

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report

July to September 2018

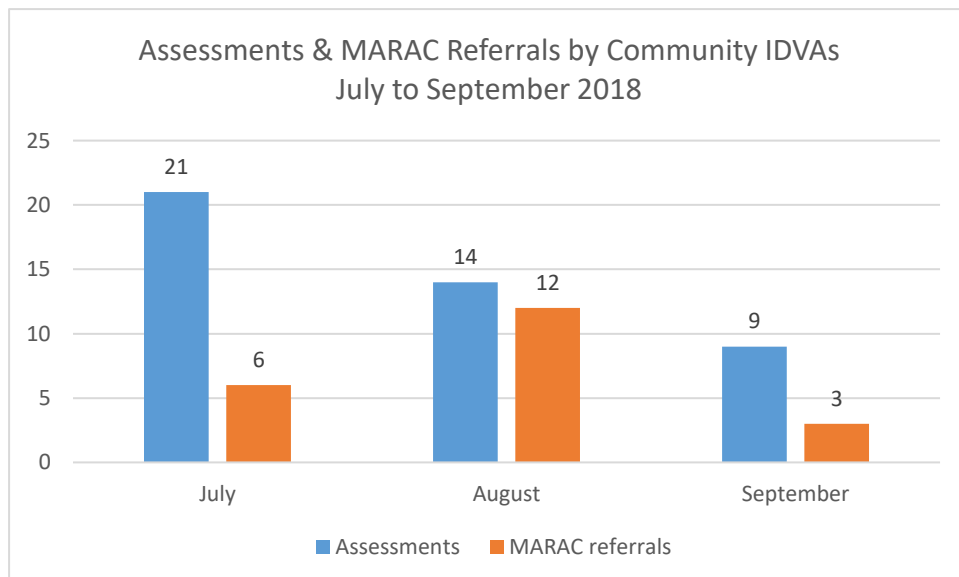
Croydon’s domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) services are delivered through a hub and spoke model, with the FJC as the central hub offering a drop-in service. Over the last two years there has been an increase in providing community based support with IDVAs at Croydon University Hospital and within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

The FJC central hub moved to a temporary site in September and will be moving to a new purpose built site in November. The new site provides two extra consultation rooms, improved training facilities and greater security for both clients and the staff team. To further safeguard clients, the address of the new site will not be published. The temporary site and the new location are both in Central Croydon and short walks from the police station and Bernard Weatherill House.

Community IDVAs

The three Community IDVAs work across the community, assessing clients and providing support to those with low to medium risk. Between July and September, the Community IDVAs made 21 referrals to MARAC, this is a significant increase on the previous quarter.

Figure 1 (Source: Early Help Module and MARAC Inbox)



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 IDVAs also deliver training, for example within

Nurseries and attend community events, including that of Best Start, to raise awareness across the borough.

Hospital IDVA

In June 2018 a new Hospital IDVA joined the team and is now based within Croydon University Hospital. The IDVA's role is to 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.

I was contacted by a consultant on one of the wards at the Croydon University Hospital who was concerned about a patient who had been admitted following a domestic violence incident between her and her ex-partner. The patient had facial bruising and bruising to her arms and legs.

I attended the ward and spoke to the patient about my role as an IDVA in the hospital and the support that I could offer her to remain safe. I completed a risk assessment and safety plan around her remaining in hospital and discharging.

As part of the discussion, I spoke about refuge and how safe and supported the patient would be if she decided that this would be an option for her as it would be unsafe for her to return home. She was unable to stay with any family or friends as they were all unaware of the domestic violence over the past two years as her ex-partner had isolated her from them. In addition the patient didn't want her family members to see her injuries and feared repercussions for her family if her ex-partner knew that she was staying with them.

The patient didn't want to report this incident to the police for fear of escalation to herself and others known to her.

The patient decided that refuge would be the safest and best option for her and so I conducted a refuge search and the patient has now been placed out of borough in a refuge in which she is being fully supported by staff to gain her self-esteem and confidence again, receiving counselling and attending the Freedom Programme, but most of all remaining safe.

Hospital based IDVA, September 2018

NRPF IDVA

In June 2018 an NRPF IDVA joined the team. The IDVA's role is to provide support services to vulnerable individuals and families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and EEA nationals in refuge and in the community who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Between July and September 2018, the FJC received 15 referrals for clients who do not have recourse to public funds.

MASH IDVA

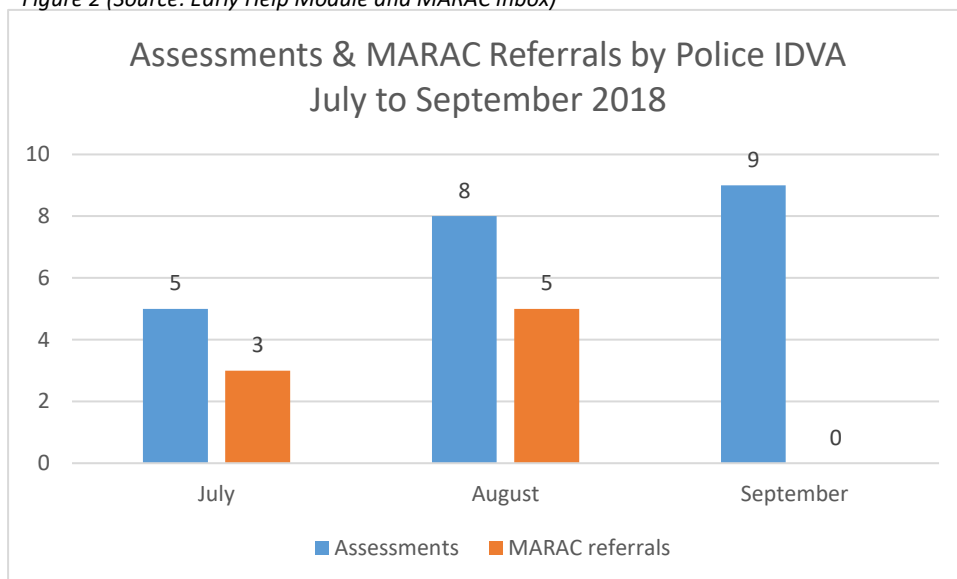
An IDVA is based in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) full time, to provide a consistent approach to risk regarding families experiencing DASV. The IDVA contributes to the assessment of risk and vulnerability for adults and children, whilst informing intelligence form a broader professional perspective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

On average, for the months of July, August and September, the FJC receive 8 referrals a week from MASH, with the IDVA involved in the triaging of 4 cases and 8 case discussions.

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. The Police IDVA also supports CSU when carrying out welfare checks.

Figure 2 (Source: Early Help Module and MARAC Inbox)



I worked with an extremely high risk case where both mother and daughter were assaulted, the perpetrator was actively trying to find them and had connections with schools and police so was able to obtain information.

The police officer in charge and I worked closely together to have all files restricted and to support the client with the ongoing case and abuse.

The client managed to flee her home before Christmas.

At Christmas I spoke with the client who stated she was much more confident about going out now she had fled her home and was feeling settled in time for Christmas.

This client is now supporting vulnerable women when they flee and have no belongings, she makes boxes that contain items to help a victim of abuse which has practical things such as tooth brushes and hair brushes as well as empowering the women.

The client has used her experience and the positive support given by the police officer and I to support other vulnerable women.

Police IDVA, September 2018

Merlin Data

538 Merlins were received by MASH for Domestic Abuse and Non-Crime Domestic Abuse within Croydon, during the second quarter of the financial year. This is consistent with the previous quarter.

Table 1 (Source: Police team within MASH)

Month	Non-Crime Domestic Abuse	Domestic Abuse
July	64	140
August	49	94
September	53	134

The total number of police call outs for domestic abuse during the year would be higher. A Merlin is only generated when a child is present during the reported incident. The figures above do not include domestic incidents where a child was not present.

In addition to the Merlins listed above, 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 during this financial year. 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 means appropriate pastoral support can be offered to the child or young person.

FJC Data

Between July and September 2018 there were 631 visitors to the FJC. This is 18% less than the previous quarter, however this is to be expected during the school holidays. It is worth noting that for the last week of September the FJC was offering a reduced service, only to high risk clients, due to the site move. Based on the service being open 4 days a week over the three months, this is an average of 14 visitors to the Centre every day. Visitors to the FJC include for assessment with an IDVA, to speak to a solicitor or to seek housing advice, accessing counselling and to meet Volunteers.

Despite such a high number of visitors to the FJC every day, there are still many people in Croydon who are being affected by domestic abuse and are not receiving support. It is estimated that 1 in 4 women experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, which based on Croydon’s female population 16yrs¹ and older is approximately 38,500 women.

Figure 3 (Source: Footfall Tracker)

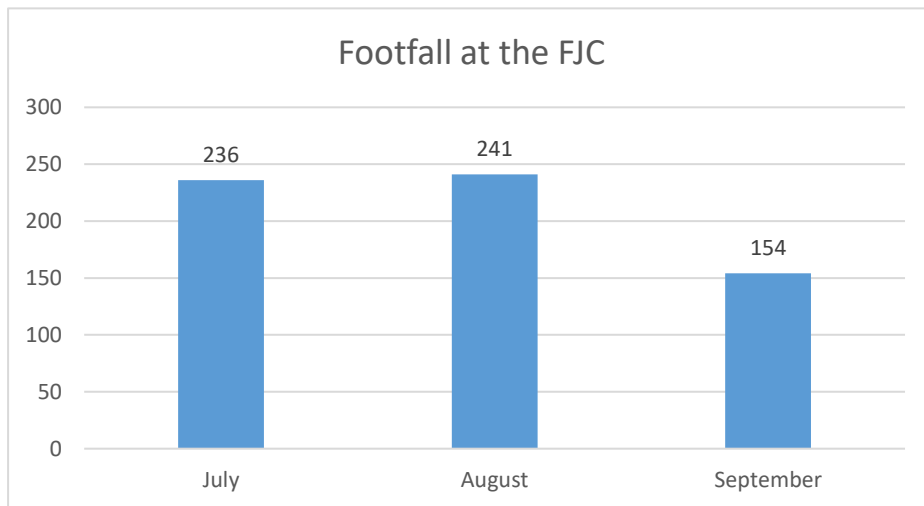


Table 2 (Source: Early Help Module)

Month	Number of Referrals
July	150
August	137
September	95

Between July and September 2018, the FJC received 382 referrals. This is consistent with the previous financial year.

Table 3 (Source: Early Help Module)

Type of Referral	Total
Direct Referral	157
Sign-posting	151
Self-referral	67

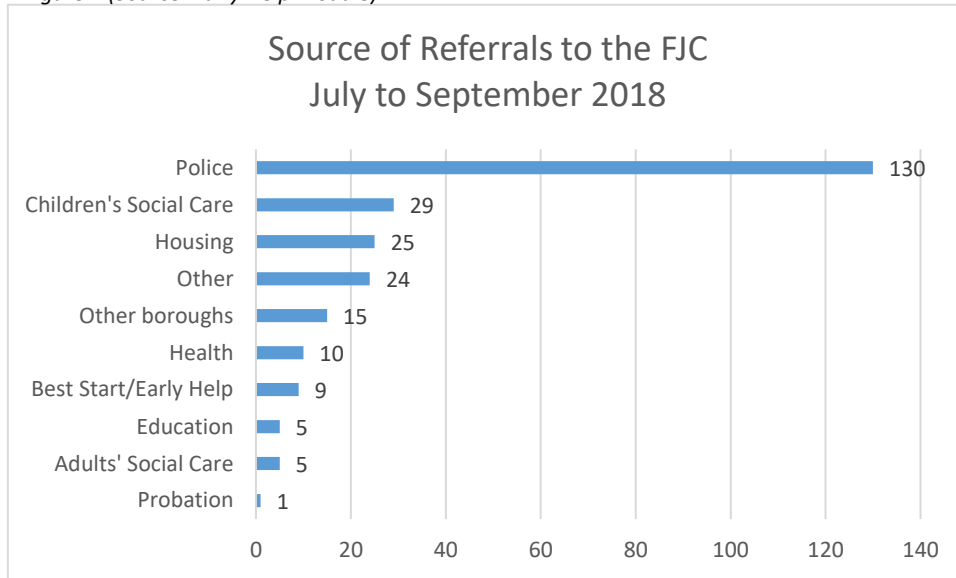
82% of all those referred to the FJC were from agencies directly referring or signposting clients. The remaining 18% are self-referred, meaning they found the service online or through advertising and contacted the FJC. Compared to previous quarters, this is a decrease in the number of self-referrals. This is something the team will continue to monitor.

¹ Office for National Statistics 2016

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September (Quarter 2)

Those directly referred or signposted to the FJC have been broken down by agency in Figure 4, with police referring the most between July and September 2018. The DASV Programme Board are currently focusing on increasing the number of referrals from Children's Social Care to the FJC and MARAC and so this is something that will continue to be monitored.

Figure 4 (Source: Early Help Module)



With the exception of Sanderstead, the FJC receive referrals from across the borough. The FJC receive a higher amount of referrals from the north of the borough, this reflects previous trends.

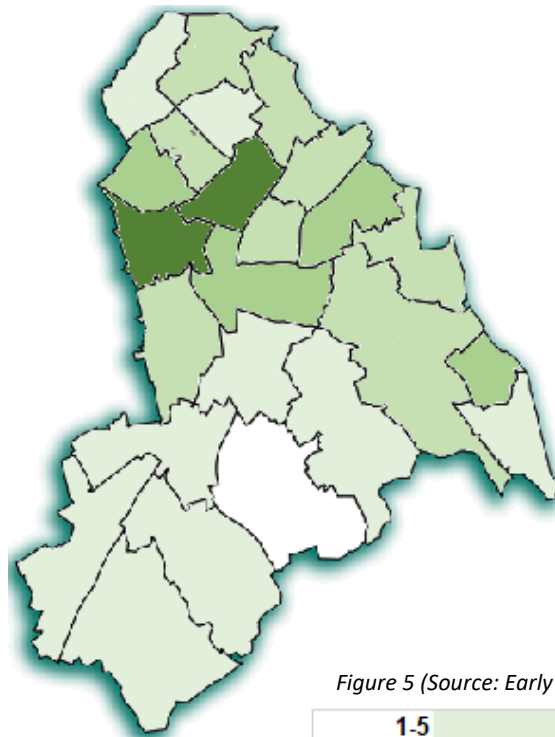
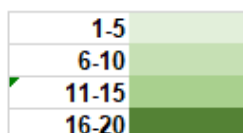


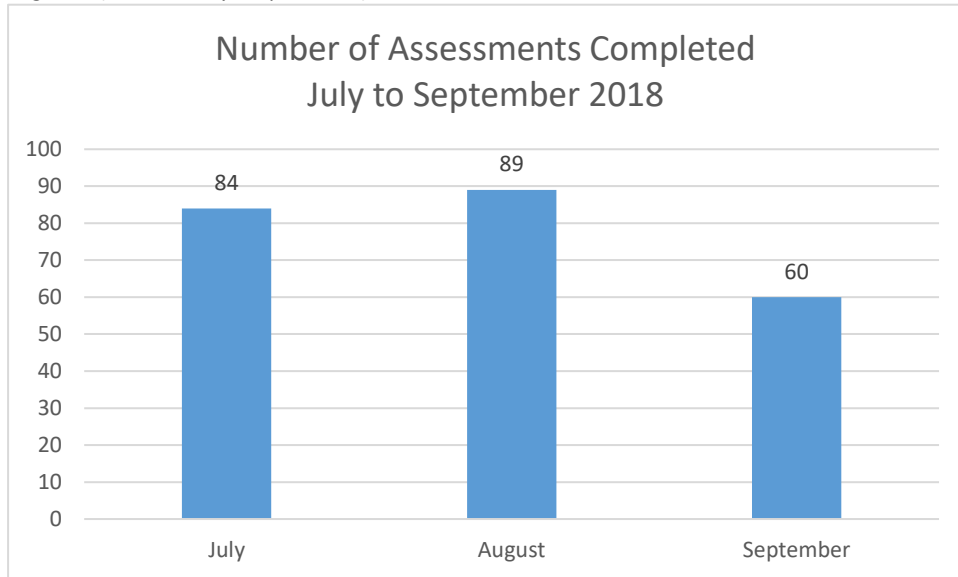
Figure 5 (Source: Early Help Module)



Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September (Quarter 2)

Of the 382 referrals, 233 assessments were completed by IDVAs between July and September 2018. Not every referral resulted in an assessment for a range of reasons, including clients disengaging or the case not being appropriate for the IDVA service. Financial year.

Figure 6 (Source: Early Help Module)



As seen in Figure 7, 98.2% of those assessed between July and September 2018 were female, this reflects a national trend and that domestic abuse is a gendered crime.

Figure 7 (Source: Early Help Module)

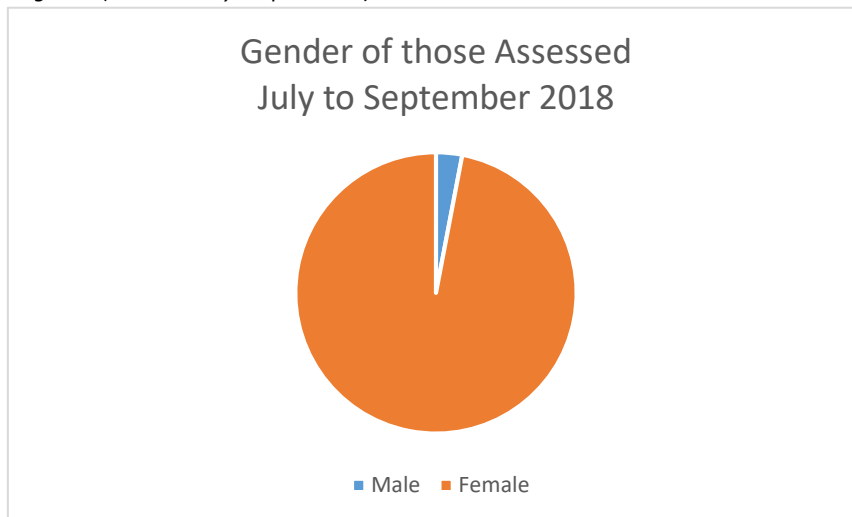
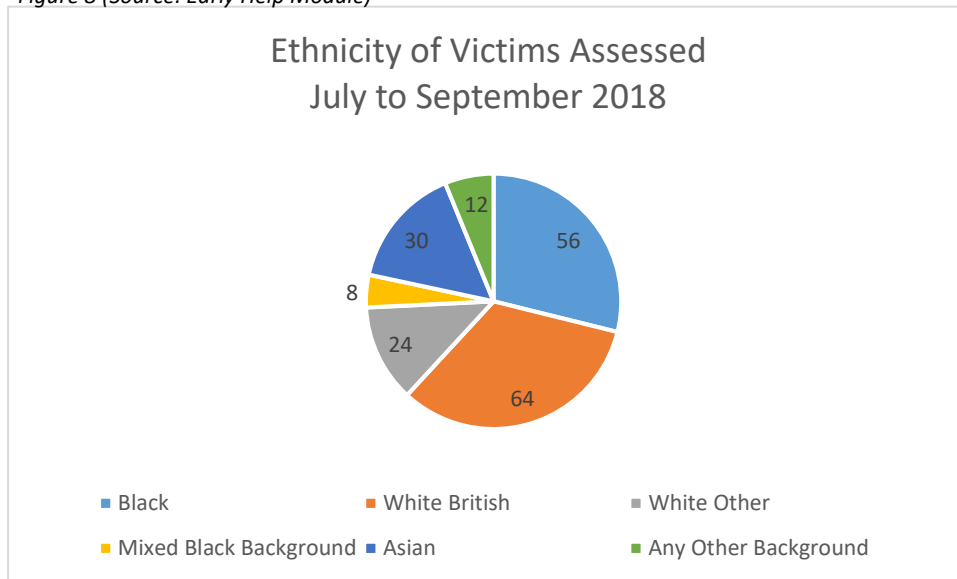


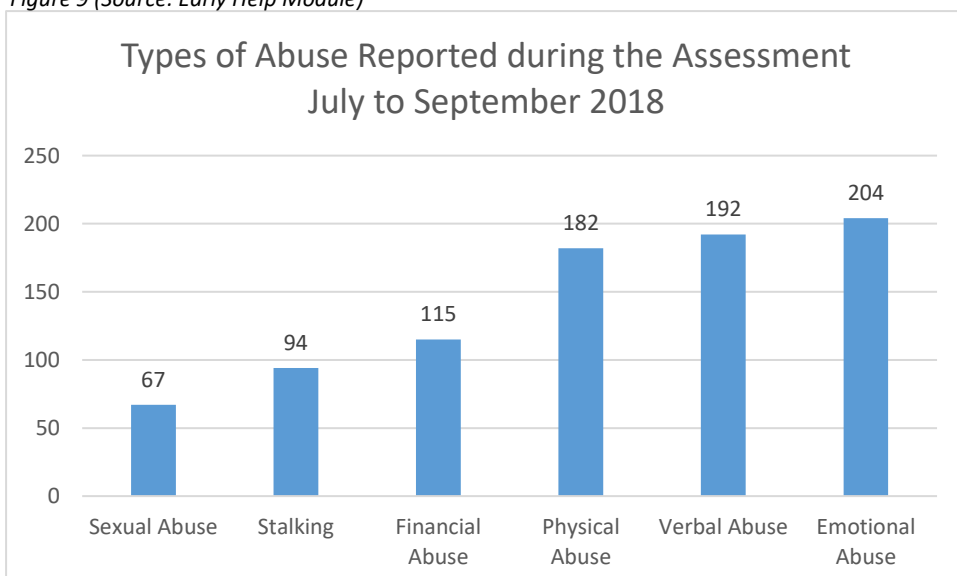
Figure 8 breaks down the ethnicity of those who were assessed by an IDVA between July and September 2018.

Figure 8 (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 completed between July and September 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 and accurate identification of abuse.

Figure 9 (Source: Early Help Module)



As a result of the 233 assessments, the following also took place between July and September:

- 47 safety plans were developed with clients
- 11 clients were supported to move to a safer location
- 13 referrals were made on behalf of clients to counselling services
- 8 clients were referred to the Freedom Together programme
- 3 referrals were made to Early Help
- 8 clients were referred to Social Care for further support
- 26 clients received legal advice and as a result:
 - 4 Non-Molestation Orders were obtained
 - 2 Restraining Orders were put in place
 - 1 Prohibited Steps Order was granted

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 Croydon’s Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which is held fortnightly. All MARAC cases are allocated to an IDVA to work with the victim to eliminate the risk of abuse.

Between July and September 2018, 164 referrals to Croydon’s MARAC were received. This is a 20% increase on the same period last 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 same period in the previous financial year, as well as quarter one of this financial year.

Figure 9 (Source: MARAC Tracker)

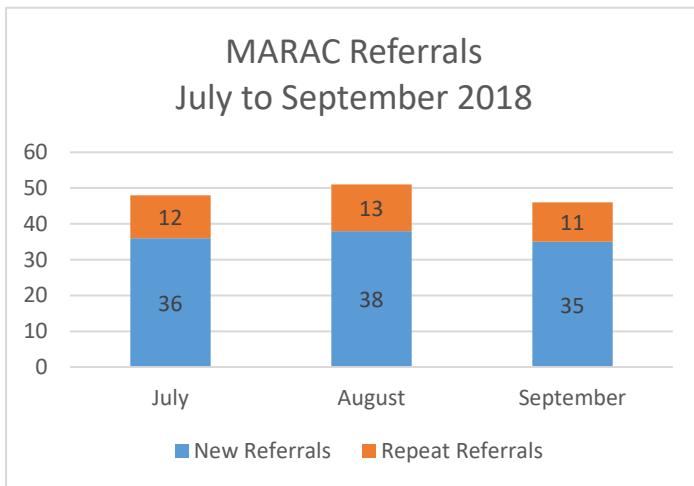


Table 4 (Source: MARAC Tracker)

Month	Total MARAC Referrals
July	48
August	51
September	46

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September (Quarter 2)

As anticipated, 64% of referrals to MARAC during the second quarter of 2018-19 were made by the FJC itself. This is a 9% increase on the previous quarter. 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 an IDVA at the FJC, the case has then been referred to MARAC. This subset of data is shown in figure 11.

Figure 10 (Source: MARAC Tracker)

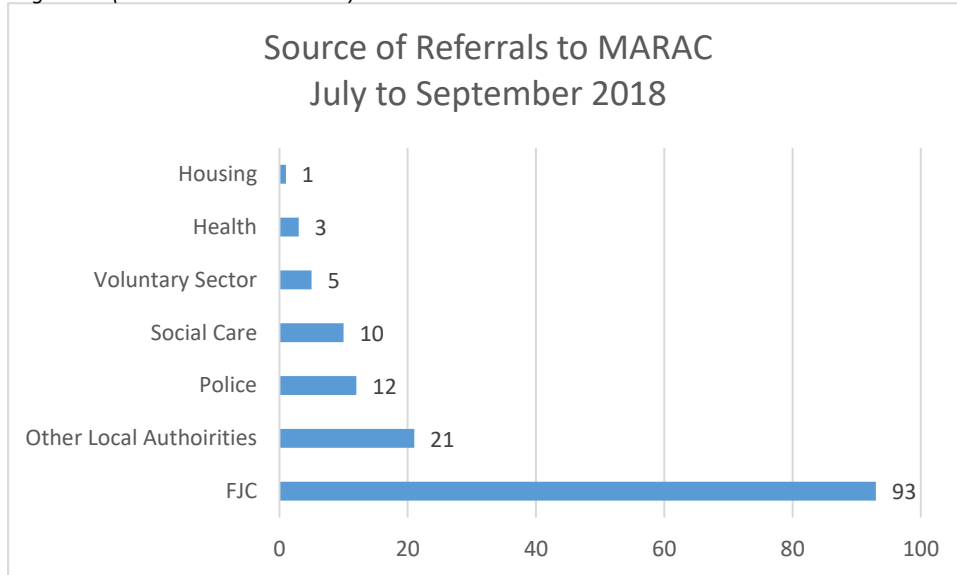
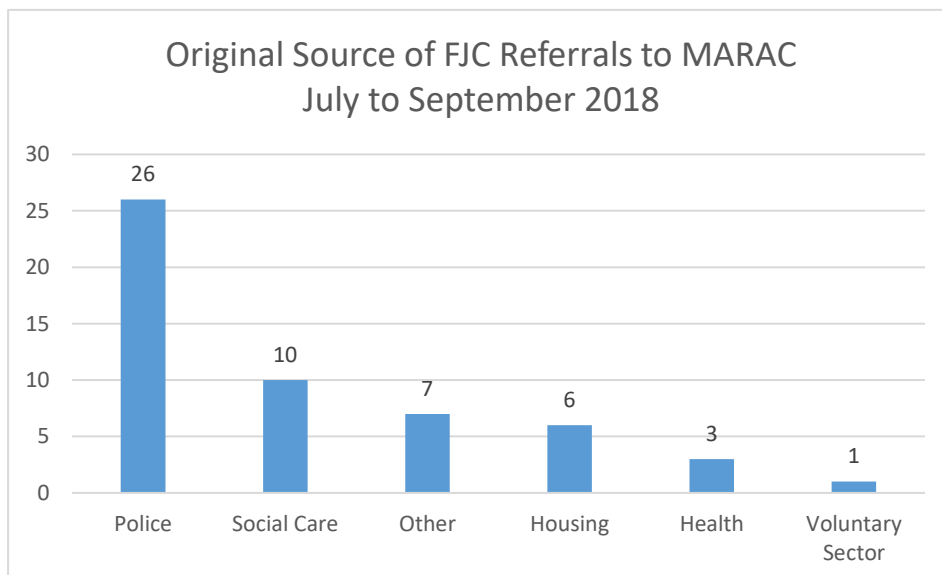


Figure 11 (Source: MARAC Tracker)



Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September (Quarter 2)

Table 5 (Source: MARAC Tracker)

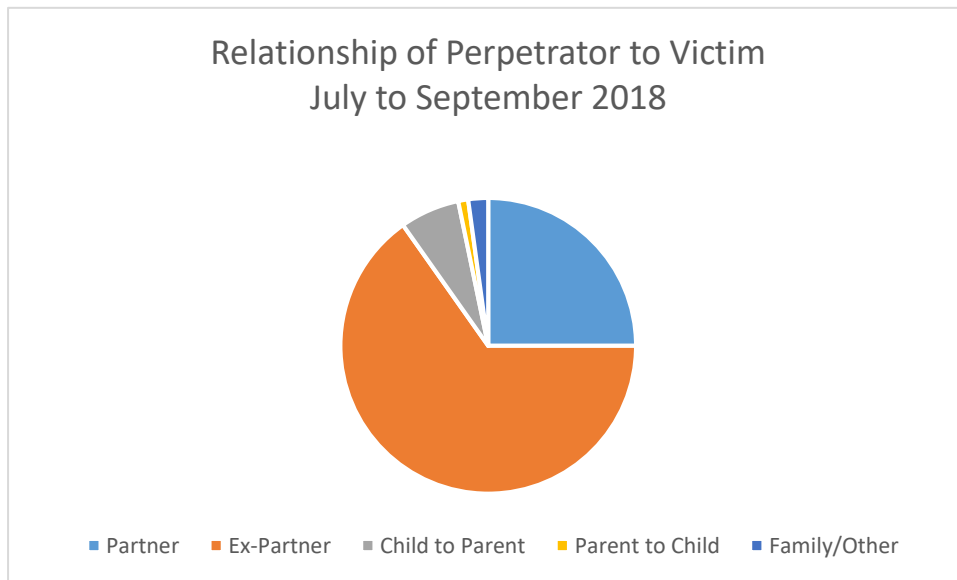
76% of MARAC cases heard between July and September 2018 included children in the family. This is consistent with the previous financial year.

Month	MARAC referrals with Children in the Family
July	75.0%
August	75.4%
September	76.7%

4 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.²

90% of MARAC referrals between July and September 2018 were due to partner or ex-partner abuse. This is consistent with the previous quarter. Figure 12 reflects the national trend, an increase in child to parent violence. In response to this, RISE have been commissioned and during this Quarter 2 begun delivering the Respect and Principles workshops with the Youth Offending Team.

Figure 12 (Source: MARAC Tracker)



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

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Report: July to September (Quarter 2)

From Figures 13 & 14, the gendered nature of domestic abuse is clear. Only 2 victims referred to MARAC between July and September were male, whilst 99% of the alleged perpetrators heard at MARAC were male.

Figure 13 (Source: MARAC Tracker)

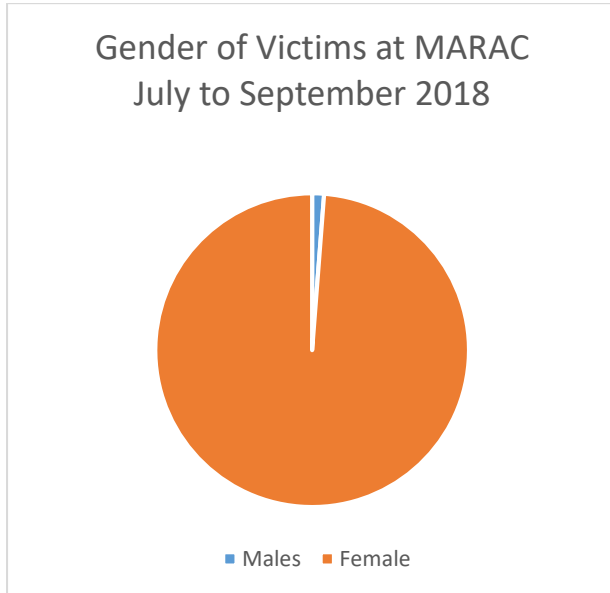
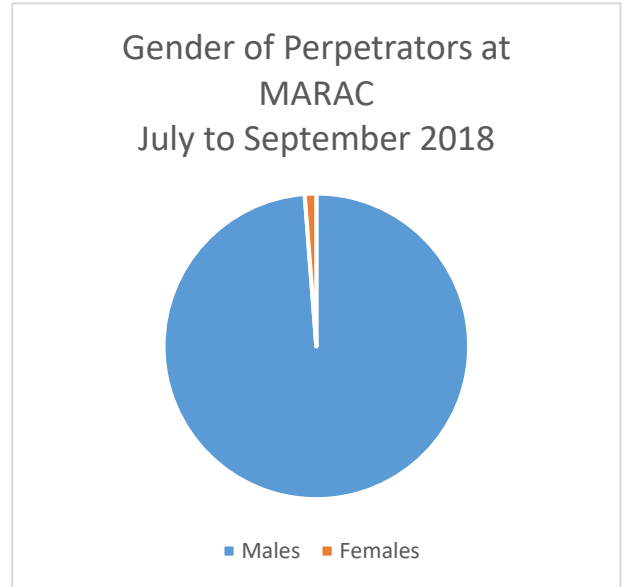


Figure 14 (Source: MARAC Tracker)



The following two figures (Figures 15 & 16) demonstrate the ethnicities of the victims and alleged perpetrators referred to MARAC between July and September 2018.

Figure 15 (Source: MARAC Tracker)

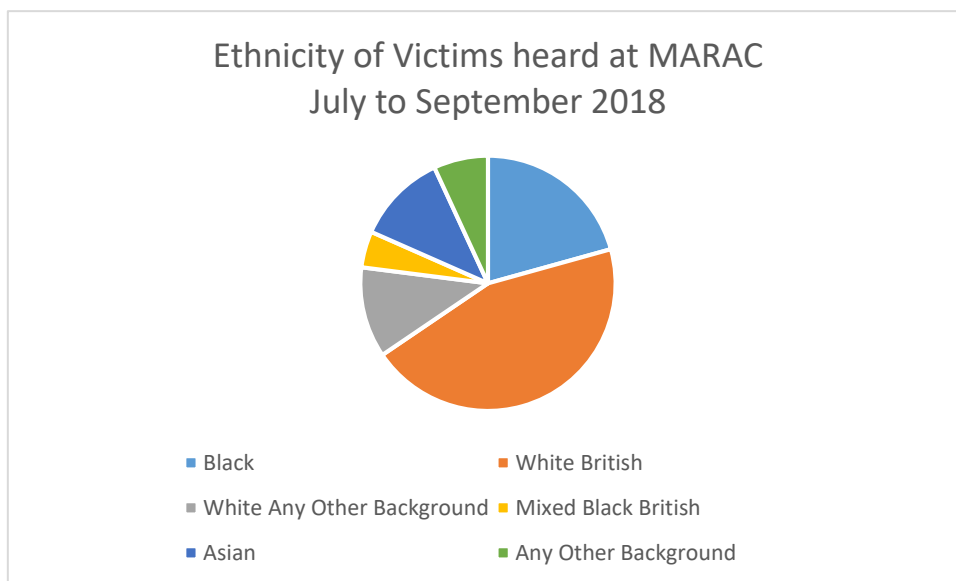
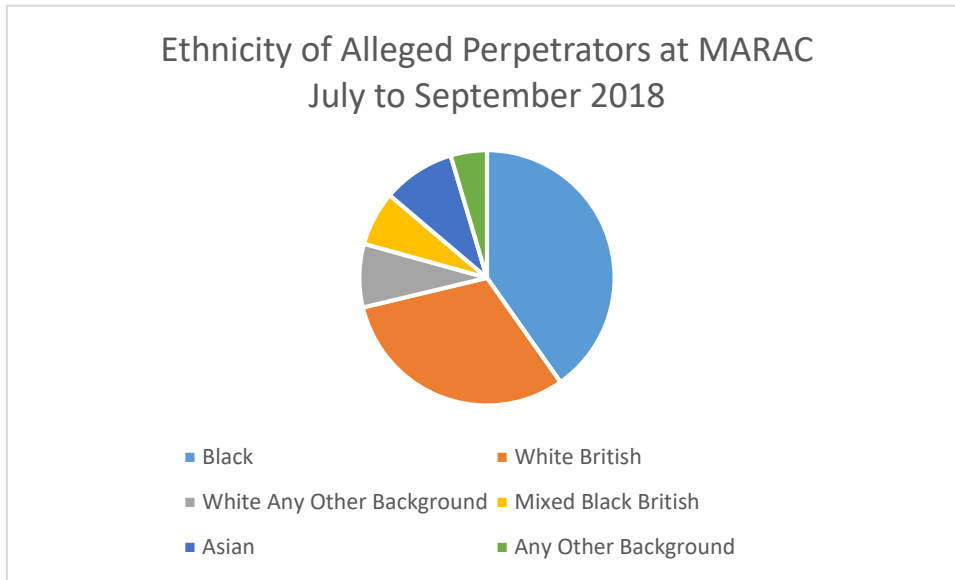


Figure 16 (Source: MARAC Tracker)



The follow two figures, 17 & 18, demonstrate the age of both victims and alleged perpetrators referred to MARAC between July and September 2018. Following previous trends, the largest age group for both victims and alleged perpetrators is 31-40yrs. This is consistent with previous quarters.

Figure 17 (Source: MARAC Tracker)

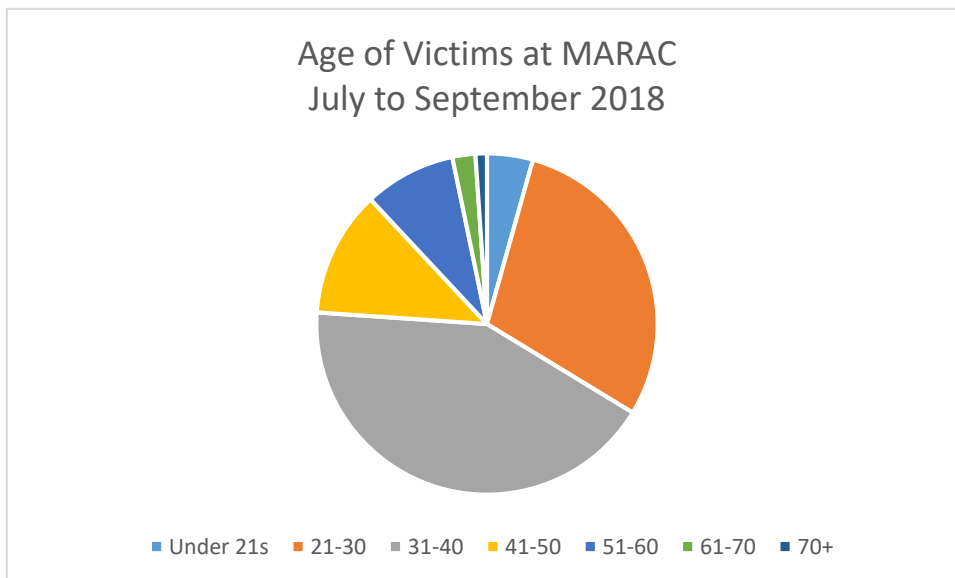
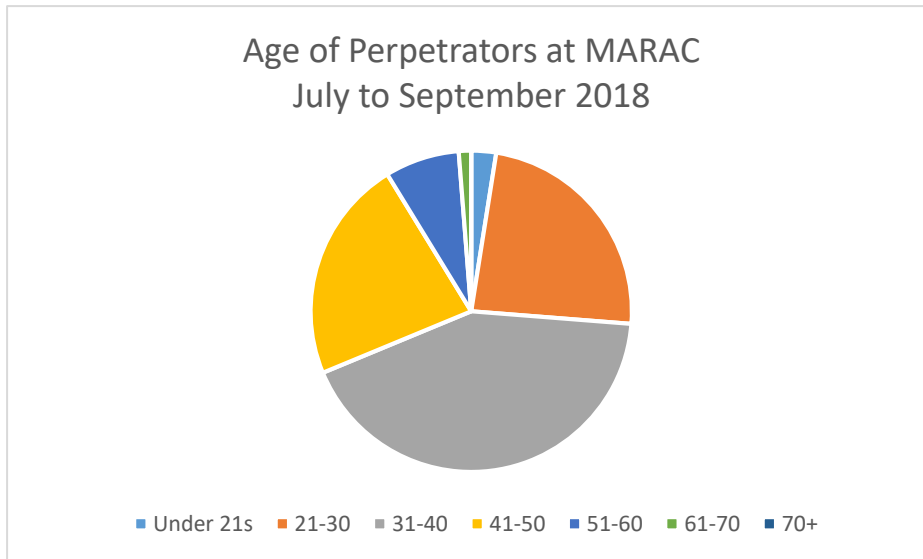


Figure 18 (Source: MARAC Tracker)

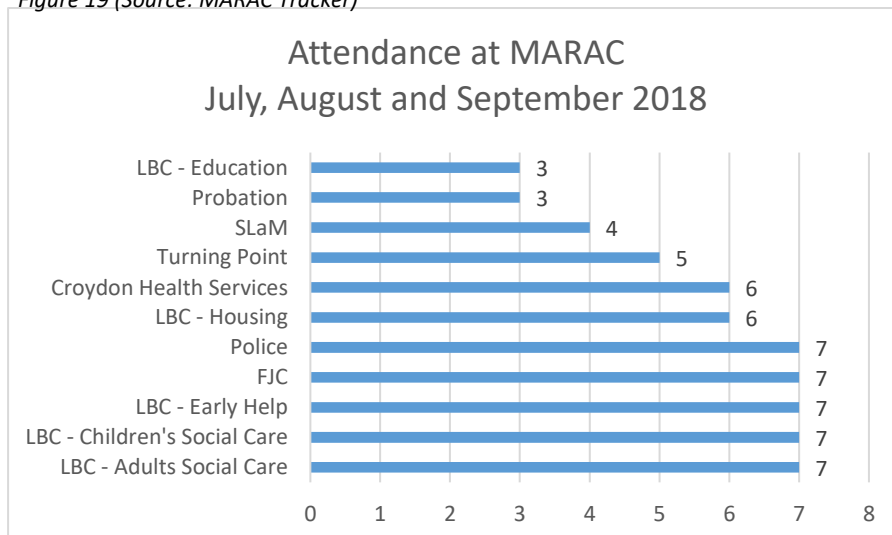


Only 1 of the MARAC victims identified as bisexual, the rest either identified as heterosexual or preferred not to say. This means that the LGBT community were under represented between July and September 2018.

Only 1 MARAC victim reported the misuse of drugs and/or alcohol, yet it was reported that 34% of alleged perpetrators at MARAC misused drugs and/or alcohol. 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. 28% of MARAC victims reported either mental health issues or a physical disability, compared to 15% of the alleged perpetrators heard at MARAC. Both figures are slightly lower than the previous quarter. Further caution should be taken, as this information is shared by the victim to the referring organisation and not by the alleged perpetrator themselves.

7 MARACs were held during the July, August and September 2018 and we were all well attended and chaired by the police.

Figure 19 (Source: MARAC Tracker)



DRIVE Data

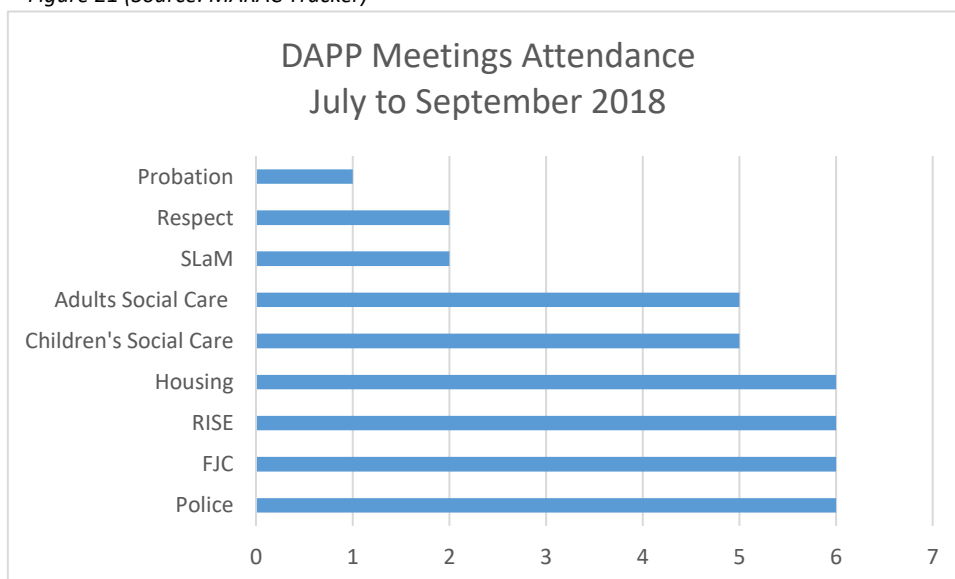
On 2nd July Drive was launched in Croydon, with RISE commissioned to deliver the intervention work. Drive aims to reduce the number of victims of domestic abuse and increase the safety of victims and their families by holding perpetrators to account and challenging them to change.

High risk perpetrators of domestic abuse are identified through MARAC and then discussed at a newly established multi-agency panel: Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Panel (DAPP). DAPP is responsible for overseeing referrals to Drive, as well as, enabling a co-ordinated multi-agency response. The aim is to disrupt abuse and reduce re-offending, while keeping victims/survivors and children’s safety at the core.

Figure 20 (Source: DAPP Dashboard)

Indicator	July	August	September
Number of perpetrators discussed at DAPP	15	29	19
Number of serial perpetrators discussed (more than one victim/repeat victim)	7	15	11
Number of referrals for disruption work	1	1	6
Number referred for Intensive Case Management	8	8	0

Figure 21 (Source: MARAC Tracker)



Supporting the Partnership

Training

In July, August and September 9 training courses were delivered by the team, including two training sessions to council staff on MARAC and Claire's Law. Across the 9 training sessions there was a total of 220 attendees. In September the majority of training was delivered to schools during inset, staff training days.

Two additional training sessions were organised and delivered through Croydon's Safeguarding Children's Board. Across the two sessions, there were 14 attendees.

DASV Forum

During Quarter 2 of this financial year the DASV Forum was held on Thursday 20th September, at Croydon Voluntary Action. The forum was attended by 54 professionals working across Croydon, from the domestic abuse services, schools, health, social care and the voluntary sector. DeafHope, Victim Support, RISE and women from the Freedom Programme presented.

Feedback:

- 'As always very informative but what can I say about the personal testimonies – emotional, thought provoking and a lot of reflection for services'
- 'Amazed at the braveness of the women who shared their stories and experiences today. Thank you'
- 'Emotional. Very good and informative'

DASV Bulletin

The DASV bulletin is circulated to over 300 professionals and organisations in Croydon every other month. During quarter 2, two bulletins were circulated, one in July and one in September.

July's bulletin including information on Drive, the new perpetrator's programme in Croydon, support during the school holidays, as well as information from sTandTall, the Parenting and Relationship Hub and the Freedom Together Programme. September's bulletin focused on the FJC site move, Female Genital Mutilation as well as Bromley and Croydon's Women's Aid as well as Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board.

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. 15 school leads were trained in September 2018, whilst training was delivered to the entire staff teams of four schools. To further raise the profile of DASV with GPs, an article has been included every month in the GP bulletin.

Volunteers

The FJC Volunteer programme opened for referrals in March and there are currently 26 active Volunteers, with a further 12 attending training over the next month. In July, August and September, 209 hours of support were provided to clients by Volunteers. This is an increase on the previous quarter. 23 hours of supervision was provided to Volunteers, as

well as further 18 hours of training. It can be anticipated that there will be more training hours and active Volunteers in the next quarter, with two sets of training sessions already booked.

Feedback from Clients on the Volunteer programme:

- ‘It’s really nice having one person that you can go to for everything. It makes it clearer of who I should call as before I didn’t know so I just called everyone. A lot of other people would benefit from having a Volunteer like me. My Volunteer is so lovely, I really like her”
- “Thank you for everything and for putting your time into helping me”

I applied to volunteer at the FJC because I wanted to do something a little different, something that enables me to help others. I myself suffered Domestic Abuse and was lucky to get out of such an awful situation. I want to help victims of DV as much as I possibly can, and get awareness out there. So far I am delighted to be part of this organisation because it’s rewarding. I love being able to provide emotional support to those that don’t have that in place already. It makes me feel like I’ve helped make a change at the end of the day. I am honestly so grateful for being able to assist clients with any needs and being able to attend workshops and network with new people from other services. Being here is benefiting me an awful lot because I am gaining so much new skills and experience. I will work in this field later down the line!

The team here are great especially Emma, very helpful and welcoming 😊

Volunteer, September 2018

Workplace Ambassadors

In September, a further six Workplace Ambassadors were trained, meaning there is now a total of 40 Ambassadors across the council. Domestic Abuse Ambassadors provide support and signpost any colleagues who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Following the training, Active Learning Sessions are held for the Ambassadors and Volunteers to further their knowledge. In August, Tender delivered a workshop around the Whole Schools Approach and discussed some of the gendered issues affecting young people today. The Whole Schools Approach is a programme commissioned by MOPAC to be delivered in four schools across the borough, focusing on issues of gendered crime and serious youth violence.

Marketing

The Safer Croydon Partnership Communications Officer has been crucial in ensuring that the FJC’s site move has been effectively and discreetly communicated, internally and externally. The FJC moved in the last week of September to a temporary site and will be moving to the new permanent site in November.

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The site move in September provide an opportunity to rebrand the 'Family Justice Centre' to the 'FJC'. The Communications Officer has worked with the E-communications team to ensure this is changed on all online publications as well as removing the old address.

During quarter 2, the Communications Officer and DASV Coordinator have been planning for quarter 3, in particular focusing on Domestic Abuse Awareness Month (October), the 25th November as the Elimination of Violence towards Women and Girls, supported by the White Ribbon Campaign and for the Christmas campaign.