

SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Directorate	Chief Executive
Service Area	Stronger and Safer Communities
Service/policy/function being assessed	Vulnerabilities Section – Violence Against Women and Girls
Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to	Wandsworth
Staff involved in developing this EINA	Miranda Hibbert
Date approved by Directorate Equality Group (if applicable)	
Date approved by Policy and Review Manager All EINAs must be signed off by the Policy and Review Manager	

1. Summary

VAWG remains a key priority of the statutory CSP; it was also one of the top concerns flagged by residents in the recent Community Safety Consultation. Over the last 18 months there have been numerous commitments made to tackling VAWG including; the stabilisation of services through a permanent multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) coordinator, removing the reliance of grant funding for the independent domestic violence advocacy (IDVA) service, a cost-of-living funded IDVA, the addition of a VAWG Community Safety Officer and an improved CCTV pilot.

In line with the enhanced resource to tackle VAWG it is prudent to understand the scope of need in Wandsworth. In May 2023 a project commenced within the Community Safety Team to review the VAWG needs assessment originally conducted in 2019. Since 2019 there have been many societal, political, and legislative changes in VAWG sector. One of the key recommendations from the needs assessment was to update the strategy, policy, and guidance. This report follows an extensive project of conducting a needs assessment, refreshing the strategy, and gathering input and feedback on the Community Safety Partnership’s (CSP) strategy to tackle VAWG.

To provide context, in Wandsworth there were 2,681 DA crimes between January 2022 and December 22, and 655 DA with injury reported to the police. There were 786 recorded sexual offences in Jan – Dec 2022 and 288 rapes reported to the police. The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) provides protection and support for those with the highest risk of murder or serious harm and heard 671 cases of high-risk victims in the same time frame. The mainstream independent domestic abuse advocacy (IDVA) service have had 913 referrals in 2022/23, the complex needs IDVA service has received 165 referrals in 2022/23, and domestic abuse is the highest reason for homeless approaches.

VAWG and DA permeates all corners of society, effecting all socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities, ages, sexualities, cultures etc. However, there are noted over and under representations. Research conducted by the MARAC (2022/23) found the below:

Vulnerabilities and equalities data

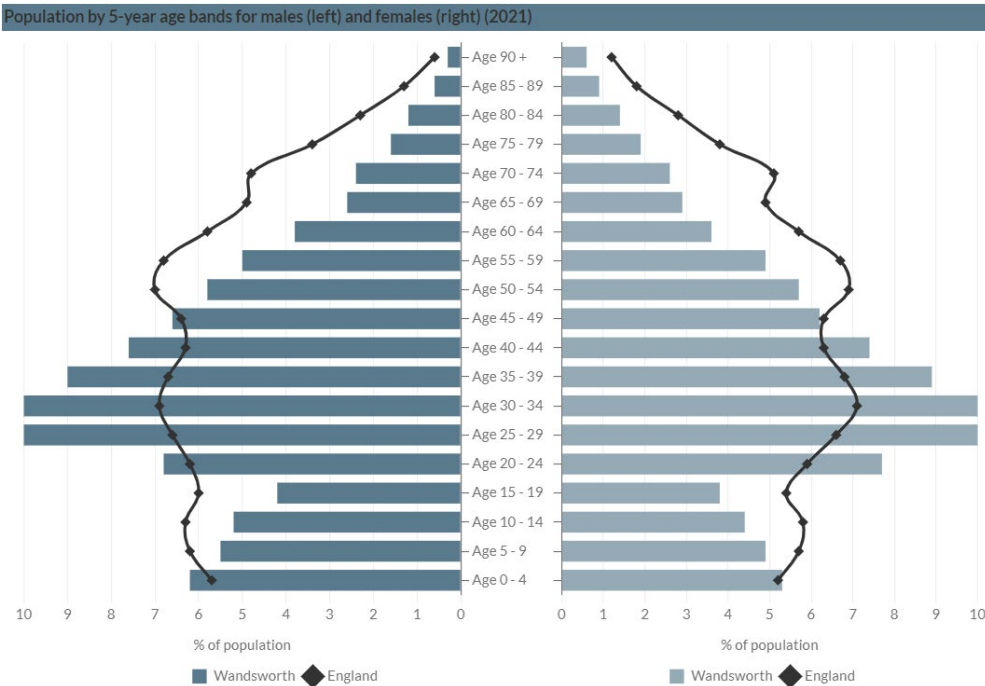
Vulnerabilities and risk factors	Victim / survivor	Perpetrator	National average
Mental Health	41% - increase from last year's 34%	18% - same as last year	-
Alcohol abuse	10% - same as last year	21% - increase from last year's 17%	-
Drug abuse	11% - increase from last year's 9%	32% - increase from last year's 19%	-
Disability	18% - increase from last year's 6%	5% - increase from last year's 2%	9.1%
Under 18	1% - decrease from last year's 1.2%	0.4% - decrease from last year's 2%	1.3%
Over 61	5% - decrease from last year's 6%	4% - increase from last year's 3.3%	-
LGBTQ+	4% - increase from last year's 3%	3% - same as last year	1.5%
BME	38% - increase from last year's 30%	30% - increase from last year's 22%	16%
HBV (honor-based violence)	3% - same as last year	-	-
FM (forced marriage)	0 cases - cases	-	-
FGM (female genital mutilation)	0.3% (2 cases)	-	-

Paper No. **XX-XXX** sets out refreshed VAWG Strategy.

2. Evidence gathering and engagement

Evidence	Source
Written reports by educational and research institutions	Sources provided in footnotes
Local data	DataWand
National data	Government website
Regional data	Greater London Authority dataset website

3. Analysis of need

Protected group	Findings
Age	<p>The 2021 census revealed that of the Wandsworth population (327,500) 75% of the population were aged 15-64, with 16% comprising ages 0-14 and 10% over 65.</p> <p>Population by 5-year age bands for males (left) and females (right) (2021)</p>  <p>The graph above shows Wandsworth having a younger age profile than the national profile.</p> <p>The needs assessment examining domestic abuse crime data shows that Wandsworth in comparison to the Greater London Authority (GLA) population projections for 2019, an over-representation of the 18-24 age group (9.4% pop vs. 16.3% crime) and an under-representation of 65+ (11.6% pop, 4.7% crime).</p> <p>Older People</p> <p>The Office of National Statistics (ONS) reports that “nearly one in five victims of domestic homicide (18%) were aged 70 years and over; in contrast, 1 in 20 victims of non-domestic homicide (5%) were aged 70 years and over, with the highest proportion of victims being from the younger age groups”.¹</p> <p>Safelives reported in 2016 that the limited pool of research which does exist on DA and older people suggests that “older women’s experiences of DA are markedly different from those in younger age</p>

¹ Source: [Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/domestic-abuse/victim-characteristics)

groups and that these differences have not been adequately acknowledged or accounted for".²
 Rebecca Zerk at Aberystwyth University comments in relation to DA and the elderly, 'a paucity of policy guidance and service provision that caters for the needs of people aged 60 years or over'³

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

There is one ongoing DHR with an emerging recommendation in respect of enhancing engagement with the borough's older people and support groups.

Local Advocacy Services

The Q1 22/23 report provided by the advocacy service identifies the below figures for referrals and ages:

15 to 19 years	7
20 to 24 years	27
25 to 29 years	40
30 to 34 years	52
35 to 39 years	37
40 to 44 years	29
45 to 49 years	17
50 to 54 years	14
55 to 59 years	14
60 to 64 years	11
65 to 69 years	5
70 to 74 years	4
75 to 79 years	4
80 to 84 years	
85 to 89 years	
90 to 94 years	1

² Source: [Safe Later Lives - Older people and domestic abuse.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](https://safelives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Safe-Later-Lives-Older-people-and-domestic-abuse.pdf)

³ Source: Wydall, S. and Zerk, R, 2017. Domestic abuse and older people; Factors influencing help-seeking. The Journal of Adult Protection, 19(5), pp.247-260

	<p style="text-align: center;">Advocacy Referrals by Age</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Referrals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>90-94</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>85-89</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>80-84</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>75-79</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>70-74</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>65-69</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>60-64</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>55-59</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>50-54</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>45-49</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>40-44</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>35-39</td><td>37</td></tr> <tr><td>30-34</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>25-29</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>20-24</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>15-19</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Forced Marriage and FGM</p> <p>In 2022, the Forced Marriage Unit gave advice and support in 302 cases related to a possible forced marriage and/or possible female genital mutilation (FGM). This figure includes contact that was made to the FMU through its public helpline or by email in relation to a new case, and comprises 297 cases of forced marriage and 5 of FGM. The unit also responded to 545 general enquiries.</p> <p>Of the 302 cases in which the FMU provided advice or support in 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88 cases (29%) involved victims aged 17 years and under • 119 cases (39%) involved victims aged 18 to 25 • 62 cases (19%) involved victims with mental capacity concerns 	Age	Referrals	90-94	1	85-89	0	80-84	0	75-79	4	70-74	4	65-69	5	60-64	11	55-59	14	50-54	14	45-49	17	40-44	29	35-39	37	30-34	52	25-29	40	20-24	27	15-19	7
Age	Referrals																																		
90-94	1																																		
85-89	0																																		
80-84	0																																		
75-79	4																																		
70-74	4																																		
65-69	5																																		
60-64	11																																		
55-59	14																																		
50-54	14																																		
45-49	17																																		
40-44	29																																		
35-39	37																																		
30-34	52																																		
25-29	40																																		
20-24	27																																		
15-19	7																																		
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Local Demographics <u>Disability + unpaid carers.</u> In 2021, 6.5% of Wandsworth residents were identified as being disabled and their ability to carry out day to day activity limited a lot. This figure decreased from 8.9% in 2011. Around 6.8% of the population provide unpaid care in the borough of Wandsworth.</p> <p>Local Demand Levels</p>																																		

	<p>MARACs are held to protect and support high risk victims. MARAC data is collected on the cases where victims have a disability. Levels for 2020/21 was 6% for Wandsworth, in line with the general borough’s population.</p> <p>The numbers of survivors supported by advocacy services (in Q1 of 2022/23) flagged as physically disabled under 10 and with learning disabilities is under 10. With the increased resources set out in the committee paper the Council would be able to do targeted outreach work to reach all members of our community.</p> <p>Prevalence</p> <p>In 2015 Public Health England published a report⁴ which reviewed the published evidence and statistical information about domestic violence affecting disabled people. It highlighted that disabled people experience disproportionately higher rates of domestic abuse. They also experience domestic abuse for longer periods of time, and more severe and frequent abuse than non-disabled people.</p> <p>Safelives reported that disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse as non-disabled women.⁵ This is repeated in the national strategy.⁶</p> <p>Research by Brighton University⁷ reported that 51% of lesbian, gay, bi, transexual, queer (LGBTQ+) people who defined as having a disability and 42% of those that defined as deaf, deafened or hard of hearing that were involved in the study had experienced domestic violence and abuse. 53% of those in the LGBT group that reported to have experienced mental health issues in the last 12 months had experienced domestic violence and/or abuse.</p>
<p>Sex</p>	<p>National Data</p> <p>In the year ending March 2023, according to the Office of National Statistics, an estimated 1.4 million women and 751,000 men experiences DA.⁸</p> <p>The ONS has created the below table⁹:</p>

⁴ Source: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480942/Disability_and_domestic_abuse_topic_overview_FINAL.pdf (accessed February 2020)

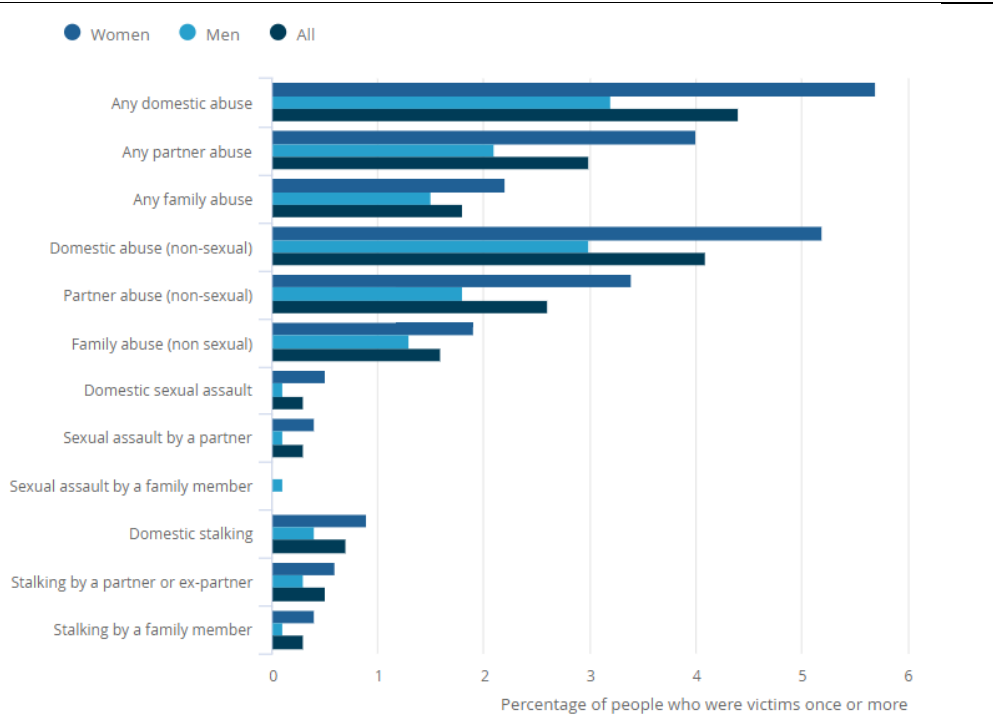
⁵ Source: <http://www.safelives.org.uk/knowledge-hub/spotlights/spotlight-2-disabled-people-and-domestic-abuse> (accessed February 2020)

⁶ Source: [Tackling violence against women and girls strategy \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480942/Tackling_violence_against_women_and_girls_strategy_accessible_version.pdf)

⁷ http://www.realadmin.co.uk/microdir/3700/File/CMIT_DV_Report_final_Dec07.pdf
http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057/978-1-137-49698-0_8

⁸ [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-in-england-and-wales-overview)

⁹ [Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-victim-characteristics-england-and-wales)



The national VAWG strategy states that, “for domestic abuse, sexual assault, rape and stalking those aged 16-19 and 20-24 were more likely to be victims of these crimes than any other age group. This difference across age groups is particularly apparent for sexual assault, where 12.9% of women aged 16-19 and 10.5% of women aged 20-24 had been a victim in the last year compared to 3.2% of women aged 25-34, the next highest group. Prevalence decreased as age increased.”¹⁰

This same strategy highlights that “in the last 12 months 20% of women had experienced unwanted sexual comments. Furthermore, 6% had experienced being followed or threatened, and 14% had experienced unwanted non-sexual touching”.

Local Data

The 2021 census revealed that of the Wandsworth population (327,500) females made up 53%.

Domestic Abuse: For 2021/22, of all domestic crime, women accounted for 73% in Wandsworth.

Sexual offences: In same year, women accounted for 86.7% of victims in Wandsworth.

A recent review of sexual offences in Wandsworth showed that around 41% of offences were stranger offences, highlighting Wandsworth Common, Roehampton and Queenstown as areas with a higher probability of offending.

¹⁰ Source: [Tackling violence against women and girls strategy \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92422/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-accessible-version.pdf)

Modern Slavery

Currently, there is no definitive source of data or suitable method available to accurately quantify the number of victims of modern slavery in the UK.¹¹ Nor is there robust local data available.

There has been one recent local DHR, case of 'Fleur' where a young French woman was subject to domestic servitude, that highlights the links between exploitation and wider VAWG.

Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP) or 'Honour' Based Violence (HBV)

HTP include female genital mutilation (FGM), honour-based violence, early child and forced marriage, abuse linked to spirit possession and breast ironing.

It is acknowledged that there is limited data in respect of all these themes locally, with a reliance on wider national data capture. In Q1 of 2023 the advocacy received two referrals relating to so called 'honour-based' violence.

Forced Marriage & FGM

In 2022, the Forced Marriage Unit gave advice and support in 302 cases related to a possible forced marriage and/or possible female genital mutilation (FGM). This figure includes contact that was made to the FMU through its public helpline or by email in relation to a new case, and comprises 297 cases of forced marriage and 5 of FGM. The unit also responded to 545 general enquiries.

Of the 302 cases in which the FMU provided advice or support in 2022 235 cases (78%) involved female victims, and 67 cases (22%) involved male victims.

FGM

FGM is illegal in the UK. It is a practice which takes place worldwide in at least 30 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East NHS reports 2021: There were 1,715 women and girls who had an attendance where FGM was identified in the period between April 2021 and June 2021.¹²

85% of cases were undertaken in an African country¹³.

London Assembly Reported in 2017 that there were 95 cases associated with Wandsworth.¹⁴

Local data

Whilst there is not a commonly based, accessible database for HTP, data is captured via the MARAC.

¹¹ Source: [Modern slavery in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

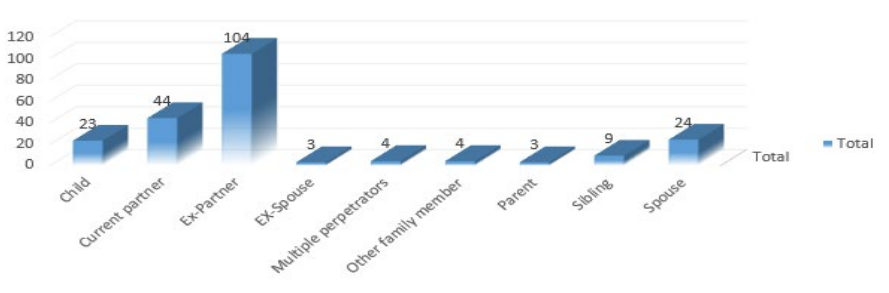
¹² Source: [Female Genital Mutilation - April 2021 to June 2021 - NHS Digital](https://digital.nhs.uk)

¹³ Source: [Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\) - April to June 2021 - Report.pdf \(digital.nhs.uk\)](https://digital.nhs.uk)

¹⁴ Source [london assembly report - tackling fgm in london.pdf](https://londonassembly.gov.uk)

	<p>Data for 2022/23</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>HBV</th> <th>FM</th> <th>FGM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wandsworth</td> <td>17</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data for 2023/24 (to August)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>HBV</th> <th>FM</th> <th>FGM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wandsworth</td> <td>12</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		HBV	FM	FGM	Wandsworth	17	1	0		HBV	FM	FGM	Wandsworth	12	1	0																								
	HBV	FM	FGM																																						
Wandsworth	17	1	0																																						
	HBV	FM	FGM																																						
Wandsworth	12	1	0																																						
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>In Wandsworth those who identify with the same gender as their sex registered at birth is slightly lower than the UK average (92.9% vs 93.5%). In the 2021 Census, 0.62% of Wandsworth’s population reported that their gender identity was different to their sex registered at birth.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Wandsworth</th> <th>Inner London</th> <th>London</th> <th>England</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth</td> <td>92.86% (n=254,037)</td> <td>90.81%</td> <td>91.21%</td> <td>93.47%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not answered</td> <td>6.52% (n=17,831)</td> <td>8.20%</td> <td>7.88%</td> <td>5.98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given</td> <td>0.26% (n=713)</td> <td>0.47%</td> <td>0.46%</td> <td>0.25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trans woman</td> <td>0.13% (n=347)</td> <td>0.17%</td> <td>0.16%</td> <td>0.10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trans man</td> <td>0.11% (n=304)</td> <td>0.15%</td> <td>0.16%</td> <td>0.10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-binary</td> <td>0.07% (n=182)</td> <td>0.12%</td> <td>0.08%</td> <td>0.06%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All other gender identities</td> <td>0.05% (145)</td> <td>0.07%</td> <td>0.05%</td> <td>0.04%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There have been national studies done around abuse and trans victims¹⁵. The key findings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transgender victims/survivors experience specific types of abuse that can be linked to their trans identities. • Trans victims/survivors experience large numbers of additional needs, particularly in relation to mental health. • Trans people who access domestic abuse services report that this experience has positive outcomes on their lives. • However, only a small proportion of trans victims/survivors with additional mental health needs are supported with these by domestic abuse services. Given the large numbers of trans 		Wandsworth	Inner London	London	England	Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	92.86% (n=254,037)	90.81%	91.21%	93.47%	Not answered	6.52% (n=17,831)	8.20%	7.88%	5.98%	Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	0.26% (n=713)	0.47%	0.46%	0.25%	Trans woman	0.13% (n=347)	0.17%	0.16%	0.10%	Trans man	0.11% (n=304)	0.15%	0.16%	0.10%	Non-binary	0.07% (n=182)	0.12%	0.08%	0.06%	All other gender identities	0.05% (145)	0.07%	0.05%	0.04%
	Wandsworth	Inner London	London	England																																					
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	92.86% (n=254,037)	90.81%	91.21%	93.47%																																					
Not answered	6.52% (n=17,831)	8.20%	7.88%	5.98%																																					
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	0.26% (n=713)	0.47%	0.46%	0.25%																																					
Trans woman	0.13% (n=347)	0.17%	0.16%	0.10%																																					
Trans man	0.11% (n=304)	0.15%	0.16%	0.10%																																					
Non-binary	0.07% (n=182)	0.12%	0.08%	0.06%																																					
All other gender identities	0.05% (145)	0.07%	0.05%	0.04%																																					

¹⁵ [Briefing - Transgender Victim-Survivors' Experiences of Domestic Abuse Final.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](#)

	<p>victims/survivors who have mental health needs, it is vital that this issue be addressed.</p>																						
<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<p>Research In an analysis entitled ‘Domestic Violence, Sexual assault, and Stalking’ it was found that “there are considerable variations in the risk of inter-personal violence by marital status. Among women, domestic violence is highest among those who are separated. This violence may be either on-going from a former partner, or it may be violence during the past year by a husband from whom the woman had separated by the time of the interview.”¹⁶</p> <p>See section on Sex for commentary on forced marriage which is pertinent to this section.</p> <p>Local Data Whilst the report above is not recent, a dip sample of recent quarterly reports clearly demonstrates a high proportion of abuse is committed by ex-partners.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RELATIONSHIP WITH PERPTRATOR</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Relationship</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Child</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current partner</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ex-Partner</td> <td>104</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EX-Spouse</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multiple perpetrators</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other family member</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parent</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sibling</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spouse</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>217</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Relationship	Total	Child	23	Current partner	44	Ex-Partner	104	EX-Spouse	3	Multiple perpetrators	4	Other family member	4	Parent	3	Sibling	9	Spouse	24	Total	217
Relationship	Total																						
Child	23																						
Current partner	44																						
Ex-Partner	104																						
EX-Spouse	3																						
Multiple perpetrators	4																						
Other family member	4																						
Parent	3																						
Sibling	9																						
Spouse	24																						
Total	217																						
<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<p>Research Pregnancy is a recognised risk factor in respect of abuse, with Refuge reporting that “domestic violence during pregnancy puts a pregnant woman and her unborn child in danger. It increases the risk of miscarriage, infection, premature birth, low birth weight, foetal injury and foetal death.”¹⁷</p> <p>Local Demand In Wandsworth in 2022/23 40 survivors discussed at the MARAC were pregnant. In the year to date there have been 9 discussed who are pregnant.</p>																						

¹⁶ Source: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] \(nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁷ Source: [Domestic violence and pregnancy - Refuge Charity - Domestic Violence Help](#)

It should be noted that this % has been relatively static, but the volume has increased. In other words, more pregnant women have been placed at high risk of serious harm over the past two years.

WANDSWORTH	2019	2020	2021	2021 v 2019 % increase
MARAC	393	480	675	+71%
Advocacy	861	997	1063	+23

MARAC (2022/23 annual report)

- Cases with children – 52%, increase from last year’s 50%
- 6% of cases with children were referred by Children’s services, decrease from last year’s 9%
- Of 646 cases discussed, there were 645 children involved.
- Repeat cases with children – 15%, increase from last year’s 10%
- 39% of repeat cases with children were made by Children’s Services
- Victims under 18 – 1%, decrease from last year’s 1.2%
- Perpetrators under 18 – 0.5%, decrease from last year’s 2.1%

Race /Ethnicity

Ethnicity

WANDSWORTH	% in 2011	% in 2021
White	71.4	67.8
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	10.7	10.1
Asian/Asian British	10.9	11.7
"Other"	2.1	4.1

ENGLAND	% in 2011	% in 2021
White	71.4	81
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	10.7	4

Asian/Asian British	10.9	10	
-			
<p>Commentary on VAWG – Safelives</p>			
<p>“Whilst ethnic minority women are disproportionately impacted by specific forms of violence against women and girls – such as forced marriage and “honour”-based violence – their experiences of violence are often intersecting and overlapping (Thiara, 2012). In other words, an ethnic minority woman could experience “honour”-based violence in the context of domestic abuse. Despite being just as likely to experience abuse as any other ethnic group, research shows that the level of disclosure for ethnic minority victims of domestic abuse is far lower than that of the general population (Walby & Allen, 2004). From our own national dataset of 42,000 cases, we know that victims from minority backgrounds typically suffer abuse for 1.5 times longer before getting help than those who identify as White, British or Irish”.¹⁸</p>			
<p>Commentary on Local Domestic Abuse Statistics</p>			
Wandsworth			
	Borough population	DA reports	Difference
White	67.8%	45.3%	-22.5%
Black	10.1%	25.6%	15.5%
Unknown	Not recorded	15.1%	N/A
Asian	11.7%	12%	-0.3%
Other (including mixed / multiple ethnic groups)	10.4%	2%	-8.4%
<p>There are difficulties in comparing the ethnic profile of victims with the ethnic composition of the boroughs due to the discrepancies between police recorded ethnicity and census recorded ethnicity. Individuals who self-identified as mixed ethnicity within the census (Wandsworth: 4%) would be captured under a single ethnic group with respect to crime. As such, the two datasets are not directly comparable.</p>			
<p>The use of the term BAME risks treating communities as homogenous and fails to take into account the breadth of communities. This risks services not addressing cultural needs and understanding. It is Council policy to avoid using BAME for this reason.</p>			
<p>Recent community conversations (December 2021) demonstrated the breadth of communities affected by VAWG, also highlighted varied</p>			

¹⁸ Source: [Supporting B&ME victims – what the data shows | Safelives](#)

cultural barriers to seeking support, such as stigma, patriarchal cultures, fear of bringing shame on families. They have also opened the links to community groups and leaders, such as the Ahmadiyya Muslim community.

DHRs

There has been one recently published review in Wandsworth. This review involved a French victim, subject to domestic servitude, that clearly demonstrates the need for VAWG to take into account the wider subjugation of women more broadly.

There are five ongoing reviews in Wandsworth. One of the ongoing reviews highlights the opportunity to engage with faith groups, to raise awareness of domestic abuse and accessing services.

Whilst the other DHRs are ongoing, two of the reviews clearly show the necessity to engage with and work with the breadth of cultures, nationality, and social demographic of the boroughs.

These incidents demonstrate the cross-cutting nature of abuse, in terms of culture, nationality and social demographic.

Forced Marriage

Forced marriage is not a problem specific to one country, religion or culture.

In recent years, the FMU has handled cases relating to countries across 6 continents.

In 2022, the FMU handled cases relating to 25 'focus countries', excluding the UK. The 'focus country' is the country to which the forced marriage risk relates. This could be the country where the forced marriage (or FGM) is due to take place, the country where it has taken place, and/or the country that the spouse is currently residing in. The 'focus countries' (other than the UK) with the highest number of cases in 2022 were:

- Pakistan 147 cases (49%)
- Bangladesh 41 cases (14%)
- India 20 cases (7%)
- Afghanistan 9 cases (3%)
- Iraq 7 cases (2%)
- Somalia 5 cases (2%)

	<p>The majority (78%) of victims were in the UK at the time the case was referred to the FMU.</p>																								
<p>Religion and belief, including non belief</p>	<p>In 2021, 42.6% of people in Wandsworth described themselves as Christian (down from 53.0%), while 9.9% described themselves as Muslim (up from 8.1% the decade before). There was also an almost 10% increase in individuals describing themselves as having no religion. The percentage of Christians is lower than the UK average of 46%, and the no religion is only 1% less than UK. The Muslim population across the UK is 7%.</p> <p>Religion has been a key theme in one DHR for Wandsworth.</p>																								
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>Borough Statistics 2021 Census:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 853 1287 1126"> <tr> <td>Sexual Orientation</td> <td>Straight or Heterosexual</td> <td>86.5 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Gay or Lesbian</td> <td>3 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Bisexual</td> <td>1.7 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pansexual</td> <td>0.3 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Asexual</td> <td>0.1 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Queer</td> <td>0.1 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All other sexual orientations</td> <td>0 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Not answered</td> <td>8.3 %</td> </tr> </table> <p>Research Safelives reports the following: LGBTQ+ twice as likely to self-harm and attempted suicide - more likely to be abused by multiple perpetrators, twice as likely to have experienced familial domestic abuse.</p> <p>Local Data – MARAC Locally, 14,148 (5.2%) of 16+ year olds were either gay/lesbian, bisexual or any other sexual orientation. This was lower than Inner London (6.4%) and higher than England (3.2%) and London (4.3%)</p> <p>MARAC: In Wandsworth, 3% of cases heard in 2021/22 related to people who identified as LGBTQ+, the proportion has risen from levels two years ago, Safelives advises that there should be between 2.5 and 5% of cases that are LGBTQ+ heard at the MARAC.</p> <p>DHR There is one DHR in Wandsworth which is in the early stages and may have themes relating to sexuality.</p> <p>Advocacy Services</p>	Sexual Orientation	Straight or Heterosexual	86.5 %		Gay or Lesbian	3 %		Bisexual	1.7 %		Pansexual	0.3 %		Asexual	0.1 %		Queer	0.1 %		All other sexual orientations	0 %		Not answered	8.3 %
Sexual Orientation	Straight or Heterosexual	86.5 %																							
	Gay or Lesbian	3 %																							
	Bisexual	1.7 %																							
	Pansexual	0.3 %																							
	Asexual	0.1 %																							
	Queer	0.1 %																							
	All other sexual orientations	0 %																							
	Not answered	8.3 %																							

In Q1 of 2023 the advocacy service reported the below breakdown in referrals which highlights a need for better data collection.	
Bisexual	1
Gay or lesbian	2
Not entered	15
Prefer not to say	1
Straight/Heterosexual	189
Unknown	35
Grand Total	213
<p>Research</p> <p>Research suggests that members of the LGBTQ+ community are not only more likely to experience DA, but they also face additional barriers in accessing support including, not wanting to disclose their sexuality to services for fear of discrimination. Some research suggests under-reporting in the LGBTQ+ population is between 60-80%.¹⁹</p> <p>The LGBTQ+ population report experiencing high numbers of sexual violence and harassment, with 88% reporting sexual harassment and 77% reporting sexual assault since the age of 18 in a survey of over 1000 LGBTQ+ individuals in the UK. In addition, almost 80% of those who experienced sexual violence reported the perpetrator being someone known to them and in 76% of cases the perpetrator being male²⁰. LGBTQ+ women are more likely to experience sexual harassment at the workplace, with over 33% of women reporting unwanted touching and 21% experiencing sexual assault.²¹</p> <p>In the UK in 2021, 3.2% of the population identified as LGBTQ+,²² in Wandsworth 5.2% identified as LGBTQ+. However around 8% of people did not answer this question in the most recent census and so this may not be a representative overview. On average since 2021, at Wandsworth MARAC, 3% of victims have identified as LGBTQ+ along with 2.5% of LGBTQ+ perpetrators. There is not enough data on sexuality from the local services to get an accurate account of whether LGBTQ+ individuals are accessing local DA services consistently, as often the individuals may choose not to disclose their sexuality, or they are not asked as it may seem insensitive or inappropriate. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner mapping report also highlights partnership working is underdeveloped between specialist LGBTQ+ DA services and local MARACs, so they may not</p>	

¹⁹ [Domestic Abuse in LGBT Communities | Interventions Alliance](#)

²⁰ [Sexual violence: A snapshot of those harming LGBT+ people - Galop](#)

²¹ [Nearly 7 in 10 LGBT people say they have been sexually harassed at work, says TUC | TUC](#)

²² [Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

	<p>be embedded in the coordinated community response potentially resulting in high-risk victims not being referred.²³</p> <p>A Safelives report into the LGBTQ+ community and DA, highlighted the need for specialist services which are most effective in supporting individuals experiencing abuse in LGBTQ+ relationships. Although there are some similarities in the experience of DA in heterosexual relationships, there are different elements of control related to their identity in LGBTQ+ relationships. These can include using the threat of ‘outing’ someone to control; pressurising to keep the identity or relationship a secret due to their sexual orientation; or normalising certain behaviours as part of LGBTQ+ relationships.²⁴ The report also found that specialist LGBTQ+ services are well-placed to build a bridge between non-specialist services and build trust between members of the community and these services. The data also showed where LGBTQ+ are engaging with non-specialist services, there is a bias towards female bisexual victims being abused by a male perpetrator.²⁵ We do not have any local data that would show whether this is likely to be the case, as there is not enough data collected on sexuality by local DA services to have an accurate local picture.</p>
<p>Across groups i.e. older LGBT service users or Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic young men.</p>	<p>Victim Cross-analysis</p> <p>The demographic characteristics were combined in the needs assessment to identify if there are particular, specific groups most at higher risk of domestic abuse.</p> <p>9.5 female victims per 1,000 residents aged 16+, all ethnicities and the highest risk female groups: Black 18-24 (38.2) and 25-44 (28.0); Asian 18-24 (26.9).</p> <p>Further cross analysis showed that there was strong correlation with social deprivation (see below sections for more information).</p> <p>DHRs</p> <p>There are five ongoing reviews. In one case, there is a clear intersectionality in respect of race/faith and age. In another case, the victim had complex needs relating to substance misuse and challenges with her mental health. Another has mental health themes and race.</p> <p>National research and local data clearly show that many victims of domestic abuse live with mental illness and/or have substance misuse issues.</p>

²³ [Galop-LGBT-Domestic-Abuse-Service-Provision-Mapping-Study-Final.pdf \(domesticabusecommissioner.uk\)](#)

²⁴ [LGBT+ Abuse and Violence – Brook](#)

²⁵ [Free to be safe web.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](#)

	<p>These do not naturally sit within any one of the protected characteristics, but rather demonstrate the complex needs and vulnerability of many victims of domestic abuse, that is already known is gender biased.</p> <p>There is a greater focus in this refreshed strategy on working through an intersectional lens and ensuring services use contextual safeguarding as opposed to a one-size fits all model.</p>												
<p>Socio-economic status (to be treated as a protected characteristic under Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010) Include the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Deprivation (measured by the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation) · Low-income groups & employment · Carers · Care experienced people · Single parents · Health inequalities · Refugee status 	<p><u>Local Statistics:</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 719 1310 981"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Wandsworth%</th> <th>London %</th> <th>England %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Household is deprived in one or more dimension</td> <td>42</td> <td>51.9</td> <td>51.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unemployed</td> <td>3.8</td> <td>Not available</td> <td>3.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Annual Population Survey for 2021 published by the ONS reports the percentage of the Wandsworth working-age (aged 16-64) population who have a degree or higher is 70.3%, which is above the 42.8% degree qualification rate for England.</p> <p>Employment rates is at 96.2% with the Health industry is the largest in Wandsworth based on the number of jobs, accounting for 21.9% of roles in the area. Wandsworth had a mean average salary for full-time employees of £44,872 in 2022. Wandsworth's unemployment rate is 3.8% with the biggest reasons for unemployed being a student (31.1% of the unemployed).</p> <p>Of Wandsworth households, 42.5% owned their home in 2021, down from 45.5% in 2011. In 2021, just over one in three households (36.3%) rented privately, compared with 31.7% in 2011. The percentage of Wandsworth households that lived in a socially rented property decreased from 20.3% to 19.3%.</p> <p>Female wages in Wandsworth average £42,381, and male wages averaged £46,858. Statistically, the average female earns £4,477 less than the average male, though this does not account for differences in hours worked. After adjusting for the difference in hours, males in Wandsworth earn 5.0% more per hour than females on average.</p> <p>The Index of Multiple Deprivation shows most deprived areas in the borough are around Roehampton and Putney Heath, Queenstown,</p>		Wandsworth%	London %	England %	Household is deprived in one or more dimension	42	51.9	51.6	Unemployed	3.8	Not available	3.9
	Wandsworth%	London %	England %										
Household is deprived in one or more dimension	42	51.9	51.6										
Unemployed	3.8	Not available	3.9										

	<p>Latchmere, Graveney and Furzedown (these are based on the Wards before the 2022 changes).</p> <p>Around 6.8% of the population provide unpaid care in the borough of Wandsworth.</p> <p>Wandsworth has approximately 50 asylum seekers placed in the borough by the Home Office, including in a contingency accommodation site used solely for single adult women. Wandsworth has also supported 63 Afghan refugees under the Government's resettlement scheme, and 949 Ukrainians on the Homes for Ukraine scheme, 70% of whom are women.</p> <p><u>Research</u></p> <p>Poorer households show higher rates of domestic abuse. Women in households with low incomes are 3.5 times more likely to experience domestic violence than women in slightly better-off households. The links are complex but one thing is certain: poverty exacerbates the abuse because it increases or prolongs women's exposure to it as it reduces their capacity to leave.</p> <p>One answer to the question: 'Why doesn't she just leave?' becomes evident when looking at the statistics: for the vast majority of women, economic abuse happens alongside other forms of domestic abuse. This may include coercive control of finances (97% of domestic abuse victims)²⁶, sabotage – such as the abuser showing up at the victim's workplace or making them late to undermine – (89%), and financial exploitation (87%). There are many reasons why people do not leave violent relationships, and fear for their safety and their children's is one of the biggest, but financial insecurity factors in decision-making.²⁷</p> <p>These issues are compounded for certain groups. Disabled women have even fewer resources due to their lower rates of employment and wider gender pay gaps compared to disabled and non-disabled men. Cuts to benefits and stringent eligibility criteria, including sanctions, have made it harder for disabled women (and men). Disabled women will face additional barriers to leave due to inaccessible services, transport and available adapted homes, but also their partner is often their carer.</p> <p>Women with no recourse to public funds by virtue of their migration status are a group that is economically very vulnerable to domestic abuse. Their options on leaving are even worse than for other</p>
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

²⁶ [Universal Credit and financial abuse: exploring the links - Womens Budget Group \(wbg.org.uk\)](https://www.wbg.org.uk/)

²⁷ [Domestic abuse is an economic issue – for its victims and for society | CPAG](#)

	<p>women, as they can not access benefits and only a reduced number of refuges and shelters can accommodate them.</p> <p>The impact of domestic abuse on women’s and children’s lives is devastating and should be addressed on that basis alone, on the violation of women’s human rights that it is. Domestic violence also has an alarming negative impact on society as whole: The economic and social costs of domestic abuse - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) through things like lost productivity, health and criminal justice costs, and harm to victims.</p>
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Data gaps

Data gap(s)	How will this be addressed?
Advocacy	The advocacy contract which commenced in November 2021 has been noted to somewhat lack in data collection particularly when looking at demographics – it is important that officers understand any over/under representations. Hestia have been tasked with improving data collection.
Modern Slavery	A referral pathway has been created to improve referrals relating to modern slavery and increase the cross-departmental working between community safety and adults social services.
LGBTQ+ in advocacy	Officers will advise the advocacy service to better try to gather this information to avoid an over representation of ‘unknown’ sexuality.

4. Impact

Protected group	Positive	Negative
Age	The refreshed strategy seeks to adopt an intersectional lens and ensure that the support available is far reaching, incorporated seldom heard communities.	No negative impact anticipated.

Disability	The refreshed strategy seeks to adopt an intersectional lens and ensure that the support available is far reaching, incorporated seldom heard communities.	No negative impact anticipated; data is collected through both MARAC and IDVAs, meaning any under representations or over representations can be monitored closely.
Sex	Domestic abuse is recognised as a gender biased, where women are disproportionately affected. It is recognised that there is an opportunity to improve the local understanding of the impact of HTF that effect women only. The strategy and developing the co-ordinated community response will enable greater understanding and the resource requested in the paper will allow of this progress to be made.	Male victims of domestic abuse are disenfranchised and lack confidence to seek support as victims of DA. Mitigation: (a) the VAWG strategy is very clear that male victims of DA supported (b) services are available to be accessed by men, and are utilised.
Gender reassignment		No negative impact anticipated; data is collected through both MARAC and IDVAs, meaning any under representations or over representations can be monitored closely.
Marriage and civil partnership	The VAWG strategy addresses the link between separation as a risk factor and domestic abuse, through continued survivor involvement and coordinated community response in developing local awareness and service delivery.	No negative impact anticipated; data is collected through both MARAC and IDVAs, meaning any under representations or over representations can be monitored closely.
Pregnancy and maternity		No negative impact anticipated; data is collected through both MARAC and IDVAs, meaning any under representations or over representations can be monitored closely.
Race/ethnicity	The refreshed VAWG Strategy has a focus on intersectionality and recognising multiple disadvantages and access to	No negative impact anticipated; data is collected through both MARAC and IDVAs, meaning any under

	support. There are actions within the action plan which commit to ensuring local services are accessible.	representations or over representations can be monitored closely.
Religion and belief, including non belief	The refreshed VAWG Strategy has a focus on intersectionality and recognising multiple disadvantages and access to support. There are actions within the action plan which commit to ensuring local services are accessible.	No negative impact anticipated; data is collected through both MARAC and IDVAs, meaning any under representations or over representations can be monitored closely.
Sexual orientation	The refreshed VAWG Strategy has a focus on intersectionality and recognising multiple disadvantages and access to support. There are actions within the action plan which commit to ensuring local services are accessible.	No negative impact anticipated; data is collected through both MARAC and IDVAs, meaning any under representations or over representations can be monitored closely.
Socio-economic status (to be treated as a protected characteristic under Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010) Include the following groups: · Deprivation (measured by the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation) · Low-income groups & employment · Carers · Care experienced people	There would be targeted work to ensure that the associated service is visible and open to all cohorts of the community.	No negative impact anticipated; data is collected through both MARAC and IDVAs, meaning any under representations or over representations can be monitored closely.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Single parents · Health inequalities · Refugee status 		
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

5. Actions to advance equality, diversity and inclusion

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
Targeted outreach work to engage with overrepresented cohorts.	VAWG Community Safety Officer	
Engage with 'by and for' services	Vulnerabilities Manager / VAWG Community Safety Officer/ VAWG Operational Manager	