4 women experience domestic abuse in their life time, which based on Croydon’s female population 16yrs and older<sup>1</sup> is approximately 38,500 women.

Figure 1: Footfall at the FJC  
(Source: Footfall Tracker)



Between April and June 2018, the FJC received 453 referrals, a 10% increase on the number of referrals received in the previous quarter.

Table 2: Number of Referrals to FJC  
(Source: EHM – FJC Enquiry Form)

Month	Total number of referrals
April	141
May	142
June	170

Table 3: Type of Referral to FJC  
(Source: EHM – FJC Enquiry Form)

Type of Referral	Total
Direct Referral	148
Signposting Agency	184
Self-Referral	121

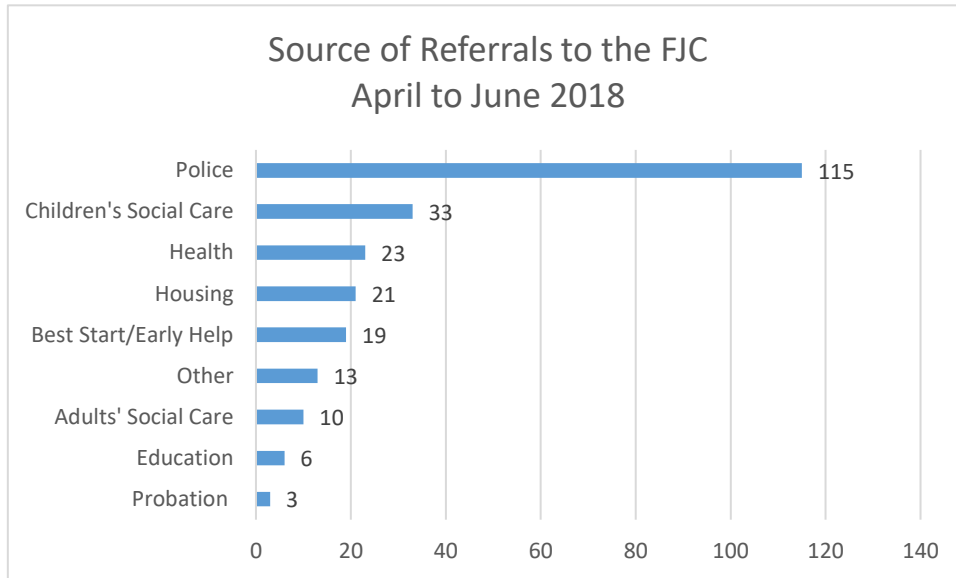
73% of all those referred to the FJC were from agencies directly referring or signposting clients. The remaining 27% are self-referred, meaning they found the service online or through advertising and presented themselves to the FJC. This is consistent with the previous financial year.

<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics 2016

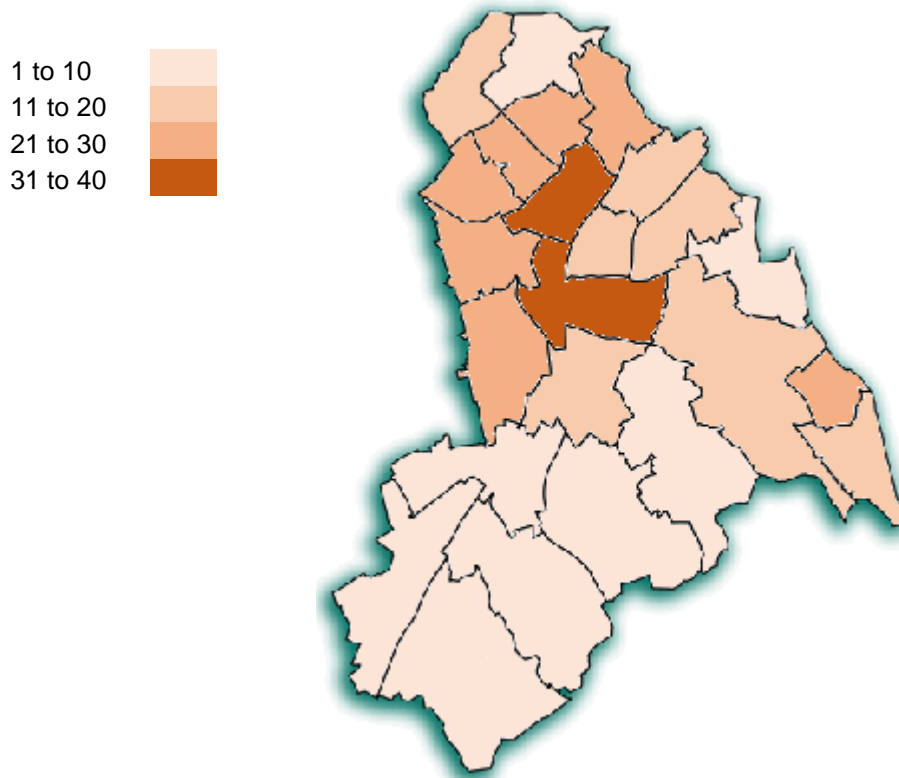
## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: April to June 2018 (Quarter 1)

Those directly referred or signposted to the FJC have been broken down by referral agency in Figure 2, with the police referring the most between April and June 2018. The DASV Programme Board established a Task & Finish Group in May to monitor and work to increase the number of referrals from Children's Social Care to the FJC and MARAC and so it can be anticipated that the number from Children's Social Care will increase in the next quarter.

Figure 2: Source of Referrals to FJC  
(Source: EHM – FJC Enquiry Form)



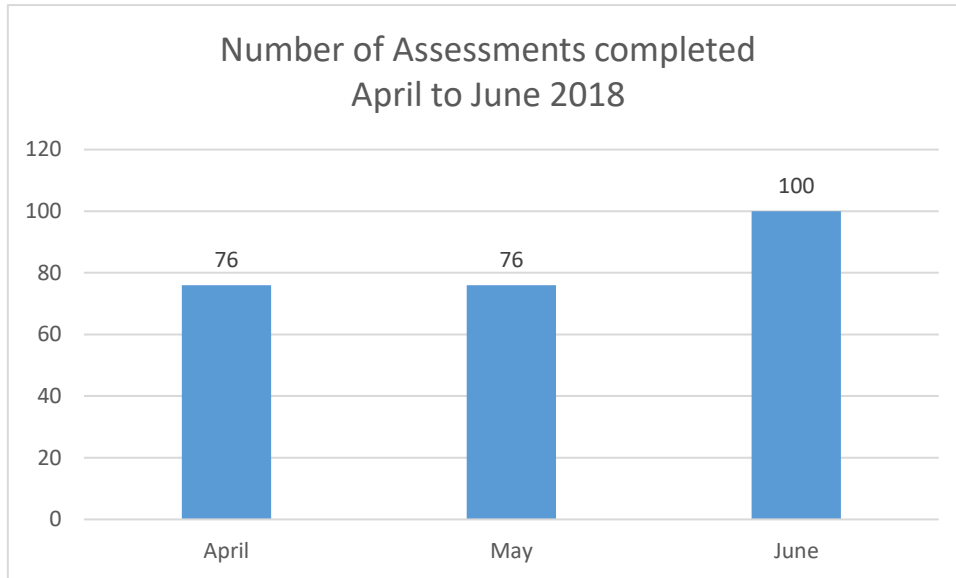
The following map demonstrates that the FJC is reaching and supporting victims of domestic abuse from all wards within Croydon. The FJC received the highest number of referrals from the North West of the borough.



## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: April to June 2018 (Quarter 1)

Of the 453 referrals, 252 assessments were completed by IDVAs. Not every referral resulted in an assessment for a range of reasons, for example 103 cases did not have assessments due to the client disengaging or the case not being appropriate for the IDVA service. This is a slight increase on the number of assessments completed each quarter in the previous financial year.

Figure 3: Number of Assessments Completed  
(Source: EHM – DASV Assessment Form)



As seen in Figure 4, 94% of those assessed between April and June were female, reflecting a national trend and that domestic abuse is a gendered crime.

Figure 4: Gender of Victims Assessed  
(Source: EHM – DASV Assessment Form)

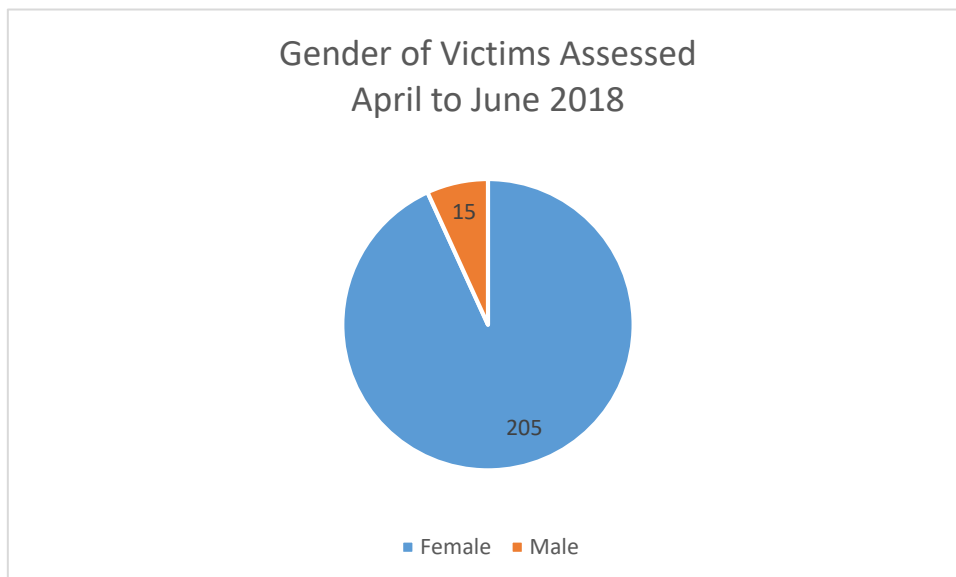
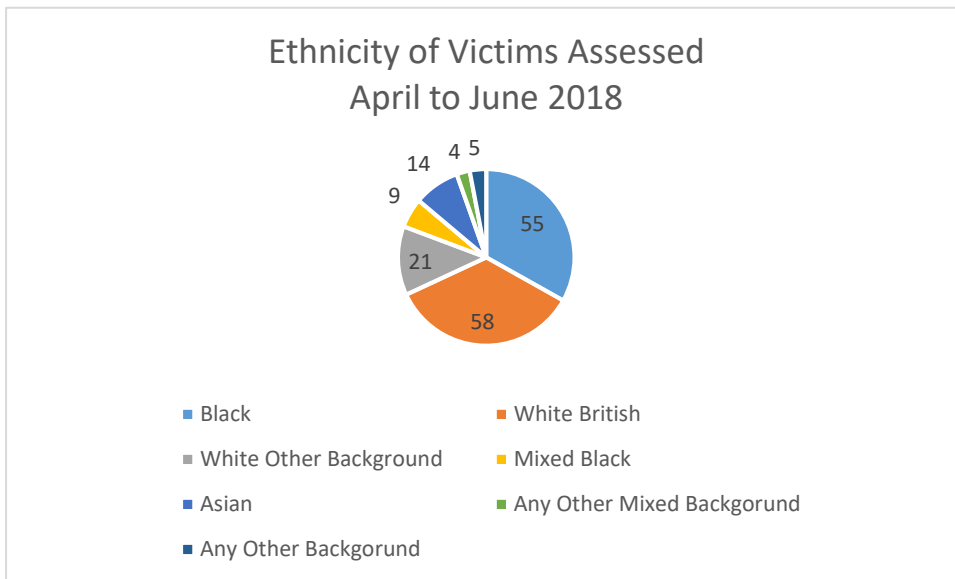


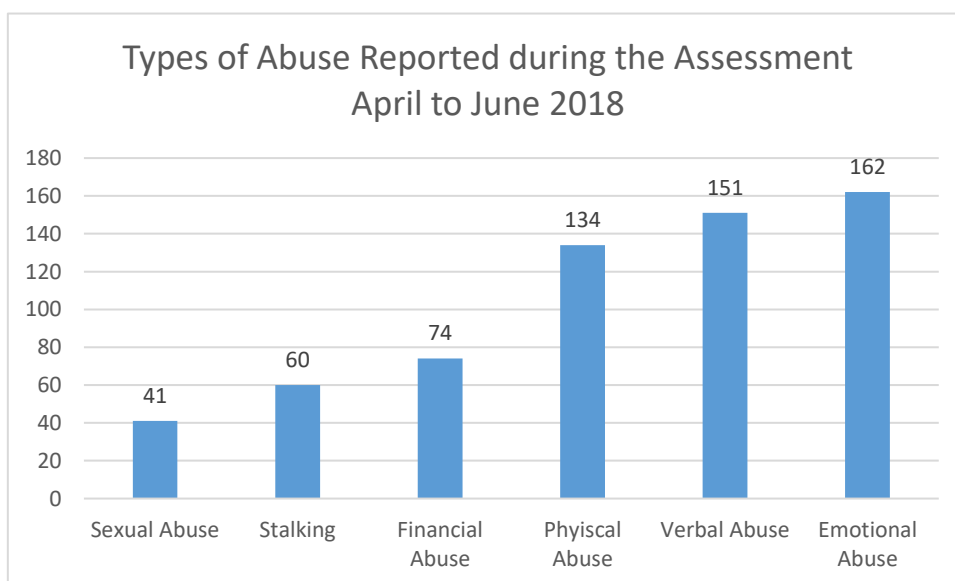
Figure 5, breaks down the ethnicity of those who were assessed by an IDVA between April and June 2018.

Figure 5: Ethnicity of Victims Assessed  
(Source: EHM – DASV Assessment Form)



The following graph (figure 6) demonstrates the different types of abuse that have been reported by clients, as part of the assessments completed between April and June 2018. 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 6: Types of Abuse Reported  
(Source: EHM – DASV Assessment Form)



## MARAC Data

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

Between April and June 2018, 124 referrals to Croydon’s MARAC were received. This is 15% less than the previous year. 22% of the referrals received were repeat referrals, where the case has been heard before at MARAC. The number of repeat referrals is consistent with the previous financial year, April 2017 to March 2018.

The number of referrals to MARAC fluctuated between April and June 2018. It can be anticipated that there will be a decrease during August, due to the school holidays.

Figure 7: Referrals to MARAC  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)

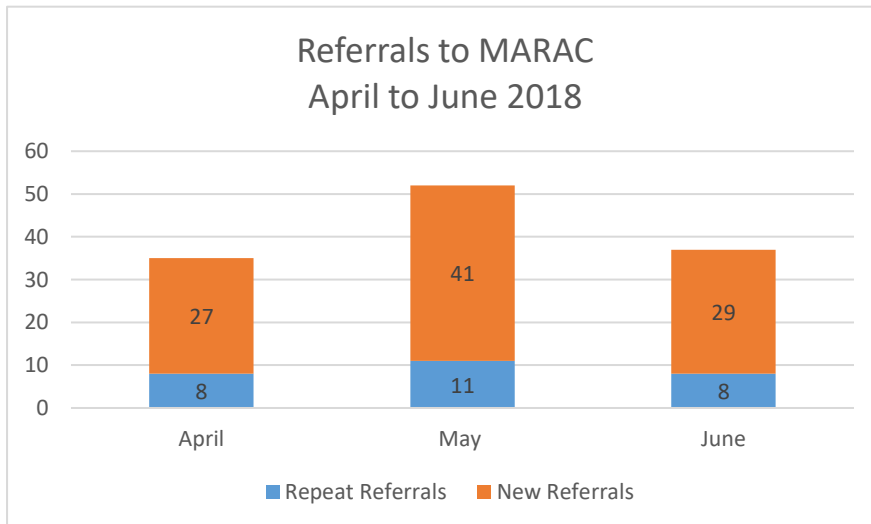


Table 4: Total Referrals to MARAC  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)

Month	Referral Total
April	35
May	52
June	37

## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: April to June 2018 (Quarter 1)

As expected, 55% of referrals to MARAC during the first quarter of 2018-19 were made by the FJC 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 been referred to MARAC. This subset of data is shown in figure 9.

Table 8: Source of Referrals to MARAC  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)

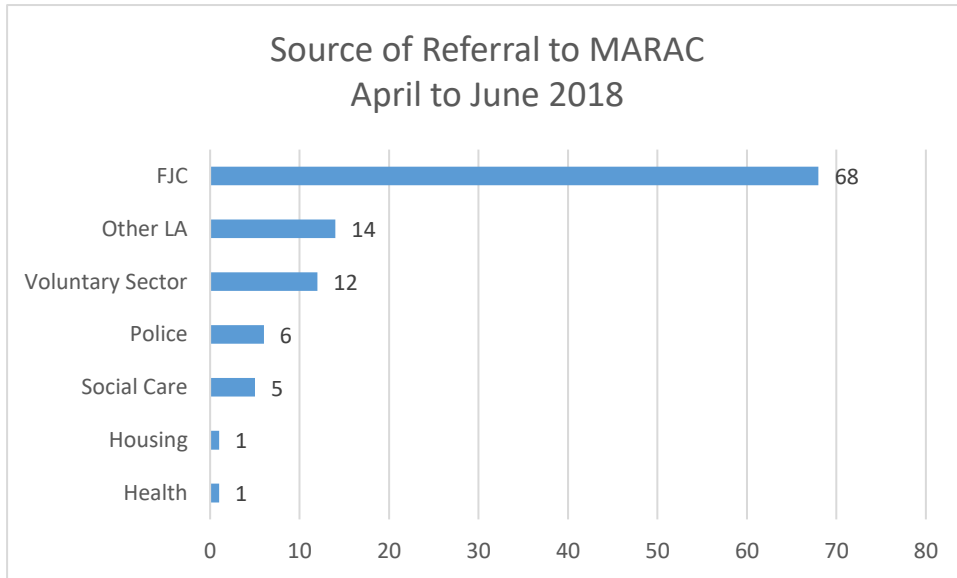
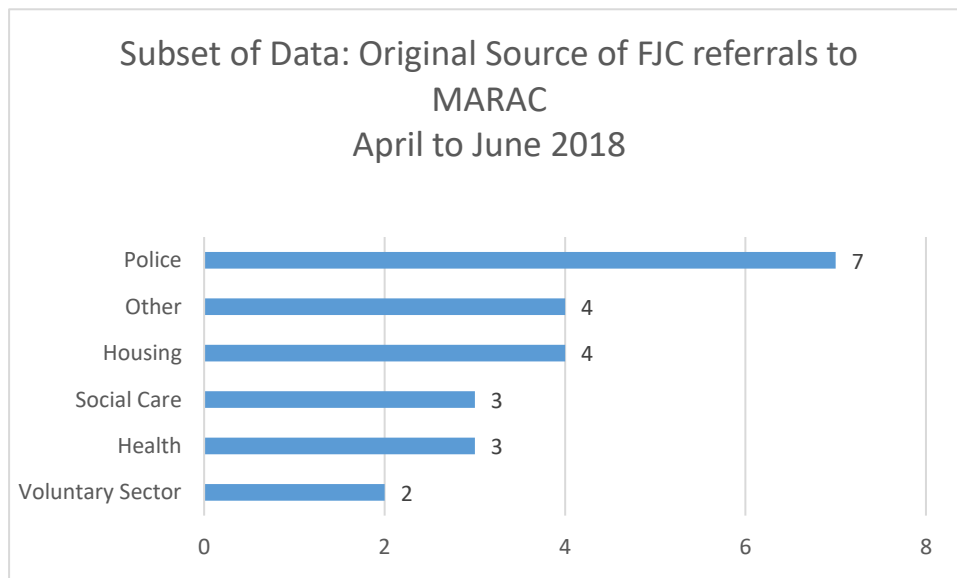


Figure 9: Subset of MARAC Referrals  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)





Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: April to June 2018 (Quarter 1)

Only 14% of the cases referred to MARAC during the first quarter of this financial year had children within the family. This is a significant decrease compared to the same point last year in which 72% of cases referred to MARAC had children in the family. This is something the team will monitor over the next quarter.

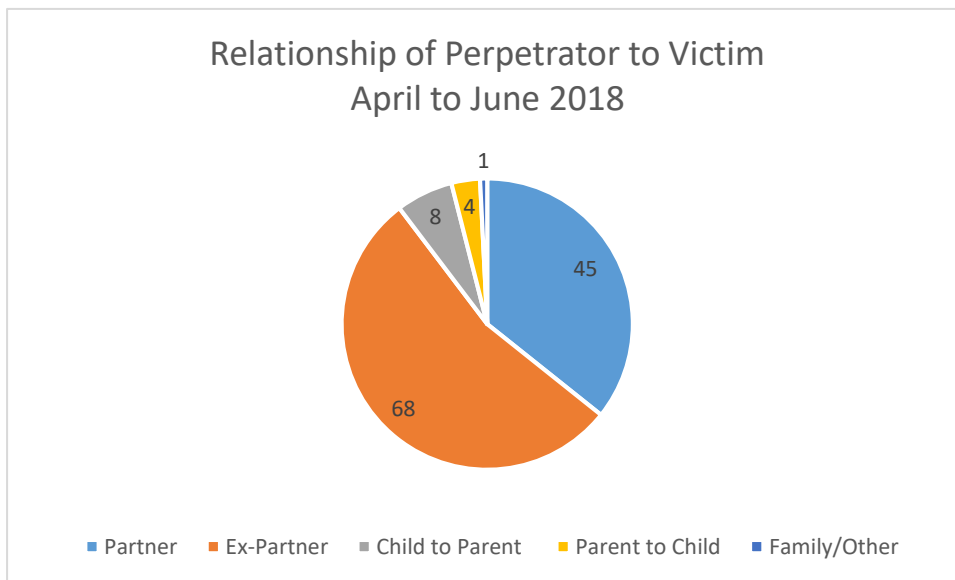
Table 5: MARAC referrals with Children  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)

Month	% of MARAC referrals with Children
April	20%
May	8%
June	16%

3 of the women were pregnant at the time of their referral being made to MARAC. This is important to note when 30% of domestic abuse begins or increases in severity during pregnancy<sup>2</sup>.

91% of MARAC referrals between April and June 2018, were due to partner or ex-partner abuse with the remaining referrals being due to familial abuse. Figure 10 reflects the national trend, with the increase of child to parent violence. In response to this, RISE have been commissioned to deliver two Respect and Principles workshops with the youth Offending Team. The first programme will start in July.

Figure 10: Relationship of Perpetrator to MARAC Victim  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)



<sup>2</sup> <http://www.domesticviolencelondon.nhs.uk/1-what-is-domestic-violence-/23-domestic-abuse-during-pregnancy.html>

## Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: April to June 2018 (Quarter 1)

From Figures 11 & 12, the gendered nature of domestic abuse is clear. Only 3% of victims referred to MARAC between April and June 2018 were male, yet 93% of the alleged perpetrators heard at MARAC were males.

Figure 11: Gender of MARAC Victims  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)

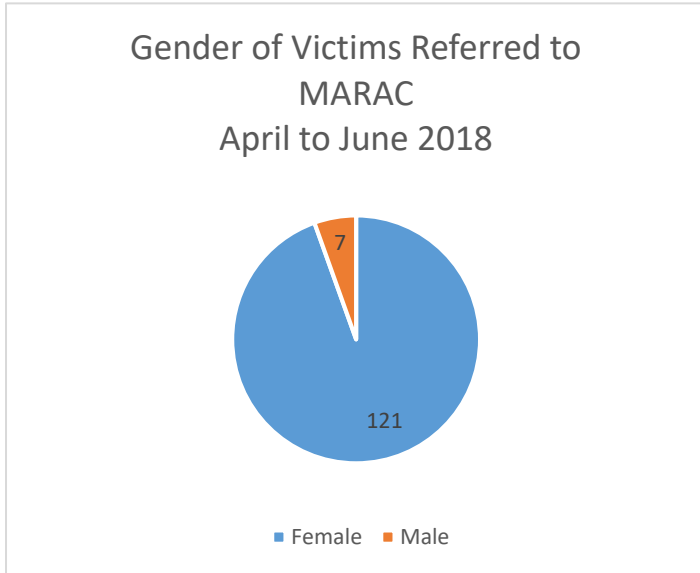
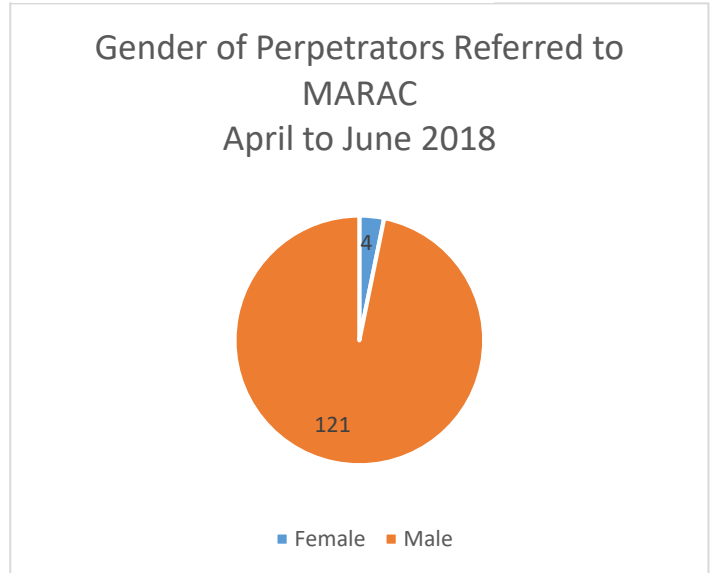


Figure 12: Gender of MARAC Perpetrators  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)



The following two figures demonstrate the ethnicities of the victims and alleged perpetrators referred to MARAC between April and June 2018.

Figure 13: Ethnicity of MARAC Victims  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)

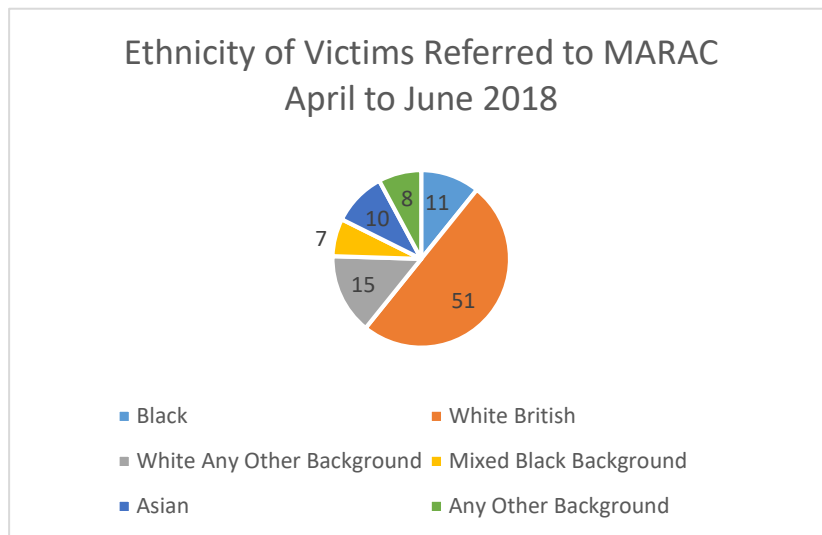
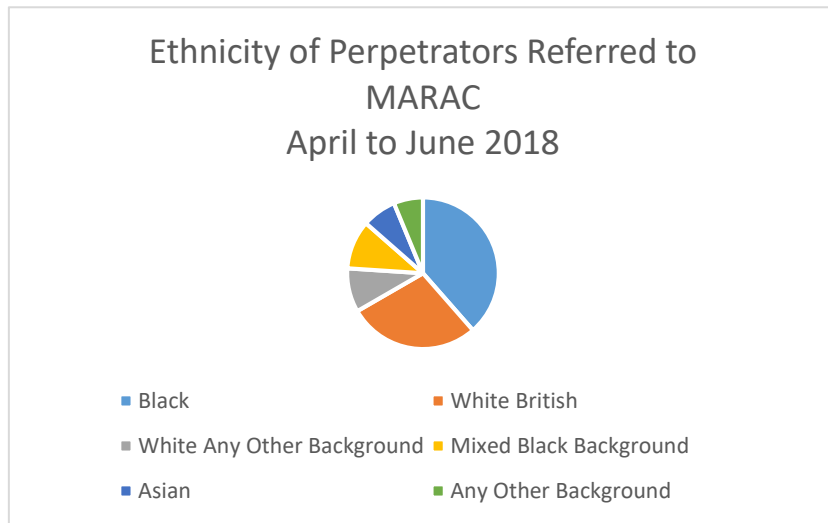


Figure 14: Ethnicity of MARAC Perpetrators  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)



The following two figures, 15 & 16, demonstrate the age of both victims and alleged perpetrators referred to MARAC between April and June 2018. Following previous trends, the largest age group for both victims and alleged perpetrators is between 31-40yrs.

Figure 15: Age of MARAC Victims  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)

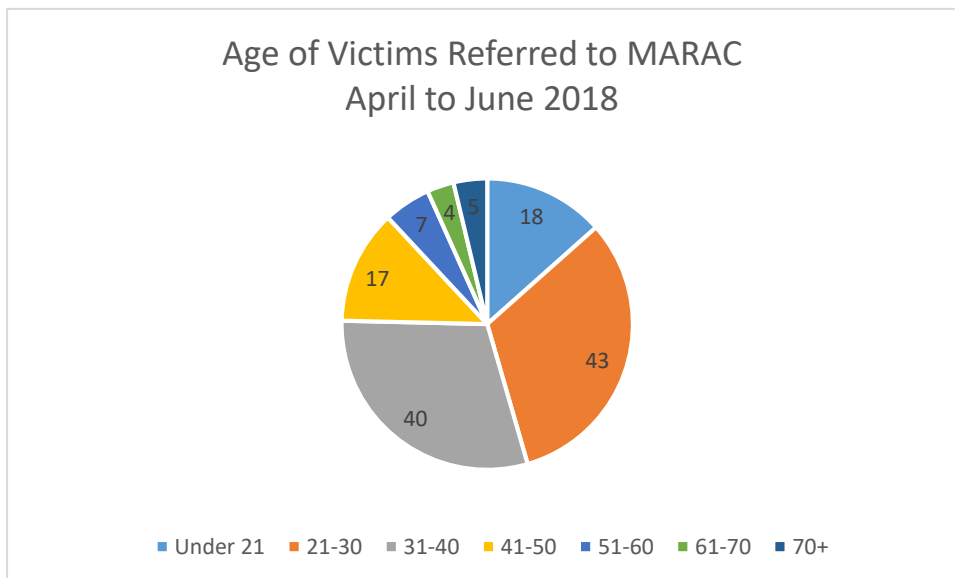
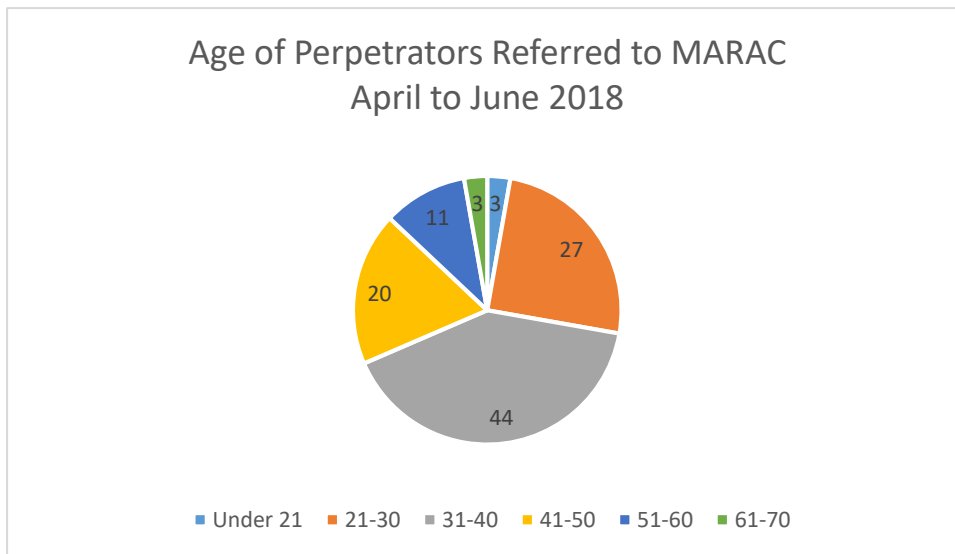


Figure 16: Age of MARAC Perpetrators  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)

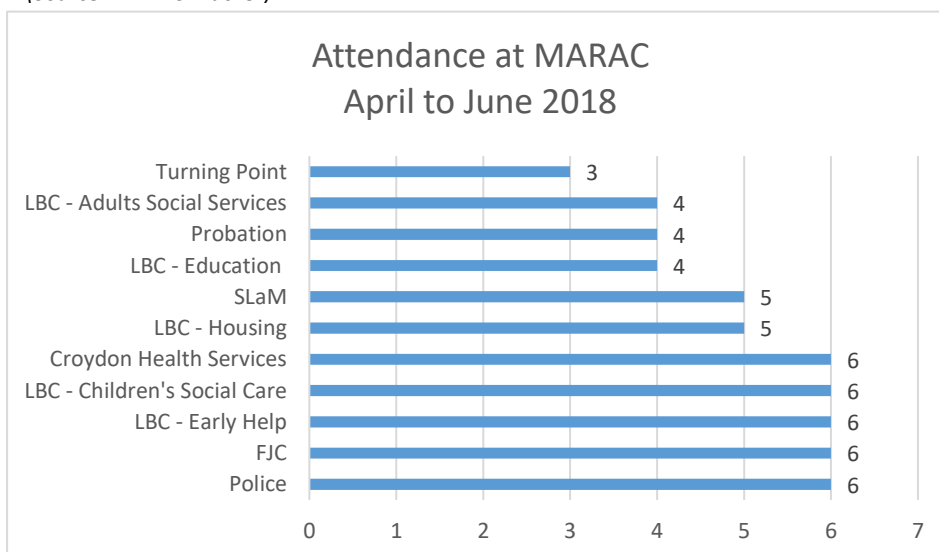


27 of the 124 MARAC victims in the first quarter identified as heterosexual, 3 as homosexual and 2 as bisexual. This means that 4% of MARAC cases heard in the first quarter of the financial year are part of the LGBT community, this is representative of Croydon’s population.

Only 3% of MARAC victims reported the misuse of drugs or alcohol, yet it was reported that 34% of alleged perpetrators at MARAC misuse drugs or alcohol. This is a similar trend to last year. It is important to note that this information is self-reported and victims may be reluctant to share with the Local Authority any alcohol or drug misuse. 45% of MARAC victims reported either mental health issues or a physical disability, compared to 18% of the alleged perpetrators heard at MARAC. Further caution should be taken, as this information is shared by the victim to the referring organisation and not by the alleged perpetrator themselves.

6 MARACs were held during the first quarter of the financial year 2018 to 2019 and were all well attended and chaired by the police.

Figure 17: MARAC Attendance  
(Source: MARAC Tracker)



## **Supporting the Partnership**

### **Training**

Seven training sessions were delivered across the community partnership, including to DASV Leads in Schools and Nursery and School staff teams. These sessions were delivered to 136 delegates who all rated the sessions 3 or 4 (out of 4).

### **CSCB Training**

Two DASV training sessions were delivered through the Safeguarding Board, one in May and one in June, both three hours long. The sessions cover what is domestic abuse, including case studies, the barriers to leaving an abusive relationship, the FJC and MARAC support available in Croydon and how to complete the SafeLives DASH risk assessment.

### **DASV Forum**

This quarter's DASV Forum took place on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 and was attended by 50 people. The forum was structured slightly differently; the first part of the forum included four speakers from Galop, Tender, Still I Rise and the Women and Girls Network. The second half of the forum was a networking event with ten different organisations having stalls explaining the services they offer. 100% rated the forum 3 or 4 stars (out of 4).

### **DASV Bulletin**

The DASV bulletin is circulated to over 300 professionals and organisations in Croydon every other month. During quarter 1, a bulletin was circulated in May that included information about Tender's Whole School Approach in Croydon, an update on the FJC move and information about the Council's World Cup campaign around domestic abuse.

The next DASV bulletin will be in July, with a focus on the new perpetrators' programme in Croydon, Drive.

### **DASV Leads in Schools & GP Practices**

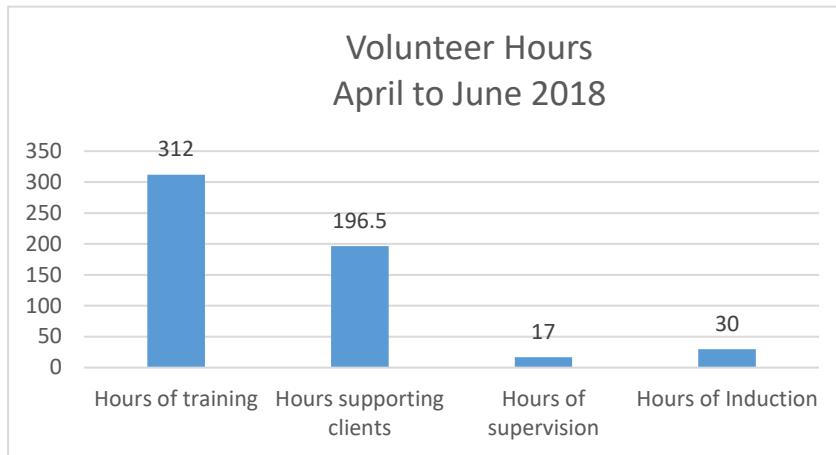
87% of Schools now have a designated and trained DASV lead, whilst 83% of GP practices have identified a DASV lead. A further nine school leads were trained in the first quarter of 2017-18, whilst training was delivered to the entire staff teams of three schools. To further raise the profile of DASV within Schools and GPs, the DASV Coordinator presented at the Schools Safeguarding Forum in June and ensured a DASV article was included every month in the GP bulletin.

### **Volunteers**

Following the successful recruitment and training of volunteers, the programme started taking referrals in March. Between April and June 2018, a further 312 hours of training for new volunteers have been completed with 196.5hrs of support being provided for clients by volunteers.

To ensure volunteers are supported, 17 hours of supervision was provided, as well as volunteer team meetings taking place. 2 of the volunteers also attended the DASV Partnership Forum on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Figure 18: Volunteer Hours  
(Source: EHM Case Notes)



IDVA: “The client met her partner, the alleged perpetrator towards the end of 2017, and the physical violence started within a week. On assessment the RIC score was 17. The client also was experiencing emotional, psychological and financial abuse. The client continued in a relationship with the alleged perpetrator despite her wanting to press charges and being prepared to go to court.

As the IDVA I was aware that I would not be available for the court date, so I requested a Volunteer to support the client that day. The request was met swiftly and the volunteer was able to be with the client throughout the day of the trial.

The outcome was Perpetrator found guilty on all counts.”

Client: “Thank you for the volunteer support and I still hope I didn't squeeze her hand too hard during the trial”

### **Workplace Ambassadors**

There are currently 34 trained Domestic Abuse Ambassadors, who provide support and signpost any colleagues who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Following the training, every six weeks Active Learning Sessions are held for Ambassadors. In April the session was delivered by a colleague from RISE and focused on Motivational Interviewing techniques. The session in June was held at the FJC and the ambassadors met the team who all explained their roles.

Training sessions for the next cohort of Ambassadors is arranged for the end of September.

## **Marketing**

Unfortunately during all major supporting events, incidents of domestic abuse increase. During the World Cup in 2014, domestic abuse increased by 35% when England lost. In response to this, the Safer Croydon Partnership Communications Officer organised a large campaign, promoting the FJC and the National Domestic Violence Helpline.

The poster (right) was displayed on the Decaux boards across the borough for three weeks, including the week prior to the World Cup. In addition, over 1,000 copies of the poster have been displayed across the borough, including at Croydon University Hospital, within train stations and Best Start Children's Centres.

The poster campaign has been supported by a press release that was printed in the Croydon Advertiser.

Internally, the Communications Officer has ensured the posters are displayed across the council's main buildings and on the plasma TV screens within Bernard Weatherill House. There have been regular posts, signposting colleagues to support services, on the staff intranet page. The posts have included interviews with colleagues who are trained as DASV Workplace Ambassadors. Furthermore, members of the DASV team have had a stall at the Deli around England's games offering support to colleagues, as well as promoting the Volunteering and DASV Workplace Ambassador programmes.

