

Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

November 2023

Version 1.1 Final

VAWG Needs Assessment 2023 - Final version 1.1

The Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team provide analysis, insight and policy expertise to a range of internal services and partner organisations supporting operational and strategic decision-making based on the best possible evidence. As well as supporting the County Council we take on a range of work commissioned by other public sector bodies both within Cambridgeshire and beyond. All the output of the team and that of our partners is published on our dedicated website Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Insight:

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Document Details

Title: VAWG Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2023

Date Created: November 2023

Description: The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership, hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council has commissioned the Policy and Insight Team to produce this VAWG Needs Assessment which will drive the future strategy.

Language: English

Produced by: Policy and Insight Team, Cambridgeshire County Council.

Additional Contributions:

Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis
Cambridge Women's Aid
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough DASV Partnership Board.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Public Health Intelligence Team
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
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Office of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
Peterborough City Council
Peterborough Women's Aid
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Specialist Safeguarding Midwives at North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust
Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA), Stevenage Borough Council
The Elms SARC

On behalf of: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership

Geographic Coverage: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Time Period: up to March 2023.

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Format: pdf

Status: Final

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Executive Summary

Appallingly, both domestic abuse and sexual violence continue to be widespread problems that are still very much prevalent in our society. The crimes experienced are serious, can be long lasting and have devastating consequences for victims/survivors and their families. The experience of either domestic abuse or sexual violence at any age and whether male or female can have a significant impact on individuals, affecting their health (both physical and mental), their education or employment and their thoughts and feelings over their lifetime. It is also recognised that the fear of becoming a victim of these horrendous crimes can affect the wider community. The impact to wider family and friends can be substantial and in some cases the result is the devastating loss of life.

This needs assessment has sought to deepen our understanding of the prevalence, nature and types of both domestic abuse and sexual violence occurring within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is recognised that there can be an overlap between these two areas of criminality, but for the purposes of this report they are covered in separate chapters. With this increased understanding further efforts to tackle these horrific crimes can be taken. There should be consideration for how prevention, intervention with victims (crisis and recovery) and interventions with perpetrators are best commissioned and evaluated within the wider partnership landscape.

A number of key stakeholders were involved in the development of this needs assessment, with early findings and a draft of the report shared with the DA&SV Partnership Board for corrections and feedback. The voice of survivors is not extensively covered within this needs assessment. There are feedback mechanisms in place currently that the Board reviews. It is recommended that a separate exercise to capture more widely the voice of victims and survivors is carried out to work alongside this needs assessment.

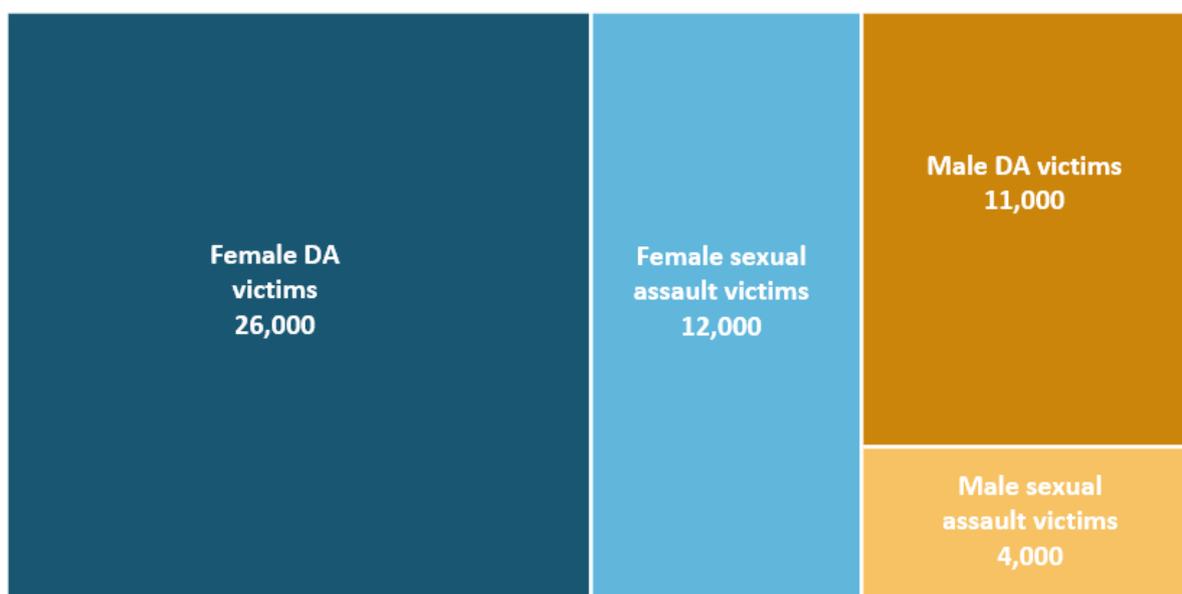
It is accepted that capturing an accurate prevalence rate for both domestic abuse and sexual violence is extremely hard. The nature of the victimisation is such that reporting is not always safe, appropriate or desired by victims. It is estimated that fewer than 1 in 6 people (under 17%) of rape or assault by penetration victims reported the crime to the police, according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). Domestic abuse is also under-reported, with one survey finding that men were less likely to report to statutory agencies than women. The national Centre for Domestic Violence estimates that as little as 24% of domestic abuse crimes are reported to the police.

Applying the national prevalence figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) to statistics, local estimates have been produced of the likely number of victims in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as illustrated in the visualisation below. It can be estimated that in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2021/22

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36,000 people aged 16+ were victims of domestic abuse and 17,000 people aged 16+ were the victim of sexual assault (note that totals do not sum due to the rounding of estimates).

Figure 1: Estimated number of victims (age 16+) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2021/21



Taking the preferences of survivors into account should be the golden thread that runs through any local provision of support for victims/survivors of domestic abuse or sexual violence. With that in mind a generic survey was not carried out for this needs assessment. Developing further feedback mechanisms and engagement routes for survivors with services and the partnership more broadly should be a workstream going forward that will help inform future needs assessments and service commissioning.

In order for victims/survivors to recover from their experiences of either domestic abuse and/or sexual violence it is important that they have access to appropriate services in a timely manner. Due to the wide ranging impacts, including risk of continued abuse (particularly for those experiencing domestic abuse), it is essential that a range of services from a range of providers are available. This includes but is not limited to; emergency services, advocacy, sexual health, mental health, drug and alcohol, general health support, housing support (including emergency housing), support for children accessing services including education, financial services and criminal justice services.

The effects of sexual violence and domestic abuse are far reaching beyond just the immediate safety, help and wellbeing of victims/survivors. There are also enormous socioeconomic costs which manifest in a variety of ways and can be both direct and indirect. The obvious costs include direct costs which are often to the public purse, such as; medical, physical and mental health costs as well those related to housing, police and the criminal justice system. Indirect costs can be incurred to victims and

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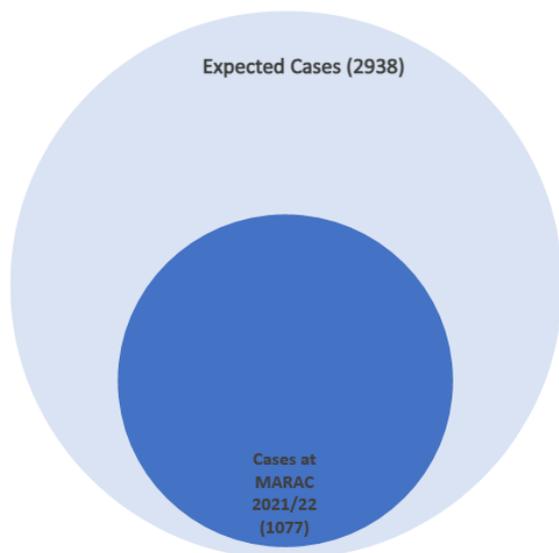
their wider family as well as the wider economy, for example, losses to employers due to diminished employee productivity and reduced income, as well as personal financial losses due to injury or inability to work. Other costs which are often less visible include the impact of experiencing trauma and suffering on victims/survivors, and an extended, possibly life-long more general, heightened fear of victimisation which may impact on all aspects of a person's life. It is vitally important, particularly when commissioning services, to understand that these impacts can continue for years. Ensuring there are services available when survivors need them and are easily accessible is the right thing to do both in terms of the recovery of victims but also for society more generally.

Not all victims/survivors are known to local services. The gap between the estimated prevalence and locally reported service user figures highlights that. The CSEW estimates suggest that fewer than 1 in 6 victims (aged 16-59) of rape or assault by penetration reported the crime to the police (based on data from CSEW data from the 2016/17 and 2019/20).

The current data indicates that less victims were supported through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in the most recent year than expected based on Safe Lives prevalence estimates. Applying the Safe Lives prevalence to the Census 2021 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population (female age 16+), this equates to 2,938 cases expected at MARAC, a higher figure than that recorded locally in 2021/2022 (1074 cases) and 2022/23 (1077 cases). This likely in part due to the locally amended thresholds for MARAC, at 17, rather than the recommended 14, and the Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH) assessment not being consistently used in cases of familial abuse. However, it also raises the question of whether all agencies are applying the Safe lives criteria consistently.

The MARAC data also indicates a reduction in repeats. A Safe Lives deep dive is being commissioned which aims to answer question about reduction in police referrals into MARAC. The volume of referrals from the police has dropped to an unexpectedly low level. IDVAs locally are also picking up risk earlier and referring through.

Figure 2: Expected cases based on Safe Lives calculation Vs actual cases seen at MARAC in 2021/22



However, due to the nature of the various funding streams and referral pathways determining the actual number of individuals who have been supported locally is not possible. Data collection and data sharing remain problematic. Further, survivors can be supported by more than one service provider meaning that there is likely double counting within the service data.

What we know locally

Domestic abuse and sexual violence remains a very gendered issue, with the majority of victims being women and girls and the majority of perpetrators being men. That is not to say that men and boys cannot be victims and this needs assessment clearly includes what is known national and locally about male victims.

There were 4,921 suspects associated with sexual offences recorded by the constabulary in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023. Men accounted for almost all of these suspects (90%). Over the same period, 85% of perpetrators of all sexual offences for crimes recorded between April 2019 and March 2023 associated with a single offence in that four-year period. Most suspects of a sexual offence were known to their victims (97% for offences of rape and 91% of other sexual offences).

Men aged 30-39 accounted for the largest proportion of suspects for both rapes and other sexual offences. Female suspects of other sexual offences tended to be younger with under 16s accounting for 37% of all female suspects. Under 16 year old males accounted for 16% of suspects of other sexual offences and 10% of suspects of rapes.

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There were 21,263 suspects associated with domestic abuse related offences recorded by the constabulary in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023. The majority were male (70%). For both male and female suspects 30-39 years of age was the most common age. Males aged 30-39 accounted for just over a fifth of all suspects. Suspects aged under 18 accounted for 7% of the total. A small sample of crimes where the suspect was recorded as under 15 were reviewed in order to gain a greater understanding of the appropriateness of inclusion. This revealed that primarily the offences were between children and members of their family, with a small number being intimate partner violence (IPV). It was also noted that incidents referenced neurodivergent and/ or mental health needs relating to the suspect. Showing the complexity of cases involving children locally, even though the legal definition does not include children as perpetrators.

The number of police recorded sexual offences has been increasing. In fact, in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the increase compared to the pre-pandemic year (2019/20) was 29%. That increase is slightly higher than the national increase of 20% seen during the same time period. The majority of those offences (75%) were reported within a year of the offence occurring.

CSEW statistics (2021/22) showed that for 57% of victims of sexual assault aged 16 and over, perpetrators were partners or ex partners (ONS, 2023a), showing the overlap with domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse victims were more likely to have been repeat victims than those of sexual offences. 88% of victims of sexual abuse known to Cambridgeshire Constabulary between April 2019 and March 2023 had reported only one sexual offence in that time period. For DA related offences over the same period 67% of victims reported a single offence.

The number of police recorded domestic abuse related offences and incidents has reduced slightly over the last three years. However, this remains in line with 2019/20.

There were 2,038 unique victims that reported a sexual offence to the police in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2022/23. There were 7,376 unique victims that reported a domestic abuse related offence to the police in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2022/23.

National evidence for England and Wales shows that in the period April 2021 – March 2022 11% of male victims of homicide were killed in a domestic homicide compared to 46% of female victims.

Understanding the experience of children and young people is vital in providing the right services and knowing where and when to intervene, particularly in order to prevent further harm. One way to do that is large scale surveys that ask about current or recent experience. In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough a public health commissioned survey is carried out in schools every two years with year 8 (12-13

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year olds) and year 10 (14-15 year olds) children. In the most recent survey 1% of young people responded that there was physical aggression (e.g. hitting, punching, slapping) at home every day or almost every day in the last month that had frightened them. A further 2% responded that it had happened once a week. Whilst these percentages look small, they only represent a small proportion of children in the area as the survey is very targeted. The actual number of children who by the legal definition are victims of domestic abuse due to their living circumstances cannot be determined. The range described later in the document based on prevalence estimates is very broad but highlights the potential extent of the issue.

Although the question does not use the phrase domestic abuse, the wording of the question is close to the legal definition. Given that this only looks at two school year groups it is likely that this synthetic estimate is the minimum number of child victims locally, based on the change of definition.

The number of children known to social services where any form of domestic abuse is smaller. It is worth noting that 43% of assessments in Cambridgeshire and 42% in Peterborough for social care had domestic abuse flagged as a concern. In terms of volume there have been fewer assessments during the pandemic and immediately afterwards. Due to the lag in data release nationally, this report does not have the most recent year. It would be important to review the most recent year as soon as possible to establish if the levels have returned to the pre-pandemic period. This is hugely important in terms of ensuring that children who have experienced abuse are identified at the earliest opportunity in order for the right support to be put in place.

The profile of data available about police recorded sexual offences show that girls under the age of 18 years old at the time of the offence accounted for 42% of all victims of 'other sexual offences' (i.e. all sexual offences excluding rape) over a four year period.

Not enough local data was available to draw robust conclusions about the prevalence of domestic abuse where the victim/ survivor was an older person. A section 42 enquiry is carried out when the local authority has reason to believe an individual who has a recognised Care and Support Need is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect. An enquiry is mandated in these circumstances under section 42 of the care act. The purpose of the enquiry is to establish whether abuse has taken place and implement any required protective measures. The nationally available data on section 42 enquires showed low numbers and some fluctuation (particularly in Cambridgeshire) and there is insufficient contextual information at this time to understand this variation. As Section 42 enquiries only relate to adults with care needs the prevalence of domestic abuse in this cohort is an under-representation of the prevalence of the older people population. There are likely to be a number of factors in why older victims are not appropriately represented in the data including both under-reporting and a lack of recognition of what abuse 'looks' like for this

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cohort. Therefore, this data is the very tip of the iceberg in terms of this cohort's actual experience of living in abusive homes.

In nearly a third (29%) of DA victim records known to the police (where data on victim-suspect relationship was available), the victims were related to the perpetrator i.e. the relationship was familial. The majority of these offences were between parents and their children (46% child to parent, 24% parent to child). From the data that was available at the time of writing it was difficult to determine if these victims were getting through to services. It raises the question of whether there are suitable services available for victims where the perpetrator is not a partner or ex-partner.

It appears that there is under-representation of Asian victims within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (including Asian British and Asian Welsh) compared to the population breakdown in the Census 2021 data. This is based on analysis all victims of domestic abuse related offences (24,862) known to the constabulary between April 2019 and March 2023 where ethnicity was known. There may be victims that are therefore not accessing services.

The police data on victims and suspects reveals the number of young male victims and offenders of sexual offences. Concern has been raised as to whether there are the right interventions available for these cohorts

Local data has started to be shared in relation to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), however, this area requires further development. Both in order to understand the prevalence and needs of the victims but also to establish if the right services are available.

Feedback from services highlighted the importance of continuous awareness (by the partnership and agencies sitting underneath the partnership) raising across a wide range of services. This should continue to form part of any further strategy work.

The needs assessment has identified several areas within the process where data indicates either questions about the effectiveness of processes or potential areas that have deteriorated in terms of effectiveness. These include;

- Use of Clare's law – The data shows the number of requests under the 'right to ask' has increased markedly but applications given disclosure has not followed the same trend. Awareness raising has been part of the strategy for victims and families to use this scheme, which is likely to be the reason for the increase in requests. Further information is needed to understand what this data is telling services about the differing trend in disclosures. In particular the specific reasons that disclosures are not made.
- Data shows that charging for a DA related offences is down from 21% to 6%. This is likely to put off victims coming forward to police to report a crime if a suitable outcome is less likely. Further work is needed to understand the reason behind this decrease.
- Delays in police decisions and CPS charging decisions are significantly higher in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough compared to the national average. Services have fed back that delays have very negative impacts on survivors

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that they support. Further work locally should be carried out to understand these delays and improvements for victims is needed.

- There has been a shift in the proportion of DA crimes where the victim does not support action. Whilst the proportion of crime outcomes 'Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)' has decreased over time, the proportion recorded as 'Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)' has increased. This has culminated in 59% of DA crimes in 2021/22 with the outcome 'Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)'. It would be valuable to understand what is influencing this shift.

During the course of producing this needs assessment there were a number of issues raised in relation to data and information. These can be categorised into three themes, data does not exist locally (i.e. information is not asked for from victims/survivors, perpetrators or families or not recorded), data exists but not in an easily accessible and sharable format (case management systems or service data is not always easy to extract), data can be shared but quality is poor (information is recorded inconsistently or with missing information).

Data does not exist locally

Ethnicity, gender, nationality, sexuality and other protected characteristic information is not always recorded or recorded consistently. This presents a challenge when trying to understand the needs of specific cohorts. And particularly hard when trying to address multiple disadvantage.

VAWG in relation to female offenders presents an information gap that would require further exploration in order to understand its impact locally. Local services raised concern about the needs of female offenders who are victims of VAWG, however both local and national data is not currently accessible to assess this need in detail.

A new and fast changing issue which has come to light since the last needs assessment is the issue of tech abuse. Specific examples were raised by professionals in the focus groups. For example those who carry out home visits cannot guarantee conversations with the people they support are private due to other people and technologies being present. (e.g. smart speakers and CCTV). It is unclear as to how services are keeping abreast of the tech that can be used to enable abuse. A detailed assessment of this issue and the impact it has locally was beyond the scope of this needs assessment. This does present an information gap the DASVP needs to address.

Data exists but not in an easily accessible and sharable format

A number of agencies hold information on victims/survivors as either management information or funding related information. Because this information is recorded for specific purposes only aggregate data can be shared easily. Unfortunately, that

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means victims may be double counted, time period for reporting may not align, and even terminology may not match such as gender categories.

Even simple differences in data such as whether it counts unique individuals or times a service has interacted with victims or perpetrators. E.g. number of assessments carried out in social care or number of crimes and incidents reported to the police.

Due to limitations in service data it has not been possible to assess demand and need in a detailed way, particularly with respect to characteristics of victim-survivors / perpetrators. In particular the data made available from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner was in formats as requested by the Ministry of Justice which have changed over time meaning that analysis of trends in demand over time were not possible. Further the data partially overlapped with data provided direct from services.

Data from social care records are held in management information software which is not always easily accessible for analysis. Data returns are often based on statutory services or duties. It would take more capacity than was available at this time to do detailed extracts and analysis. There may be benefit in this work though as multiple need factors are able to be recorded for victims that might provide a much clearer understanding of actual needs of individuals.

Irrespective of funding streams, there is a need for an agreed core dataset in order to assess need accurately. This core data set should be agreed by the DASVP Board with support from the Policy & Insight Team and data owners within relevant agencies.

Data can be shared but quality is poor or incomplete

A number of key data fields were incomplete. This was particularly notable for characteristic variables such as age, ethnicity and sexuality. Whilst this information at first glance might not seem important these key characteristics help identify what service would be needed to meet the needs of victims. Analysis has been conducted where the incompleteness was small enough for the findings to still be useful. The police victim data for the four-year period April 2019 to March 2023 had missing ethnicity for 43% of victims.

Additionally within the police data the use of the domestic abuse marker is incomplete or sometimes applied incorrectly. There is a sustainable implication for the capacity needed just to carry out analysis where there are data issues. As well as the implications to the robustness of the findings and the ways in which the insight can be used to tackle these high harm crimes.

Firstly there were inconsistencies in data recording identified during the analysis for this assessment; this limited how comprehensive analysis could be across different data sources. It is vital that data recording becomes consistent across the DASVP going forward if a more complete picture of the local need is to be clearly articulated.

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The authors and commissioners of this needs assessment recognise that DA will impact on different groups in different ways. Indeed, focus groups feeding into this assessment highlighted the differing needs of some groups as concern for professionals. However understanding the needs of different groups, particularly encompassing intersectionality has been obstructed by gaps in the data available.

Review of the recommendations from the 2017 needs assessment

The following pages review the recommendations from the 2017 needs assessment in order to assess the following, where recommendations had not been completed but were still relevant, where progress had been made by the partnership, and what information gaps that were present previously still exist. They are groups as they were in the previous needs assessment by national statement of expectation.

National Statement of Expectation 1 – the Victim at the centre Every victim, whether adult or child, is an individual with different experiences, reactions and needs. Local areas should ensure that services are flexible and responsive to the victim’s experience and voice.

Table 1: Recommendations, comments and updates relating to national statement of expectation 1

Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
Review current service provision to ensure those not reporting/disclosing issues to the CJS/statutory agencies still have access to support/interventions.	This finding remains true in 2023 as it was in 2017. The majority of victims do not come to the attention of criminal justice system agencies.	The 2023 Needs assessment would come to the same conclusion. There are referral pathways into services that do not require victims to report to criminal justice organisations. In order to assess the effectiveness of these pathways further engagement work with victims/survivors is needed.

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Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
<p>This review should include feedback from service users, especially children, young people, older people, and those from minority groups (such as ethnic minorities, LGBTQ).</p>	<p>There is a high degree of variation in the types and quality of information and signposting available to potential service users.</p> <p>A review of signposting information available to victims and survivors of VAWG coming into contact with CJS and safeguarding agencies might lead to improvements.</p>	<p>This needs assessment reached the same conclusion. However, data collection in relation to gender, age ethnicity, sexuality and disability is very poor. Therefore there is not a good understanding of the experience or prevalence victims that have these characteristic. Nor has this needs assessment been able to generate greater understanding of intersectionality in domestic abuse and sexual violence victims/survivors, due to the data limitations.</p>
<p>This should explore the development of tailored interventions regarding issues of Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) within specific communities.</p>	<p>Psychosocial support, including advocacy and counselling, can have clear outcomes for those impacted by VAWG. These are currently geographically limited across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p>	<p>These areas remain under-reported and beset with data gaps. There is further work needed by agencies to better record an appropriate level of information and share this across the partnership.</p> <p>Mapping of the support pathways relating to these specific issues needs to be carried out to understand it locally.</p>

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Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
<p>Improve the provision of psychosocial support, especially for children and young people, women, and older people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and work to increase levels of engagement with these services.</p>	<p>Demographic changes outlined in this assessment highlight there continues to be a large proportion of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population over age 65. Population forecasts to 2031 indicate this age group is also expected to see the highest growth.</p> <p>Children exposed (previously described as ‘more indirect victims’) to DA are now recognised as victims of DA by recent legislative changes, however data recording of this cohort is not yet in step with this recognition.</p>	<p>Data is beginning to emerge on the number of children that are victims. But further work could be done to share this data and understand the needs of children better.</p> <p>This is highlighted by the responses to the Health Behaviour Related Survey.</p>
<p>There appears to be low levels of disclosure/reporting of VAWG-type issues from male victims and minority groups (LGBT, those with disabilities, black and minority ethnic groups and those with no recourse to public funds). Review the provision of services and potential barriers to accessing these for male victims and minority groups.</p>	<p>Ensure service provision is equitable across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p>	<p>This finding is likely to remain true at this time. It is hard to be clear on the numbers from vulnerable and minority cohorts that are accessing services due to continued data recording issues. Therefore understanding unmet need is even harder.</p>

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Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
<p>Access to the county’s single specialist ‘Health’ IDVA post (commissioned by CCC) is limited to Addenbrookes and Hinchingbrooke Hospitals A&E and Maternity departments. There is currently no provision of a health IDVA post in Peterborough via the North West Anglia Foundation Trust. It is recommended that work be progressed to address issues with accessibility and resource regarding the specialist Health IDVA post There is a disparity regarding approaches to tackling domestic abuse across providers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p>	<p>Improvements have been made. There are now seven Health IDVAs working across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. One covers CUH Trust and one covers NWAFT and there are then 5 Health IDVAs who accept referrals from community health and other parts of health. The majority of the posts are funded through local authority money.</p>	<p>Review of the demand going forward in light of demographic changes might be appropriate.</p>

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Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
<p>Ensure service provision is equitable across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p>	<p>Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are currently withdrawing from a range of shared arrangements across a number of services. The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership is one of the few remaining. This gives the partnership an overview and shared responsibility across the whole geographic area.</p> <p>However, this needs assessment did not specifically look at geographic equity of service provision. There is however breakdowns by district in the report that helps highlight where particular areas are over or under-represented in the police data.</p>	<p>All victims/survivors should receive appropriate support, treatment and access to criminal justice outcomes regardless of where in the area they live.</p> <p>Mapping of service provision is included on the Home Office guidance but is clearly set out as the next stage AFTER the needs assessment: <u>Violence against women and girls services: commissioning toolkit (accessible) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u></p>

National Statement of Expectation 2 – A Clear Focus on Perpetrators In order to keep victims safe, local areas should ensure that there are robust services in place which manage the risk posed by perpetrators and offer behavioural change opportunities for those willing and able to engage with them.

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Table 2: Recommendations, comments and updates relating to national statement of expectation 2

Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
<p>Although there are positive developments at a national and local level with regards to the successful prosecution of more VAWG offenders, the rate of attrition between the volume of VAWG incidents reported to the police and the volume of cases being brought before the courts by the CPS is of concern.</p>	<p>Current work between the police and CPS to increase the volume of VAWG cases brought before the courts should be evaluated. This work should directly engage with service users to facilitate a better understanding of their experiences of the CJS.</p>	<p>The evidence (both national and local) from this needs assessment indicates delays and blockages in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Outstanding adult rape trial cases are at a higher level than previously.</p>
<p>Review domestic abuse practice and policies within the drugs and alcohol services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p>	<p>Unsure at the time of writing if this had been completed.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given to if this recommendation remains relevant at this time.</p>
<p>Relevant local providers of health services develop and implement a policy which incorporates agencywide responses to, and data capture about, perpetrators of VAWG (according to relevant NICE guidance).</p>	<p>The previous needs assessment received no health provider data. This needs assessment reviewed nationally available data such as FGM notifications which are now a national standard and some local insight from safeguarding specialists working in obstetric services and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre.</p> <p>This indicates an improvement in available 'health' data relevant to DA and SV, however there are still gaps identified.</p>	<p>The ONS has recently carried our research to understand which health data could fill the gap nationally. The following were identified as available health data sets which would be suitable to understand the incidence of VAWG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) - Community Services Data Set (CSDS) <p>The availability and potential analysis of this data locally needs to be explored in order to fill the data gap that is still present.</p>

National Statement of Expectation 3 – A Strategic, System-wide Approach to Commissioning Good commissioning always starts with understanding the issue and the problem you are trying to solve.

Table 3: Recommendations, comments and updates relating to national statement of expectation 3

Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
<p>A joint commissioning structure, according to NICE and Home Office guidance for VAWG is developed.</p>	<p>The governance and commissioning structures in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are much more joined up than in 2017. A joint partnership board operates and commissioning is also undertaken across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p>	<p>Due to the significant changes in structures in the two local authorities the partnership board should remain alert to working practices that are most effective for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents.</p>
<p>It is recommended that a review be undertaken to ensure that governance structures are appropriate, and that activities are coordinated to ensure best value.</p> <p>The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) should facilitate senior officers to develop a countywide commitment to VAWG and develop a strategic action plan reflecting VAWG needs. This should be regularly monitored in order to hold key individuals/ agencies to account.</p>	<p>Feedback to the authors of this report is that the current structure (The board and operations group) are working. As CCC and PCC separate services, this should be kept under review in order to ensure governance structures remain appropriate and effective.</p>	<p>Regular monitoring is patchy across the agenda. A substantial problem in conducting this needs assessment was gathering data across many agencies', over a longer period in order to establish changes over time and service demand. Due to several changes in the way data has been collected over recent years even within organisations very little analysis was carried out looking at effectiveness of services. What was done had to be excluded from the final report due to concerns about data completeness.</p>

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Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
<p>Relevant local datasets are missing (e.g. healthcare providers), or incomplete. This is problematic in establishing local need, and the efficacy of response.</p> <p>Work should continue locally to establish a meaningful and coordinated VAWG dataset. This should be centrally coordinated and collated by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership. Key partners (e.g. healthcare providers) are supported to develop good recording practices around all VAWG issues.</p> <p>A full countywide assessment of VAWG need is undertaken and published every four years (in line with the Home Office strategy, 2016-20)</p>	<p>This remains the case with not all local datasets being readily available in some cases, available but with serious data quality issues or available but with a big demand on organisations in order to make them suitable for analysis.</p> <p>The last needs assessment was carried out in 2017, meaning the next one would have been written in approximately 2021. The delay is in part due to the introduction of a separate requirement to complete a Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment and the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on organisations' business as usual work.</p>	<p>Some specific data quality issues have already been identified and fed back to specific agencies. The Policy and Insight Team has offered to support those with suggestions for recording practices and reporting standards.</p> <p>There are further opportunities to improving data quality and data sharing in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. All partnership members should consider more consistent data sharing arrangements going forward.</p> <p>It is advisable to maintain the cycle as set out by the Home Office Strategy. Benefits include that the legislative landscape is unlikely to have undergone as many changes, services will have a greater understanding of changes happening or emerging without having to look at the longer term picture.</p> <p>It also would keep more momentum for data improvements.</p>

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Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
<p>Local resource and capacity should be reviewed to ensure appropriateness for current need and future demand. A coherent local VAWG risk register should be established, and monitored quarterly by the OPCC to ensure appropriate commissioning of victims' services. Potential barriers to the reporting of VAWG should be reviewed in order to inform future service planning</p>	<p>At the time of writing no evidence was forthcoming that this had been carried out.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given to if this recommendation remains relevant at this time.</p>
<p>A review of the learning, and of relevant actions arising from previous Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), is undertaken.</p>	<p>Domestic homicide reviews are now coordinated by the DASV Partnership managers. Further, where specific issues have come through the DHRs additional research has been commissioned. For example the specific concern of the high proportions of victims of Lithuanian nationality.</p>	<p>DHRs are reviewed at the board level and at CSPs. A lot of learning has been shared across the area.</p>
<p>The Constabulary establishes a process for capturing the experiences of victims of VAWG-type crimes.</p>	<p>There are mechanisms for feedback from victims of VAWG-type crimes who have been in contact with services. For example the SADA service has been commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council to collate and share feedback from children and adults who have experienced domestic abuse within Cambridge and Peterborough. The Lime Culture project is also active at this time.</p>	<p>The Partnership has indicated that it would like to increase its routes for engagement. Further consideration should be given to the gaps in the current feedback mechanisms and research. Further work will need to be commissioned to address those gaps.</p>

National Statement of Expectation 4 – Locally Led and Safeguards Individuals at Every Point Commissioned services should make use of local initiatives and services already in place to utilise resource, share best practice and ensure that there are coordinated pathways of support.

Table 4: Recommendations, comments and updates relating to national statement of expectation 4

Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
A joint commissioning structure for VAWG is developed according to NICE / Home Office guidance	The partnership board works closely at this time to have joined up commissioning across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	Joint commissioning structures have a range of potential benefits. The partnership should review commissioning arrangements regularly in order to ensure there is the right services commissioned that are effective.
Processes across MASH and MARAC are developed and implemented.	These processes have been kept under review.	
Multi-agency best practice is shared across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Agency activities with regards to embedding work force development (WFD) best practice in this area are monitored	The previous key findings was – “Work has been undertaken to embed an enhanced VAWG Workforce Development (WFD) ‘offer’ (based on NICE Guidance, 2014) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s local authorities. However, it is not clear what activities other key partners have undertaken to develop their WFD programmes to reflect the VAWG agenda.”	It is still the case that there is a lack of clarity about how Work Force Development has been embedded across all agencies.
Service standards across all agencies supporting the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ‘Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence’ (DASV) delivery group should be reviewed and developed to ensure that they appropriately address VAWG.	The delivery group referred to is terms the Ops Group locally.	

National Statement of Expectation 5 – Raises Local Awareness of the Issues and Involves, Engages and Empowers Communities to Seek, Design and Deliver Solutions.

Table 5: Recommendations, comments and updates relating to national statement of expectation 5

Recommendation from 2017 needs assessment	Comments from Authors of 2023 needs assessment	Update as at November 2023
<p>A common and coordinated approach to school-based VAWG prevention interventions, in accordance with best practice and Home Office recommendations and guidance should be developed and implemented. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s Community Safety Partnerships adopt a standardised and coordinated approach to developing community capacity and resilience to prevent VAWG from occurring.</p>	<p>The Partnership Managers have worked with PSHE, Health Schools programme and local providers to develop a coordinated approach.</p>	<p>This has not been recently reviewed and given the population growth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough it might be worth considering reviewing this in the near future.</p>

1. Introduction

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership, hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council has commissioned the Policy and Insight Team to produce this Needs Assessment which will drive the future strategy.

The geographical scope of this needs assessments includes Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole with comparison with national data where feasible. Some district level figures are also provided in the appendix of this document for future reference.

It may be helpful to note some items around language and terminology used in this document. Where the data source refers to victim we will use this term. Otherwise we will revert to using the term survivor or victim/survivor where possible.

Where gender is referred to in demographic analysis of data sets, this refers to gender as recorded by the data owner (e.g. Police; social services; ONS).

Survivor voice and feedback is an important element of understanding needs. This work was out of scope for this needs assessment. The appropriate approach would be to commission in depth engagement with victims/ survivors alongside this needs assessment. Victims/survivors would then be able to provide insight into what services deliver and what services they would like to have access to. There are some external feedback mechanisms in place for victims who have been in contact with services, such as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse feedback project. However these mechanisms are not designed to gather systematic feedback from victims/survivors and as such are not broad enough to include in this needs assessment.

1.1. What is Violence against Women and Girls?

This assessment applies the following definition of VAWG as described by the Home Office:

“Violence against women and girls’ covers a range of unacceptable and deeply distressing crimes, including rape and other sexual offences, stalking, domestic abuse, ‘honour’-based abuse (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage and ‘honour’ killings), ‘revenge porn’ and ‘upskirting’, as well as many others. These crimes disproportionately affect women and girls. Men and boys can also be victims of violence and abuse...” (Home Office, 2021b, p. Section 2.1)

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1.1.1. What is sexual violence?

The World Health Organization defines sexual violence as

“Sexual violence is “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object.”” (WHO, 2021).

1.1.2. What is domestic abuse?

There is not a definition of domestic abuse by the World Health Organization but the UK government has the following definition

“The Government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: 'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

'Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”
(Home Office, 2013, p. 2)

The Home Office definition which is used for the recording of crimes is included in Appendix A.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 also stipulated that ‘a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, domestic abuse and is related to or under parental responsibility of the person being abused or the perpetrator is also to be regarded as a victim of domestic abuse. This means that where the Act imposes a duty in relation to victims of domestic abuse, this will include children as described in Part 1’.
(Legislation.gov.uk, 2021, p. 3)

1.2. How this needs assessment was conducted

In order to produce the needs assessment, the following processes were undertaken. There was an emphasis on local organisations being able to input information into this process, however not all agencies were able to input data and information within the timescales. Some data that was supplied was not robust enough to be included.

Table 6: How the needs assessment was conducted

Agree a scope with the commissioners	The start of the process was to agree what was in and out of scope for this particular needs assessment. There were some specific questions that the commissioners wanted to address within the analysis of the data. In particular looking at longer trends where possible, creating synthetic local estimates of prevalence, reviewing shorter term trends to review if the impacts seen during the pandemic had remained or level so demand and reporting had returned to pre-pandemic levels, and a deeper analysis of victim-suspect relationship.
Reviews of Literature and Research	Extensive research was conducted in order to gain an understanding of domestic abuse and sexual violence, including national prevalence, risk factors and vulnerability, and changes to the legislative framework.
Information and data requests to local service providers	Approaches were made to local service providers from both specialist and non-specialist services in writing and through attending meetings to request data and information (including case studies) throughout the period of the producing the needs assessment. Data and information was received from some services and providers and assessed by the team for suitability for inclusion in the needs assessment. See additional contributions on page 1.
Data analysis	Data analysis was conducted in order to determine the prevalence of DA and SV locally and to understand the usage of specialist and non-specialist services by local victims/ survivors. Local analysis of the Census 2021 was also included to highlight demographic changes locally. Further, detailed data analysis of police data (the largest and most complete dataset locally available) was conducted in order to gain greater understanding of types of crimes victims are reporting locally and to draw as much knowledge about victims and suspects out to inform the local strategy.
Engagement with local specialist services	This needs assessment sought to capture the learning from specialist services in order to further understanding of local demand and service provision. Where appropriate, these insights are included within the needs assessment.
Engagement with local non-specialist services	This needs assessment sought to capture the experiences of non-specialist services who might be the first point of contact for victims / survivors choosing to disclose DA or SV. Services who will be providing support or interventions for

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	more generic services and working with survivors. This was done through a range of in-person focus groups conducted in partner between the Policy and Insight Team and the DA & SV Partnership Managers. This means where appropriate, these insights are included within the needs assessment.
Review of previous needs assessment and recommendations	<p>A review of the previous needs assessment conducted in 2017 was carried out to inform some of the data gathering stage.</p> <p>A review of the recommendations was conducted as part of forming the key findings in order to highlight the following, where recommendations had not been completed but were still relevant, where progress had been made by the partnership, and what information gaps that were present previously still exist.</p>

We include data to the end of March 2023, working with financial years (ending March) wherever sources allow. Ideally this assessment is to include longer term changes as well as more recent patterns of VAWG offences and service need. However, on reviewing the data it became apparent that a 10 year trend was problematic due to a number of legislative and system specific (e.g. IT systems) changes over that period.

The key findings, including identifying where there are gaps has been gained from the above process. These will be used by the DA and SV Partnership to review the strategy and the commissioning of services locally.

1.3. Demographic context

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's population grew from 804,840 at Census 2011 to 894,520 at Census 2021, an increase of 89,680 usual residents. This represents population growth of 11.1% between Censuses, which is above both the England (6.6%) and East of England (8.3%) averages. Cambridge City and Peterborough both saw notable population growth of 17.6% and 17.5% respectively, making them the fifth and sixth fastest growing local authorities in England.

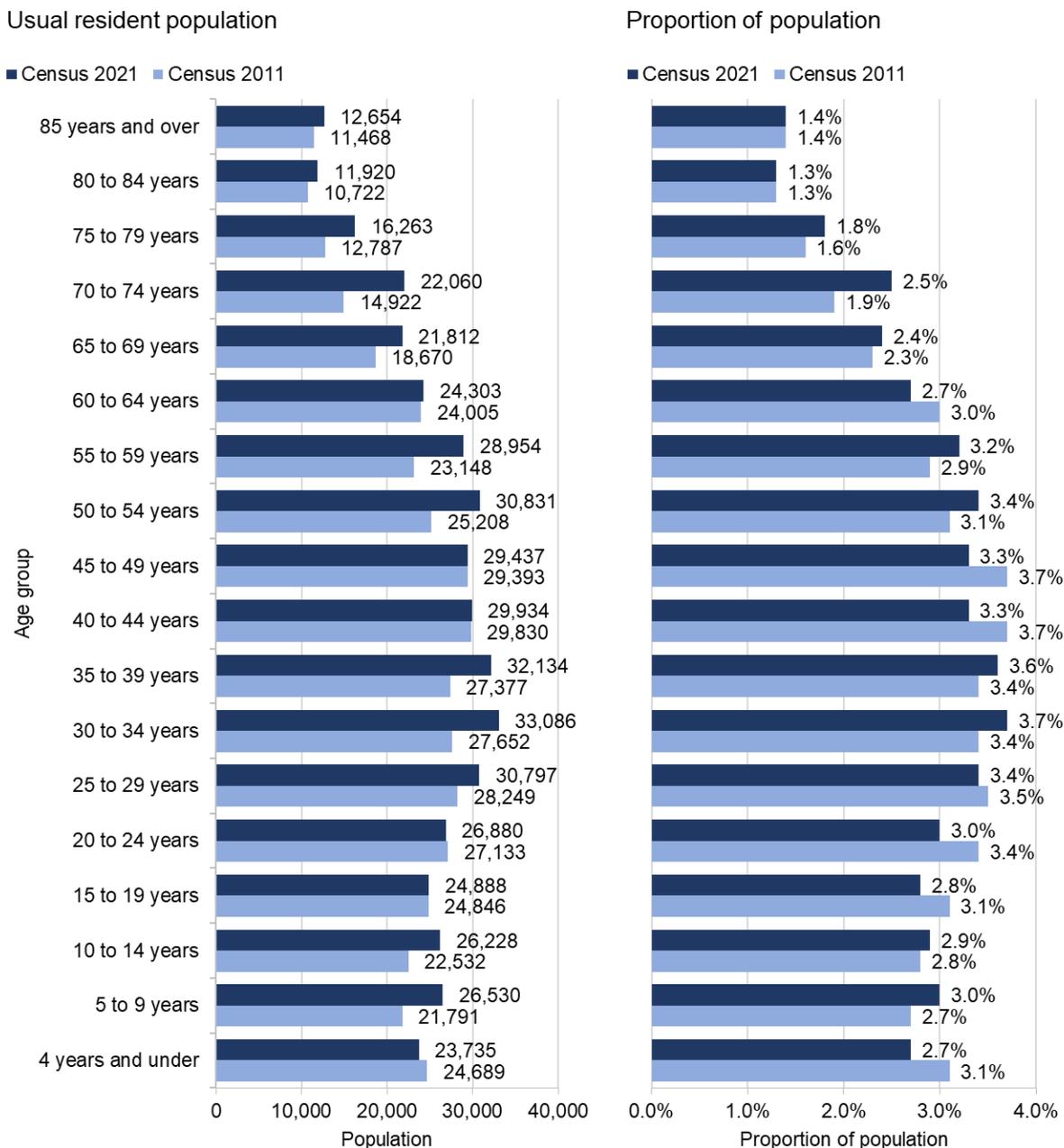
Population growth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been concentrated in the older aged population, with the population aged 65 years and over increasing by 25.6% between Census 2011 and Census 2021. In contrast, the population aged 18 to 64 years grew by 8.3% and the population aged 17 years and under grew by 9.1%. The population aged 65 years and over now represents a greater proportion of the total population, with the proportion rising from 15.5% at Census 2011 to 17.6% at Census 2021.

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Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's female population grew from 404,420 at Census 2011 to 452,450 at Census 2021, an increase of 48,030 (11.9%). This is higher growth than seen for the male population (10.4%). The female population now represents a slightly larger proportion of the total population in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, going from 50.2% at Census 2011 to 50.6% at Census 2021.

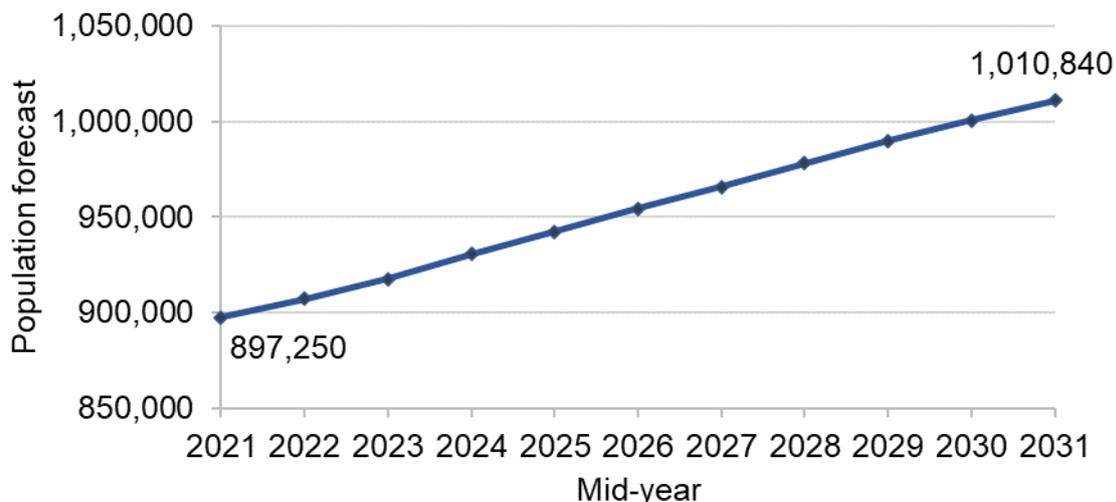
For specific age groups, the female population represents a higher proportion of the total population in Census 2021 compared to Census 2011 for those aged 5 to 14 years (+0.5%), 30 to 39 years (+0.5%), 50 to 59 years (+0.6%) and 65 to 79 years (+0.9%). In contrast, proportions have decreased for the female population aged 4 years and under (-0.4%), 15 to 29 years (-0.8%), 40 to 49 years (-0.8%) and 60 to 64 years (-0.3%).

Figure 3: Female usual resident population and proportion of total population for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by five-year age group, Census 2011 and Census 2021



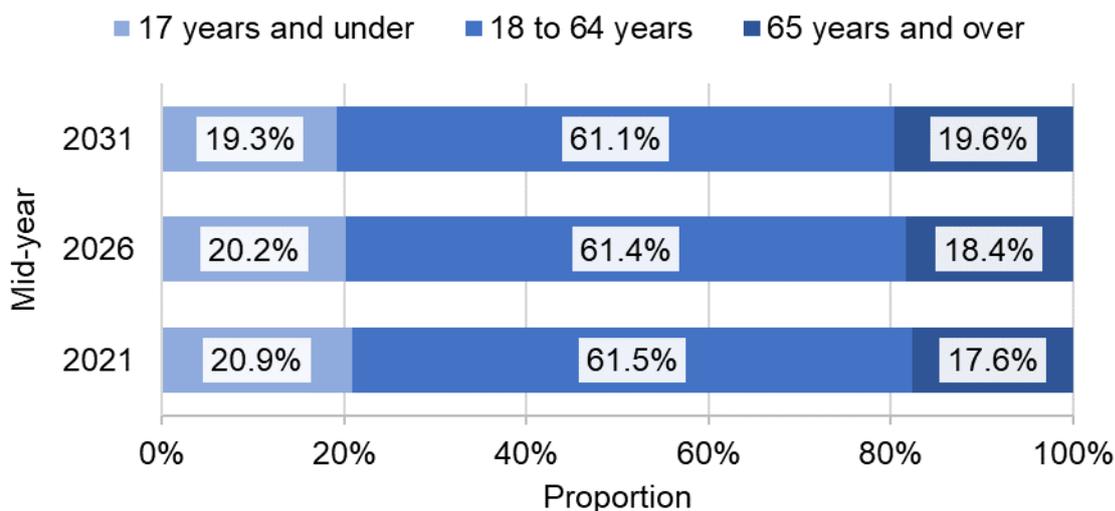
Cambridgeshire County Council’s (CCC) 2021-based population forecasts indicate that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s population is estimated to grow 12.7% from mid-2021 to mid-2031, from 897,250 usual residents to 1,010,840, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 4: Usual resident population forecast for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from mid-2021 to mid-2031, from CCC's 2021-based population forecasts



As seen between Census 2011 and Census 2021, the highest growth is forecast to occur for the population aged 65 years and over. This age group is forecast to grow by 25.6% between mid-2021 and mid-2031, compared to 11.9% for the population aged 18 to 64 years and 3.9% for the population aged 17 years and under. This growth would also continue the trend of the 65 years and over age group representing a larger proportion of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's population, going from 17.6% at mid-2021 to 19.6% at mid-2031.

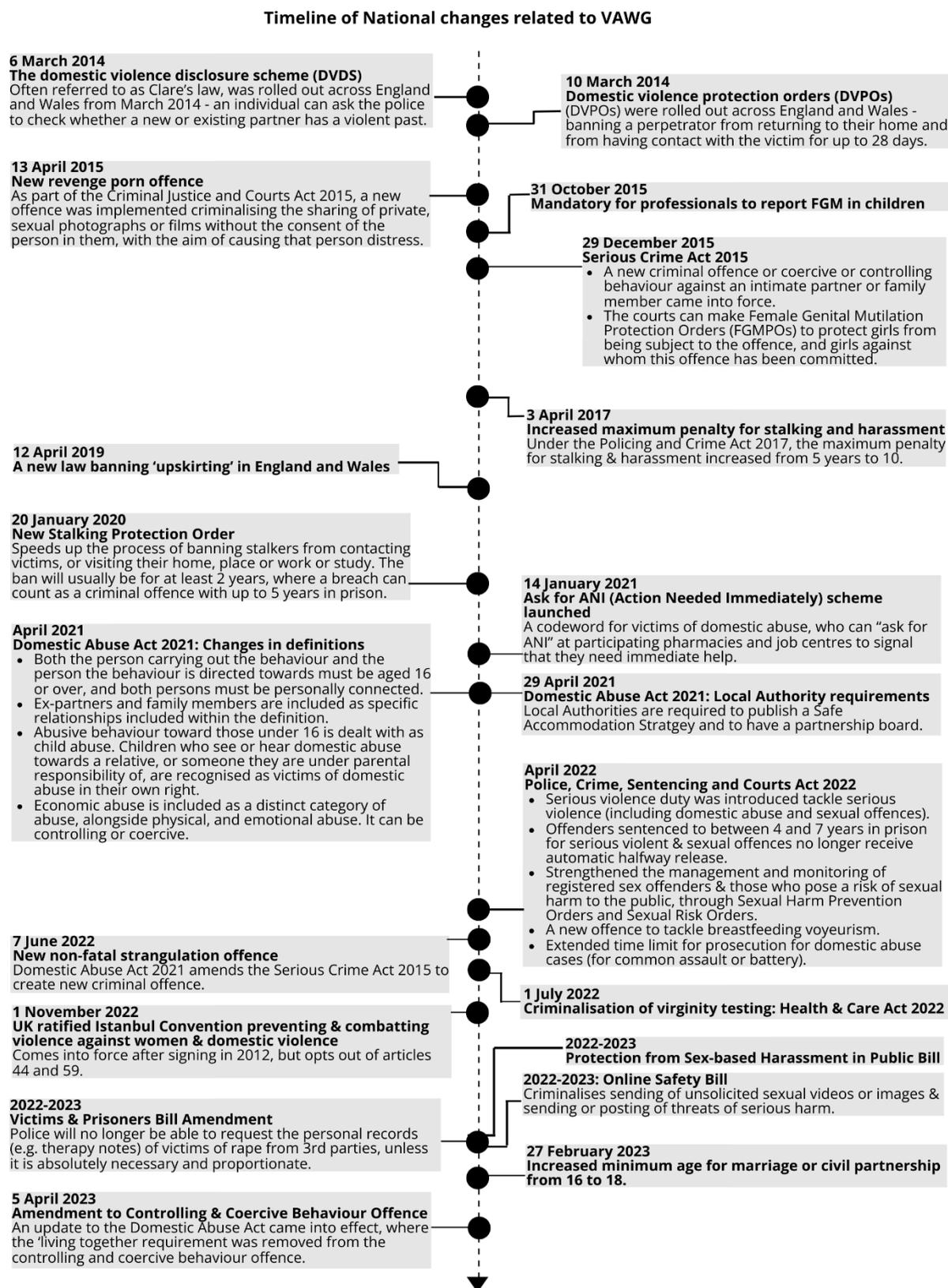
Figure 5: Proportion of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's population by age group for mid-2021, mid-2026 and mid-2031, from CCC's 2021-based population forecasts



1.4. What has changed since the last assessment?

There have been various national legislative changes around VAWG since the last needs assessment was completed, as outlined in the figure below.

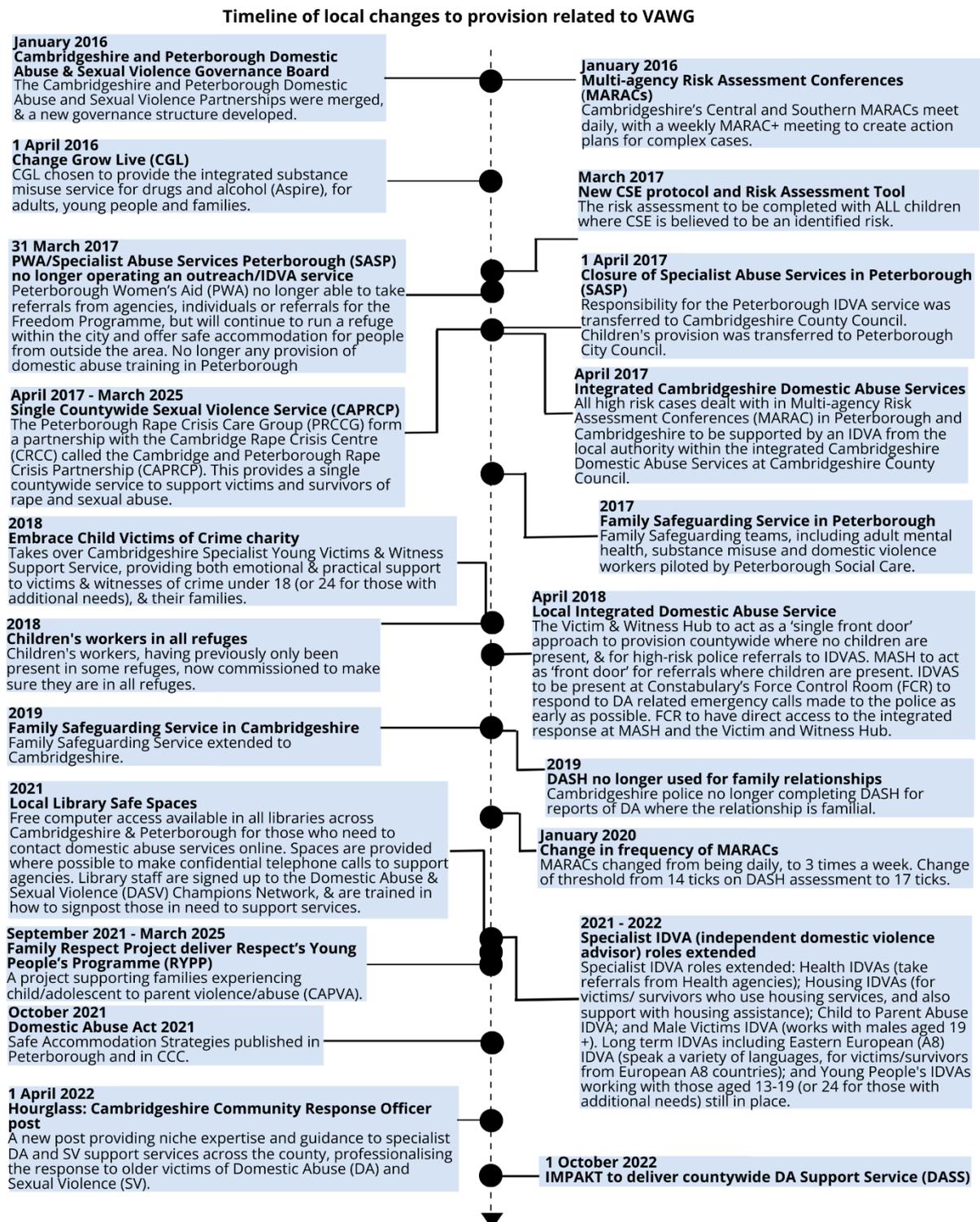
Figure 6: Timeline of National changes related to VAWG 2015-2023.



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Alongside these changes there are local changes to services and provisions, provided for context below.

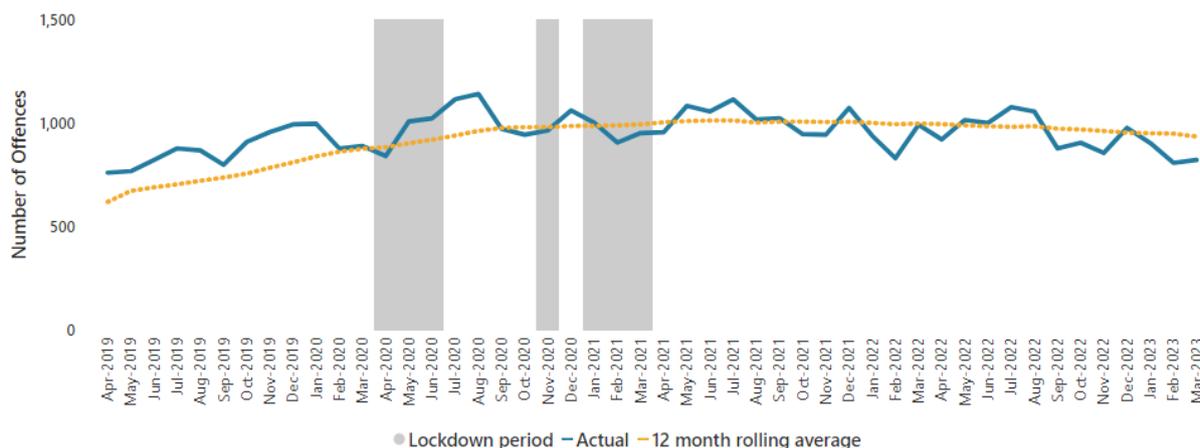
Figure 7: Timeline of local changes to provision related VAWG 2015-2023



1.5. Pandemic impacts

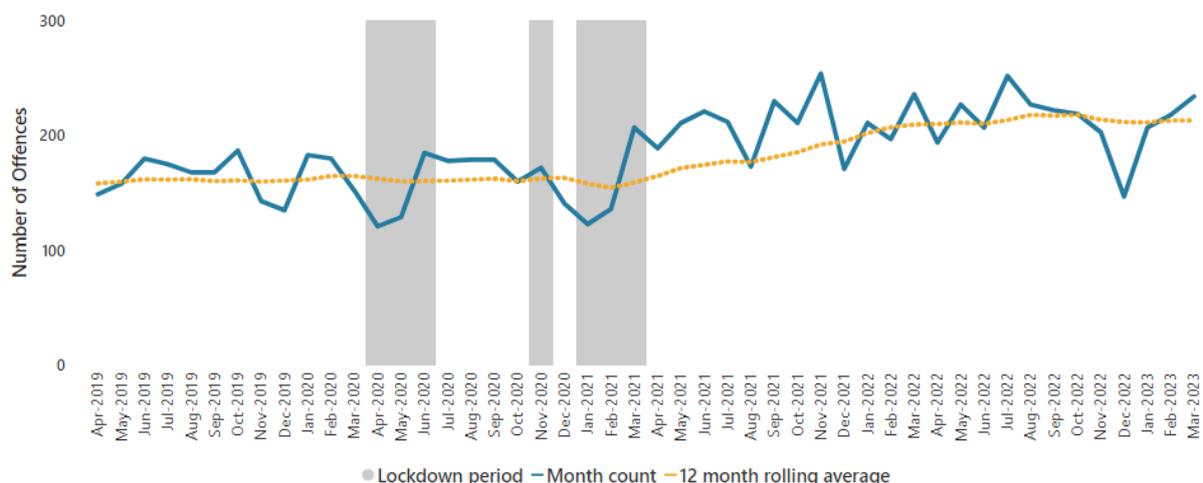
Locally the police recorded crime data indicates an overall increase in the number of offences with a DA marker over time. However, this increase started prior to the pandemic and in recent months the rolling average shows a levelling off in the volume recorded.

Figure 8: Police recorded offences with a DA marker, April 2019 - March 2023, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough



In the short term there were notable increases during the first lockdown and immediately afterwards. This fits with the overall understanding of the impact of the pandemic and the measures to tackle it. Offence figures for sexual offences reflected a similar pattern around lockdown periods, most markedly after the latest lockdown.

Figure 9: Police recorded sexual offences, April 2019 - March 2023, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough



Nationally published data (Home Office, 2022a) showed that there were substantial challenges for victims of DA and SV and increases in demand for services. In particular the government reported that:

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- From April 2020-June 2020 the National Domestic Abuse Helpline logged a 65% increase in calls and contacts compared to the previous 3 months of 2020.
- A 64% increase in calls to the Karma Nirvana helpline (for victims of 'honour'-based abuse) from 2019 to 2020.
- More than a doubling (+167%) in calls and contacts to sexual violence and abuse services when comparing March 2020 to May 2021.

2. Sexual Violence

2.1. National picture

This section outlines the national picture of sexual offending based on police recorded crime data and estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). It should be noted that the offence definitions used in these data sources do not directly align.

Police recorded crime data categorises sexual offences under two sub-types; rape and 'other sexual offences'. The legal definition of rape under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sec 1 is used for police recorded crime data (as outlined in the Home Office Counting Rules):

1 (1) "A person 'A' commits an offence if (a) he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person 'B' with his penis, (b) 'B' does not consent to the penetration, and (c) 'A' does not reasonably believe that 'B' consents." (Home Office, 2023/24, p. 44).

All other sexual offences which do not constitute a rape offence based on this definition are classified under the alternative offence sub-type of 'other sexual offences'.

The CSEW asks respondents about the experiences of 'any sexual assaults'. Sexual assaults are broken down into the following categories:

- Rape
- Assault by penetration
- Indecent exposure
- Unwanted sexual touching

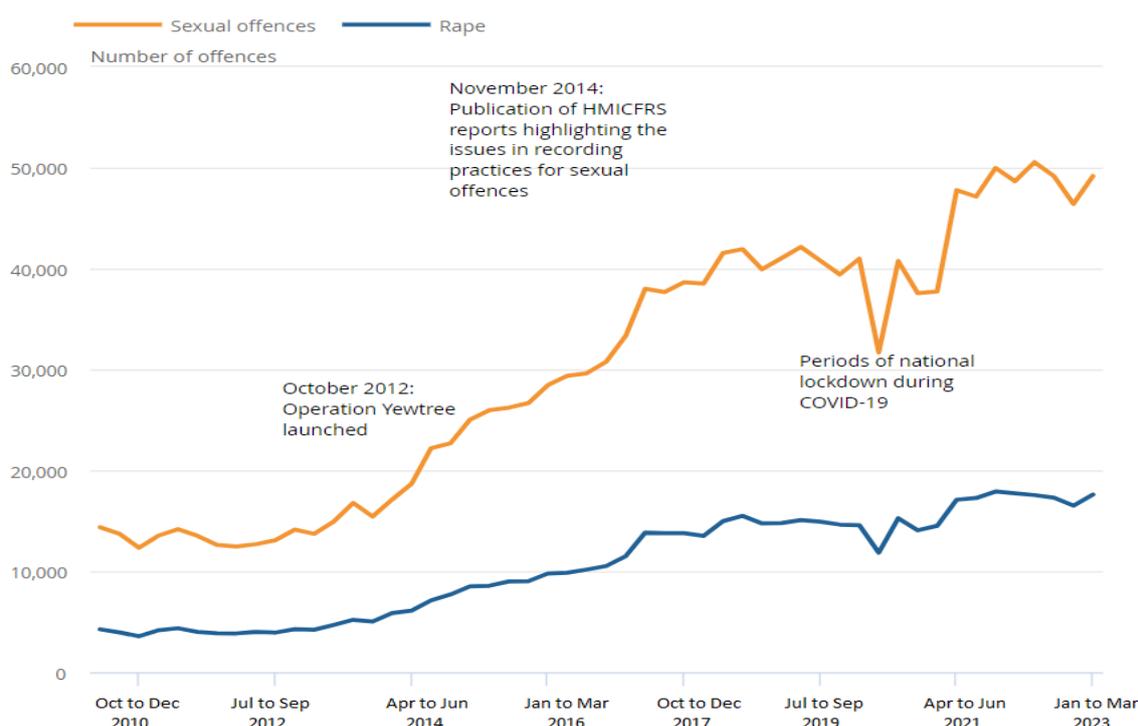
The national total of police recorded sexual offences for 2022/23 financial year (195,315) showed little change from the previous year's total of 193,559. There was however a 20% increase in offences compared to the year preceding the national lockdown (2019/20 financial year) (ONS, 2023a). The rate of sex offences for

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England and Wales in the 2022/23 financial year was 3.3 per 1000 population (based on census 2021 population figures (NOMIS, 2022)).

Rape accounted for 35% of the sexual offences recorded by the police for the 2022/23 financial year, an increase of 16% compared to the 2019/20 financial year. A larger increase of 21% was seen in other sexual offences over this same time period. As noted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), this increase could be attributed to multiple factors, including media coverage (including high impact cases), people's willingness to report, operational changes, and a potential increase in the number of victims. ONS noted that in 2022/23 financial year (for a subset of police forces), 21% of sexual offences, and 24% of rape offences recorded were historical; having taken place more than a year prior (these percentages refer to a subset of police forces who supplied data to the Home Office Data Hub) (ONS, 2023a). Due to the above factors, it is difficult to determine the extent to which this increase reflects an increase in the number of victims.

Figure 10: National police recorded rape and sexual offences, Oct 2010 to March 2023



Data note from ONS: “Operation Yewtree is the police investigation into allegations of sexual abuse, launched in the wake of the Jimmy Savile scandal.”

Source: Figure 8 in CSEW report for 2022/23 financial year (ONS, 2023a).

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides an alternative source of data to track the national prevalence and trend in sexual assaults. The importance of looking at alternative sources is demonstrated by CSEW estimates suggesting that fewer than 1 in 6 victims (aged 16-59) of rape or assault by penetration, reported the

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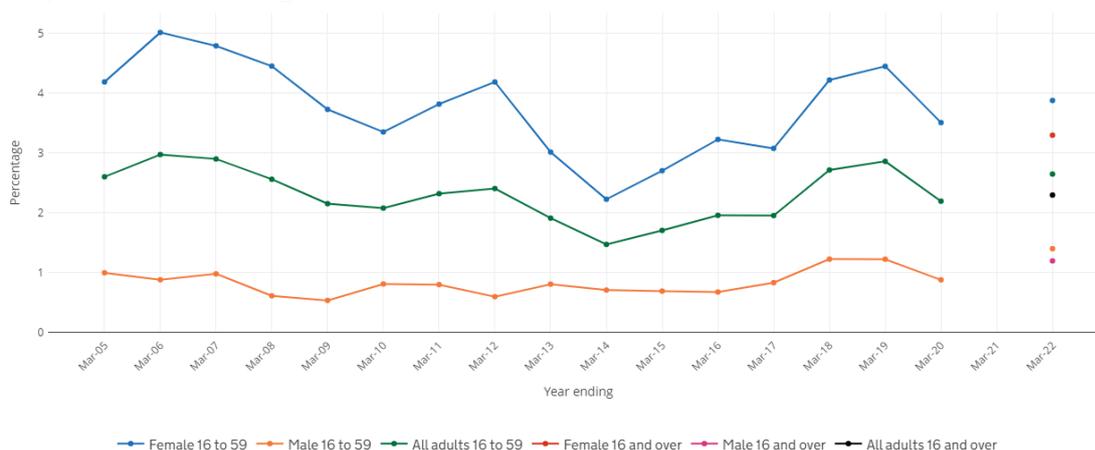
crime to the police (based on data from CSEW data from the 2016/17 and 2019/20 financial years) (ONS, 2023a).

The most recent CSEW (2022/23 financial year) indicated that 2.7% of people aged 16 to 59 experienced sexual assault (including attempted sexual assault) in the last year (ONS, 2023a). This was the same as that seen the previous year, and not significantly different to the percentage for the 2019/20 financial year (of 2.2%) (ONS, 2023a; ONS, 2023b). For those aged 16 and over, the percentage decreases to 2.1% for 2022/23 financial year. Previous data for 2021/22 financial year showed that for 57% of victims of sexual assault aged 16 and over, perpetrators were partners or ex partners (ONS, 2023a), showing the overlap with domestic abuse.

When looking at the longer-term trend (see Figure 11), it can be seen that despite the apparent stability in the proportion of respondents experiencing sexual assault, numbers are higher than that seen between 2013 and 2017. Particularly considering the missing data from 2021 and the effects of the Covid-19 lockdown, the direction of the current trend is not clear.

More detailed CSEW data from the previous year (2021/22 financial year) showed that the percentage of respondents who reported experiencing sexual assault in the last year increases to 3.9% for females (aged 16-59), versus 1.4% for males (ONS, 2023b); or 3.3% for females (aged 16 and over), versus 1.2% for males (ONS, 2023b).

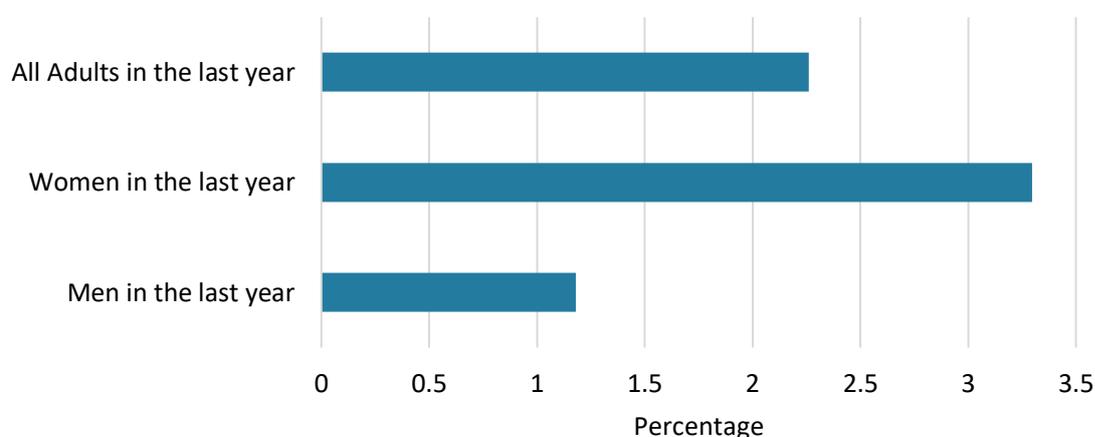
Figure 11: CSEW data on the trend of sexual assault experienced by respondents in England and Wales, March 2005 to March 2022



Source: Sexual Offences Dashboard (ONS, 2023b); Table F15, F17 and F18 (ONS, 2022b). (See technical notes)

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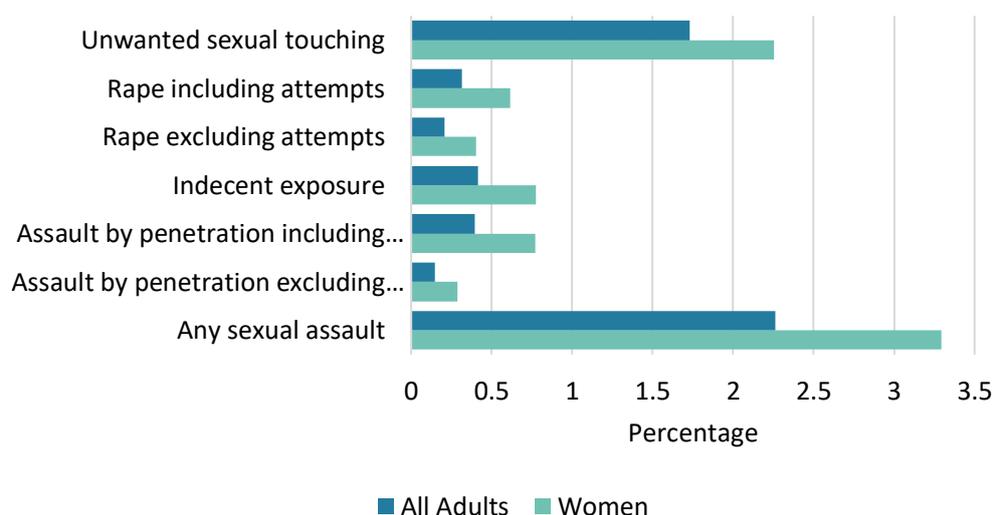
Figure 12: CSEW data of the prevalence of sexual assault in the last 12 months reported by respondents aged 16 and over, by gender, in England and Wales, year ending March 2022



Source: Table 1 by ONS (2023c) (See technical notes)

Whilst data for the kinds of sexual assault experienced by male respondents was not made publicly available for 2021/22 financial year (due to data suppression), Figure 13 shows that the most common form of sexual assault experienced by all adult respondents was unwanted sexual touching, at 1.7% of all adult respondents, increasing to 2.3% for female respondents.

Figure 13: CSEW data of the prevalence of sexual assault in the last 12 months reported by respondents aged 16 and over in England and Wales, for women and all adults, by type of assault, year ending March 2022



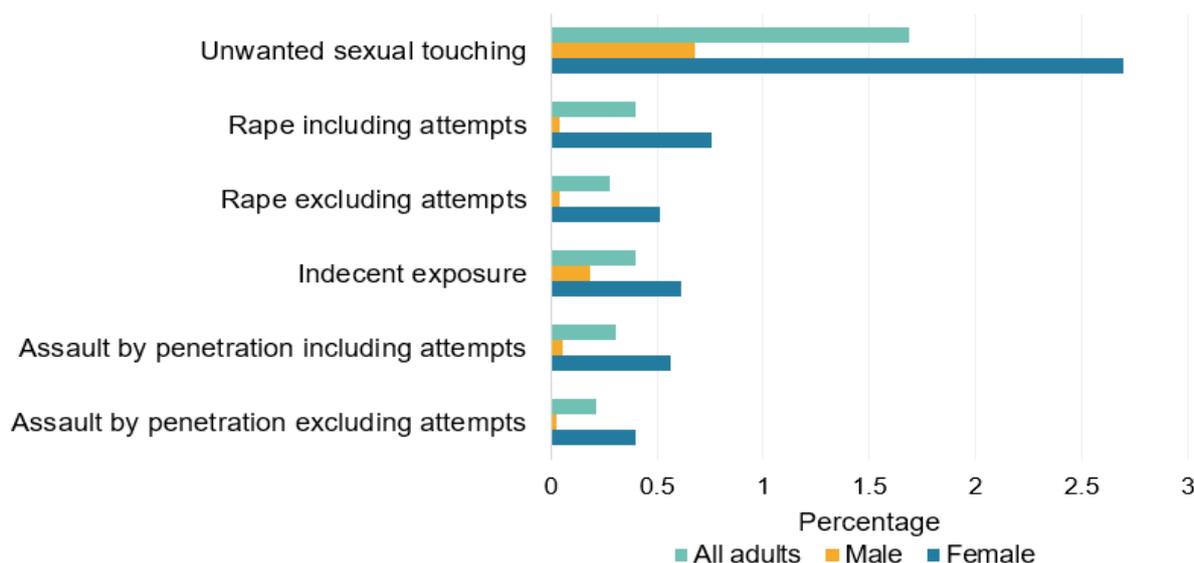
Source: Sexual Offences Dashboard (ONS, 2023b) (See technical notes)

More detailed information is available for CSEW data for the year ending March 2020 (see Figure 14), showing that unwanted sexual touching was the most common form of sexual assault for both men (at 0.7%) and women (at 2.7%). The second most common form of assault however differs by gender. For women the second

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most common form of assault was Rape, including attempts, at 0.8%; whereas for men the second most common form of assault was indecent exposure at 0.2%.

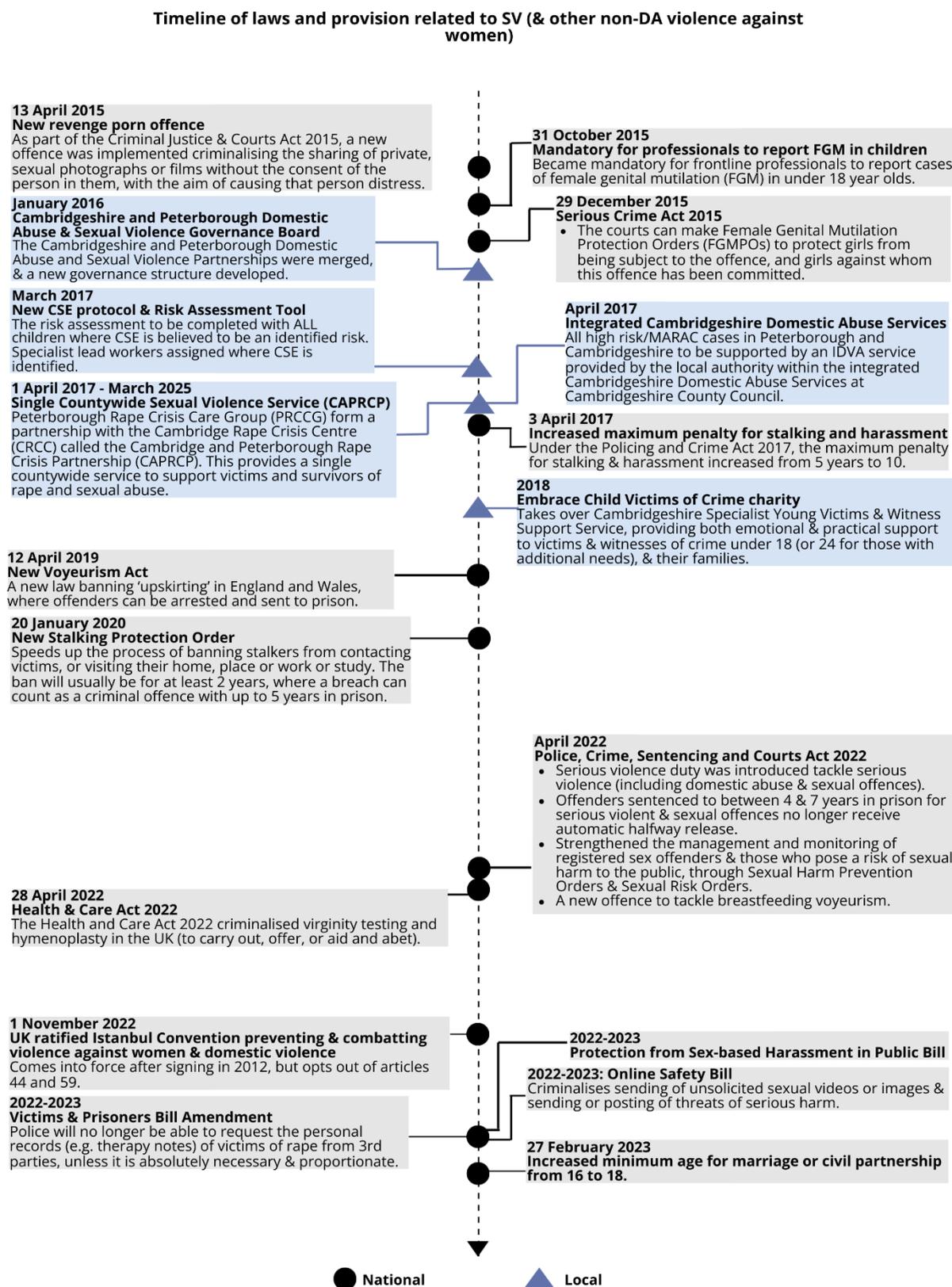
Figure 14: CSEW data of the prevalence of sexual assault in the last 12 months reported by respondents aged 16 to 59, by type and gender, in England and Wales, year ending March 2020



Source: Sexual Offences Dashboard (ONS, 2023b), Tables 3b and 4b (ONS, 2023d) (See technical notes).

For context the figure below shows a timeline of laws and provision related to Sexual Violence since 2015.

Figure 15: Timeline of laws and provision related to SV (and other non-DA violence against women) 2015-2023



2.2. Experience of sexual violence and harassment

National prevalence estimates for sexual assault are available from the CSEW based on questions to respondents about whether they have been a victim of sexual assault in the previous year. Detailed CSEW estimates on sexual assault were not available for 2022/23 at the time of writing, as such the 2021/22 estimates have been used to create local estimates. Applying national prevalence estimates to the local population does not represent a perfect measure, as such, figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand (or hundred where appropriate) and should be treated as indicative estimates only.

By applying the national prevalence estimate to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population (Census 2021), we estimate that approximately **17,000** people aged 16+ would have been the victim of a sexual assault (including attempts but excluding causing sexual activity without consent) in 2021/22. Applying the separate prevalence estimates for males and females indicates a potential 12,000 female victims and 4,000 male victims in 2021/22 (totals do not sum due to rounding). The table below displays victim estimates for those aged 16+ by detailed age group for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Table 7: Estimated number of victims in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2021/22 based on CSEW prevalence rate and Census 2021 population

Age	Estimated number of victims in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2021/22 (rounded): Any sexual assault (including attempts)
All (age 16+)	17,000
16-19	4,700
20-24	4,900
25-34	3,300
35-44	400
45-54	300
55-59	Figure not available.
60-74	2,000
75+	Figure not available.

CSEW estimates broken down by assault type were only available for people aged 16-59 based on the survey period October 2021 to March 2022. The estimated number of victims for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by sexual assault type are presented in the table below. Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 8: Estimated number of victims (aged 16-59) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2021/22 based on CSEW prevalence rate and Census 2021 population.

Type of Assault	Estimated number of victims in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2021/22 (rounded)
Any sexual assault (including attempts but excluding causing sexual activity without consent)	14,000
Rape or penetration including attempts	3,000
Rape or penetration excluding attempts	2,000
Rape including attempts	2,000
Rape excluding attempts	1,000
Assault by penetration including attempts	2,000
Assault by penetration excluding attempts	1,000
Indecent exposure or unwanted sexual touching	12,000
Indecent exposure	2,000
Unwanted sexual touching	11,000

Note: totals do not sum as people can experience multiple assault types.

Other recent sources that can help evidence the experience of sexual harassment and violence were sought for this needs assessment, particularly for the younger cohorts which are not covered by the CSEW (under 16s).

A recent survey (carried out August 2023) of teenagers aged 13-18 living in the UK aimed to understand attitudes and experiences of teenagers across a wide variety of topics with a nationally representative sample (BBC, 2023).

VAWG related issues covered by this survey highlighted the following (BBC/Survation, 2023):

- 31% of teenagers have messaged someone online they don't know and 46% of respondents agreed with the follow up statement 'It doesn't matter if I don't know who they are'.
- 19% of teenagers surveyed had experienced sexual harassment on the street (i.e. wolf whistles, leering); 27% of females surveyed and 12% of males. Responses from the East of England Region reflected 26% of teenagers have experienced this type of sexual harassment.

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- 16% of teenagers stated that they have been asked to make or share nude images or videos by a peer and 18% said they have received unwanted nude images or videos from a peer.

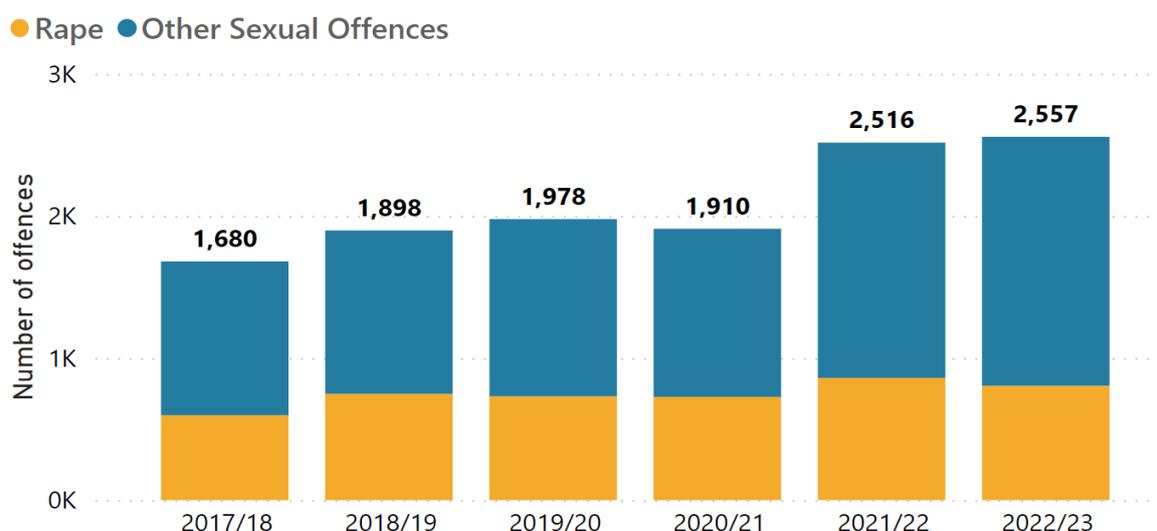
Before considering police recorded offences below it is important to note that underreporting to statutory services is a known issue for Sexual Violence. The CSEW estimates suggest that fewer than 1 in 6 victims (aged 16-59) of rape or assault by penetration reported the crime to the police (based on data from CSEW data from the 2016/17 and 2019/20) (ONS, 2023a).

2.3. Police recorded offences

2.3.1. Sexual offences

Police recorded sexual offences are categorised as either 'rape' or 'other sexual offences' in line with Home Office counting rules. In 2022/23 there were a total of 2,557 sexual offences recorded by the police in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The total levels of police recorded sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough remained relatively stable between 2018/19 to 2020/21 but increased markedly in 2021/22, up 32% on the previous year. This elevated level of offences was maintained in 2022/23, resulting in total sexual offences being 29% higher than the pre-pandemic level seen in 2019/20. This is slightly higher than the national increase of 20% seen during the same time period. As shown in the figure below, the increase was primarily accounted for by higher levels of 'other sexual offences' rather than 'rape'.

Figure 16: Annual count of police recorded sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, by offence sub-type, 2017/18 – 2022/23 (financial year)

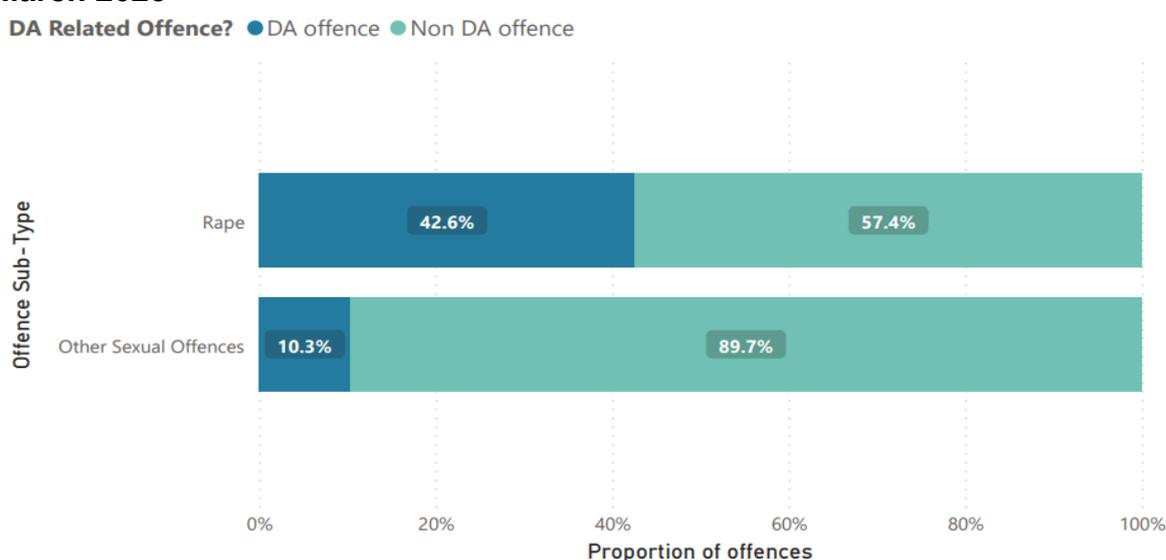


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In 2022/23 a fifth of all sexual offences in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough were recorded as DA related. This proportion has remained relatively consistent in the last 4 years, with the exception of 2020/21 which saw just over a quarter (27%) of sexual offences recorded as DA related. This variation may be linked to the restrictions of movement during the pandemic lockdowns resulting in people spending more time at home.

As illustrated in the next figure, there is a large variation in the proportion of offences which are DA related by offence sub-type; with 43% of rapes recorded in 2022/23 being DA related compared to 10% of other sexual offences.

Figure 17: Proportion of police recorded sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which are DA related, by offence sub-type, April 2022 - March 2023



The reporting of sexual offences to the police is known to be low and when offences are reported, this does not always happen immediately after the offence has occurred. In order to explore any possible impact of changes in reporting lag on recent trends observed locally, analysis has been completed on the difference between the date an offence was recorded by the police and the date when the offence occurred. It should be noted that offences can span a wide time period and analysis here focuses on the offence start date rather than the offence end date due to data completeness.

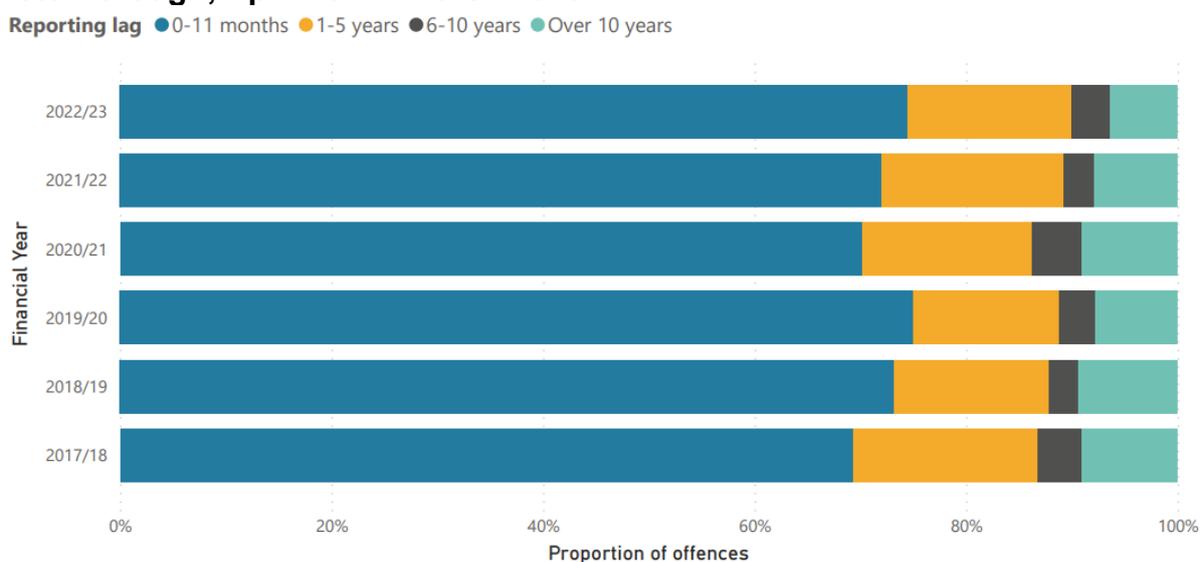
The figure below displays the lag in years between offence start date and offence recorded date for all sexual offences reported in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the last 6 years. In the latest financial year (2022/23) three quarters of sexual offences were recorded within 12 months of the offence start date, with a quarter recorded at least a year after the offence start date. In the last 6 years there has been some year-on-year variation, with the proportion of offences with a reporting lag of a year or more ranging between 25% and 31%, but there is no steady pattern

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of increase or decrease over time. This suggests that the increases seen in sexual offences recorded in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the last two years were not driven by an increase in the reporting of non-recent offences. However, increases in reporting of sexual offences overall and improvements in police recording may be playing a role as noted by the ONS at a national level.

In the latest year 6.4% of offences had a reporting lag of 10 years or more. It should be noted that the needs of this victim cohort may differ from those reporting more recent offences.

Figure 18: Number of years between offence start date and offence recorded date for all police recorded sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2017 - March 2023



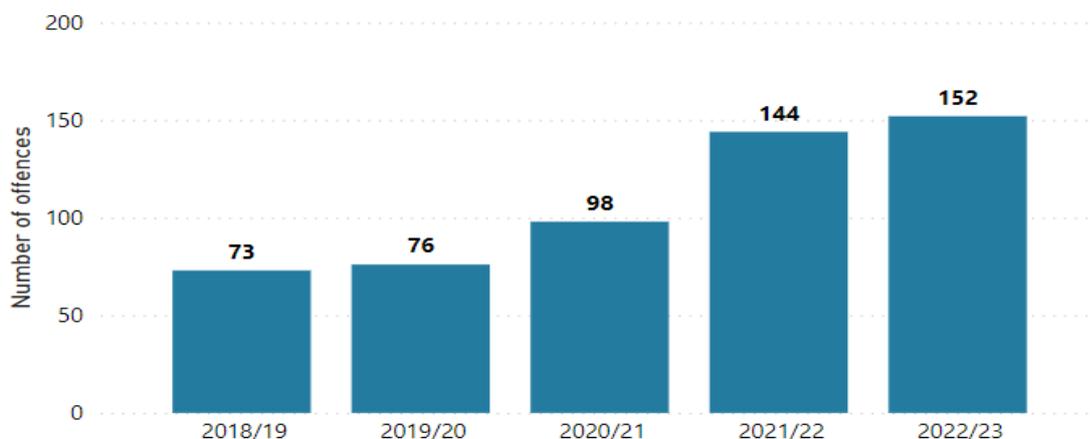
2.3.2. Sexual communication with a child offences

Sexual Communication with a Child was made a specific offence in 2017 (via the Serious Crime Act 2015).

The NSPCC has recently released national research using FOI requests to police forces for police recorded crime data. They highlighted an increase from 3,492 offences recorded in 2017/18 to 6,350 offences 2022/23 (up 82%). Where a victim's gender was known, 83% of victims were female. The research also highlighted that a large proportion of offences (where recorded) occurred via Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp (NSPCC, 2023). It should be noted that an offence could involve more than one victim and multiple means of communication. The victims were primary aged children in a quarter of offences classed as online grooming in the last five years.

Local data shows year-on-year increases in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with 152 offences recorded in 2022/23, over double the number of offences recorded in 2018/19.

Figure 19: Annual count of police recorded 'engage/attempt to engage in sexual communication with a child' offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2018 - March 2023



Peterborough and Huntingdonshire had the highest offence counts, each accounting for a quarter of offences recorded in the five-year time period.

Table 9: Annual count of police recorded 'engage/attempt to engage in sexual communication with a child' offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as percentage of all offences April 2018 - March 2023

District	Count of offences 2018/19 – 2022/23	Percentage of all offences 2018/19 – 2022/23
Cambridge	69	13%
East Cambridgeshire	42	8%
Fenland	94	17%
Huntingdonshire	135	25%
Peterborough	136	25%
South Cambridgeshire	67	12%
Total	543	100%

2.4. Police recorded offences: Victims

Police recorded victim records have been shared by Cambridgeshire Constabulary for inclusion in this needs assessment. Victim records have been matched to recorded crime data so they can be analysed by specific crime types. All victim records linked to a sexual offence recorded in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023 have been included in the analysis in this section.

It is possible for the same victim to experience multiple offences, therefore, in addition to analysis based on all victim records, unique victims tables have been created to provide more accurate insights into victim demographics.

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There were 8,248 victim records linked to a sexual offence in a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023. There were an additional 390 victim records which had an unknown offence location or insufficient data to geocode to a specific location. These records have been excluded from the main analysis in this section, however, the table below shows the geographic breakdown based on the victim's last known home address and the gender breakdown for unique victims by geography. In 111 of the 390 offence records, the victim's last known address was recorded as outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (28%). For the 346 unique victims, 82% were female, 11% were male and 7% did not have gender recorded.

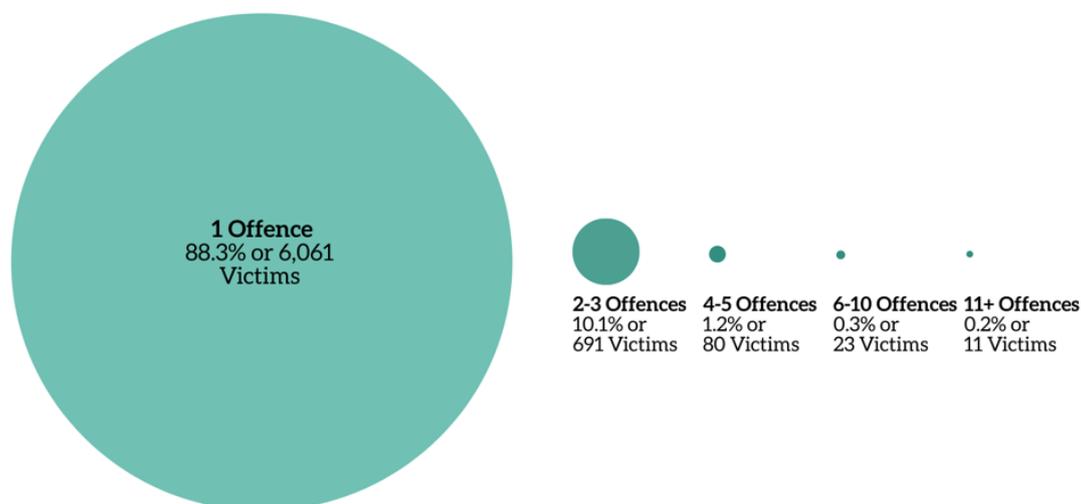
Table 10: Victim home address location, by gender, for sexual offences recorded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary with an unknown offence location, April 2019 - March 2023

Home district	Total crimes	Unique victims	Proportion of unique victims female	Proportion of unique victims male	Proportion of unique victims gender unknown
Cambridge City	47	42	85.7%	7.1%	7.1%
East Cambridgeshire	20	19	89.5%	10.5%	0.0%
Fenland	27	25	96.0%	0.0%	4.0%
Huntingdonshire	47	42	76.2%	14.3%	9.5%
Peterborough	80	73	83.6%	11.0%	5.5%
South Cambridgeshire	29	27	81.5%	14.8%	3.7%
Out of county	111	94	80.9%	12.8%	6.4%
Unknown residence	29	24	66.7%	12.5%	20.8%
Total	390	346	82.1%	11.0%	6.9%

The rest of this section refers to the 8,248 victim records linked to a sexual offence that occurred within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and was reported between April 2019 and March 2023.

There were 6,866 unique victims for whom at least one sexual offence was recorded in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 – March 2023. The majority of these victims (88%), reported a single offence in the four-year period (as illustrated in the graphic below). The remaining 12% (805 victims) were repeat victims, with 10% of victims reporting two or three sexual offences and 2% reporting 4 or more offences.

Figure 20: Number of police recorded sexual offence crimes by individual victims, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023

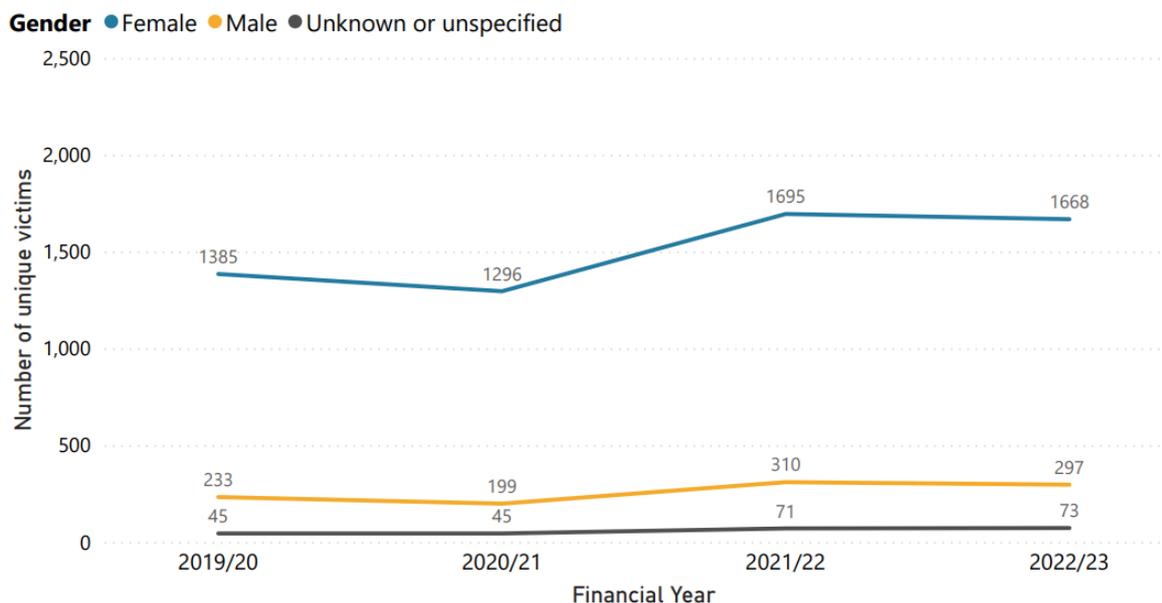


2.4.1. Victim demographics

There were 6,866 unique victims who experienced at least one police recorded sexual offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023. The majority of victims were recorded as female (82%), with 15% of victims being male. Gender was unknown for 3% of victims.

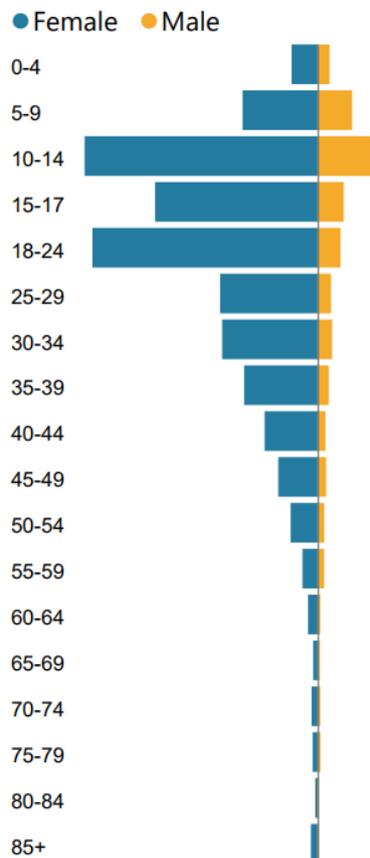
Unique victims have been identified by individual financial year (i.e., all duplicate victim ID's within each 12 month period have been removed) in order to produce a time series of the number of unique victims who reported a sexual offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by gender by year. It should be noted that the combined total number of victims using this methodology will be higher as victims who reported offences in more than one financial year will be counted multiple times. When the totals for each financial year are added together there are 7,317 victims compared to 6,866 when looking at unique victims across the full 4-year period. The figure below displays the number of unique victims in each financial year by police recorded gender. There was an increase in the number of male and female victims in 2021/22 compared the previous year. Males saw the highest proportional increase, up 56%, but from a lower base. Female victims increased by 31% in the same period.

Figure 21: Number of unique victims who experienced at least one police recorded sexual offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by gender, 2019/20 – 2022/23 (financial year)



The chart below displays the demographic breakdown for unique victims (where age and gender had been recorded) who experienced at least one sexual offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023. The age group with the highest count of offences for both females and males was 10-14. 43% of all female victims of all sexual offences were aged under 18 at the time of the offence. 18-24 year olds accounted for a further 19% of victims, highlighting the high victimisation levels for young women. It is possible that reporting levels may be higher for younger victims where an adult reports on their behalf, as such, reported crime figures may not accurately reflect prevalence by age group. Variation in victim age group by offence sub-type is explored below.

Figure 22: Age (at the time of offence) and gender breakdown, where known, for unique victims of police recorded sexual offence(s) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023



To explore potential differences in the demographic profiles of victims by sexual offence sub-type, separate unique victims tables were created for victims of a police recorded ‘rape’ or ‘other sexual offence’ between April 2019 – March 2023. There were 2,507 unique victims linked to a rape offence and 4,681 unique victims linked to an ‘other sexual offences’ offence. The same victims could feature in both datasets where they had reported offences under both sub-types during the 4-year period.

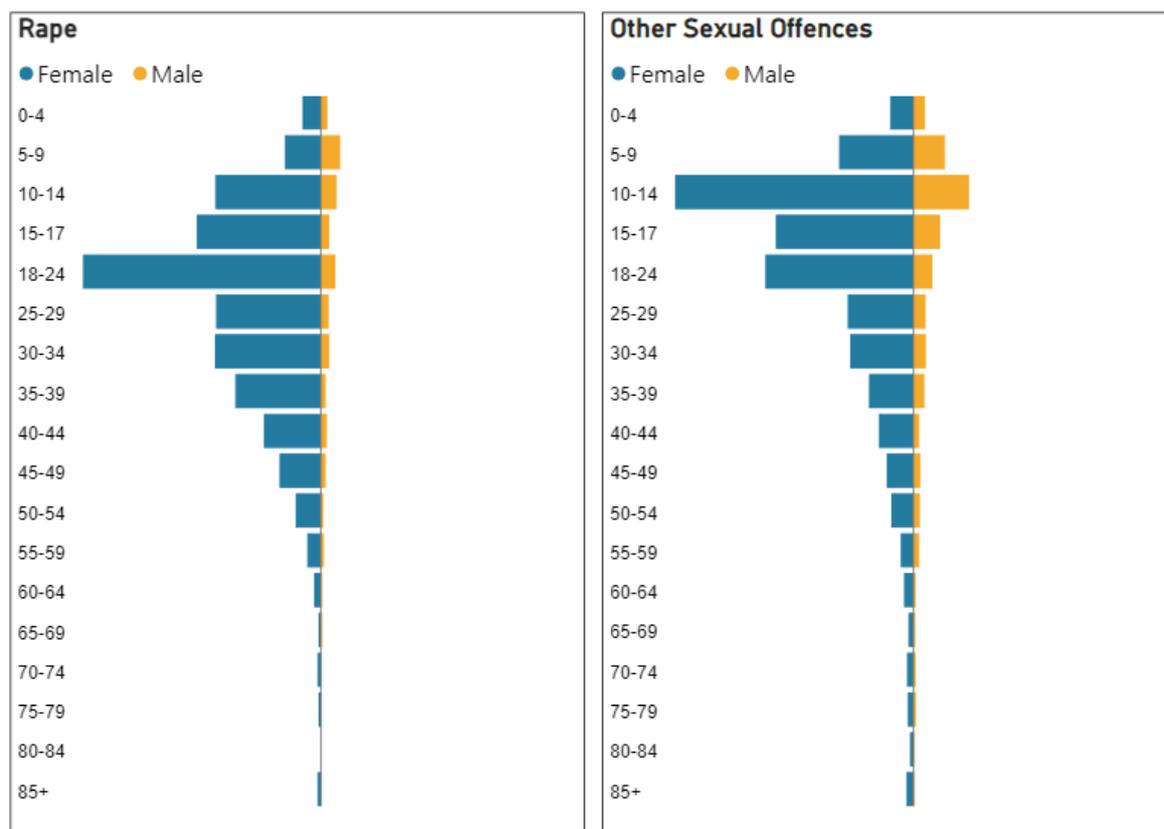
The age and gender breakdowns for these groups are presented in the figure below. This shows notable differences, with a higher proportion of younger female victims for ‘other sexual offences’ compared to rape. Girls who were aged under 18 at the time of offence accounted for 42% of all victims of ‘other sexual offences’ and half of all female victims (51%), where age and gender was known. Child victims were most likely to be aged 10-14 at the time of the offence, with girls in this group accounting for 21% of all victims and 26% of female victims of ‘other sexual offences’. Females aged 18-24 were the dominant group for rape offences, accounting for over a fifth (22%) of all victims (where age and gender was known).

The proportion of male victims (where gender was known) was higher for ‘other sexual offences’ (18%) compared to rape (9%), however, females accounted for the

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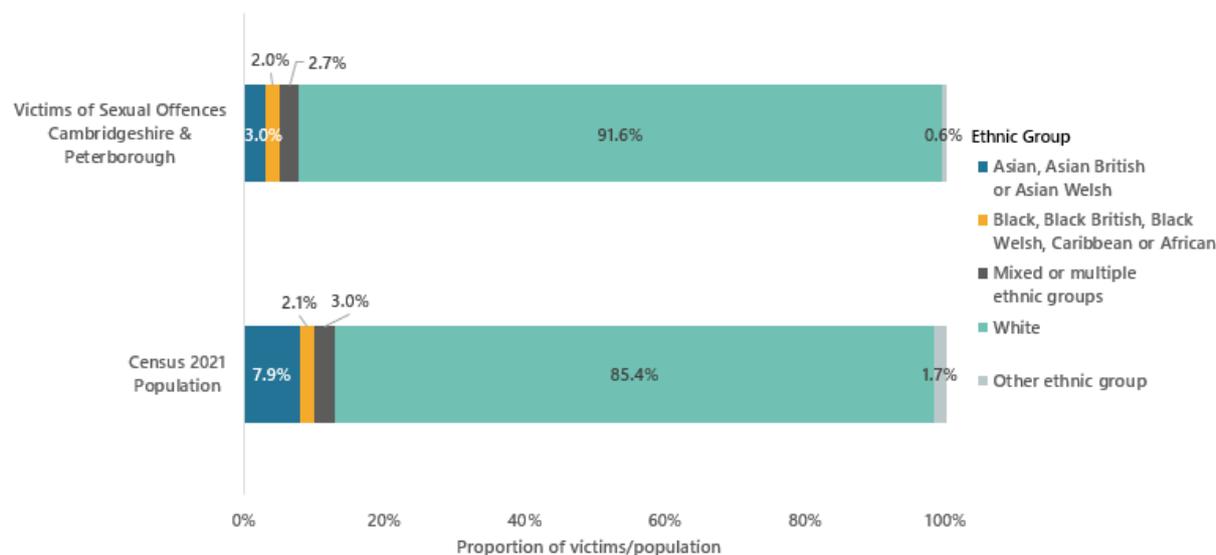
majority of victims across all sexual offences. The age breakdown for male victims of 'other sexual offences' showed an even younger age profile, with those aged under 15 accounting for just under half of all male victims (48%).

Figure 23: Age (at the time of offence) and gender breakdown, where known, for unique victims of police recorded rape or 'other sexual offence' in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023



Self-defined ethnicity was unknown (either not stated or not recorded) for 43% of unique victims (April 2019 – March 2023). The breakdown of self-defined ethnicity for the 3,908 victims where data was available is presented in the chart below, alongside the breakdown for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population as a whole based on 2021 census data. 91% of victims of sexual offences were white, slightly above the percentage of the wider population (85%). The Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnic group was underrepresented in the police recorded crime data, accounting for just 3% of sexual offence victims compared to 8% of the wider population. With such a large proportion of data missing it is hard to draw any definitive conclusions from the analysis. Improvements in data completeness and quality would enable a broader discussion on under-representation in victims who report to the constabulary.

Figure 24: Breakdown in ethnic group for unique victims of sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023 and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough census 2021 population count

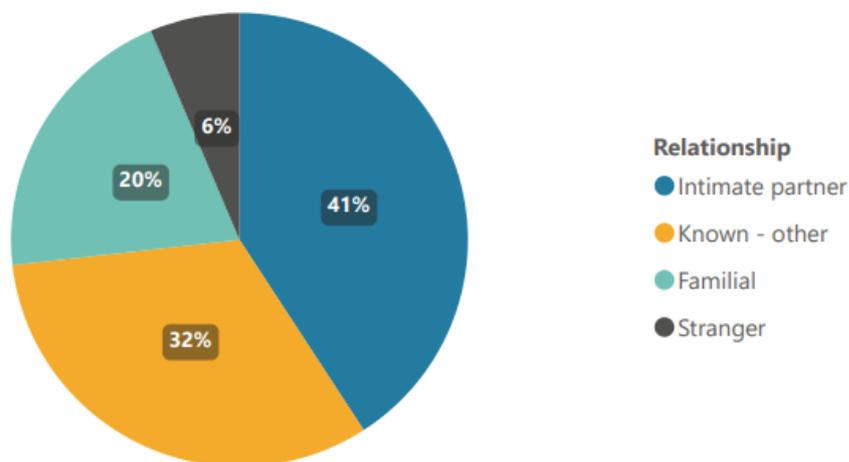


2.4.2. Victim – suspect relationship

Of the 8,248 victim records linked to a sexual offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 – March 2023, just over half (53%) had an unknown victim suspect relationship (either none recorded, relationship not disclosed, relationship unknown, or recorded as ‘described person’ or ‘victim is crown’). Analysis has been conducted on the remaining 3,890 victim records to explore the relationship between the victim and suspect, where known, whilst acknowledging that this does not present a complete picture due to the level of missing data. It should also be noted that repeat victims are included within this data. Therefore, extreme caution should be taken in trying to broaden the analysis to the total population.

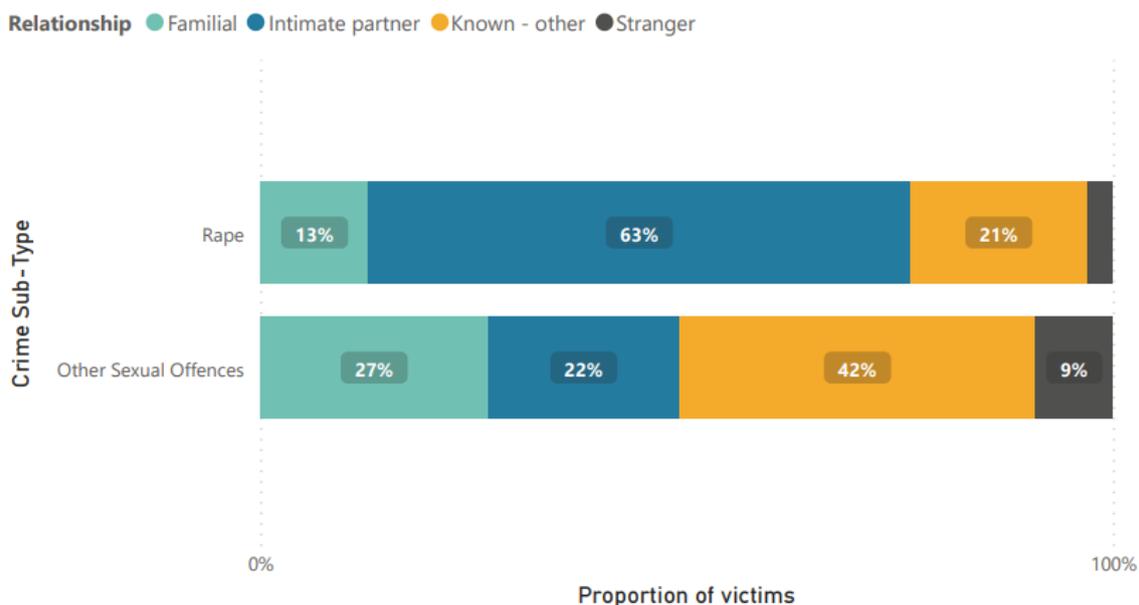
Intimate partner (including both current and ex-partners) was the most common relationship type, accounting for 41% of sexual offences between April 2019 – March 2023. In just under a third of offences the suspect was known to the victim but was not an intimate partner or family member, this group is explored in more detail later in this section. A fifth of sexual offences were familial (including both immediate and extended family members) and 6% of offences were committed by a stranger.

Figure 25: Victim - suspect relationship type (where known) for victims of sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2019 - March 2023



The proportion of rape offences where the suspect was an intimate partner were notably higher (63%) compared to for ‘other sexual offences’ (22%). As displayed in the figure below, the ‘other sexual offences’ sub-group had a higher proportion of relationships that were familial, known – other and stranger. ‘Known - other’ had the biggest proportional difference accounting for 42% of ‘other sexual offences’ compared to 21% of rapes.

Figure 26: Victim - suspect relationship type (where known) for victims of sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, by offence sub-type, April 2019 - March 2023



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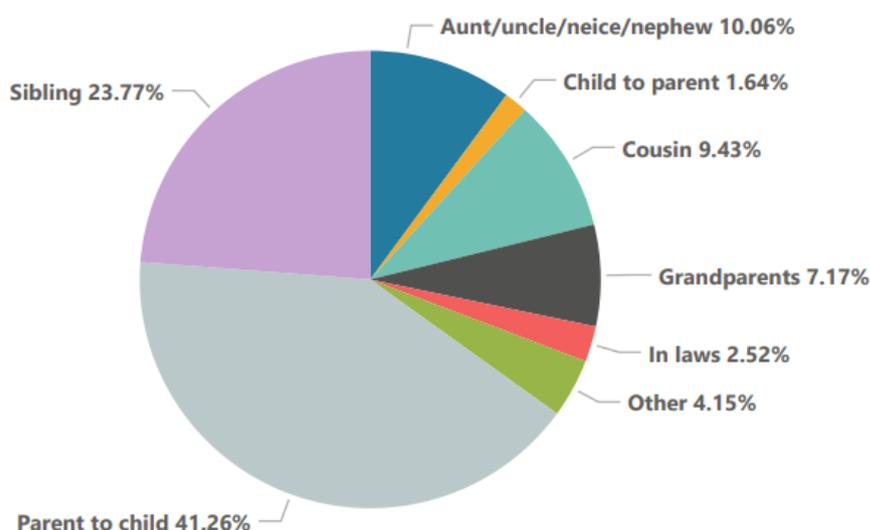
More detailed analysis has been completed on sexual offences with a familial or 'known-other' victim-suspect relationship by looking at the specific relationship type recorded. It should be noted that analysis in this section has been impacted by varying data quality, with the recorded relationship type being dependent on the individual recording the offence. Examples of inconsistency found within the victim-suspect relationship field included:

- 'parent to child' being recorded for offences where the parent was the victim rather than the suspect
- 'carer' being recorded for both offences where the victim was the carer and offences where the suspect was the carer
- 'ex-partner' being recorded for some offence where the suspect was an intimate partner at the time of the offence but was an ex-partner at the time of reporting.

Improved consistency in data recording would enable more detailed insights and robust conclusions to be drawn.

The dominant familial relationship in police recorded sexual offences (where the relationship was known) was parent to child, accounting for 41% of victim records. A further 2% of victim records were coded as child to parent offences. Siblings account for the next highest proportion of offences where the victim suspect relationship was known, at 24%.

Figure 27: Victim - suspect relationship type for victims of familial sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2019 - March 2023

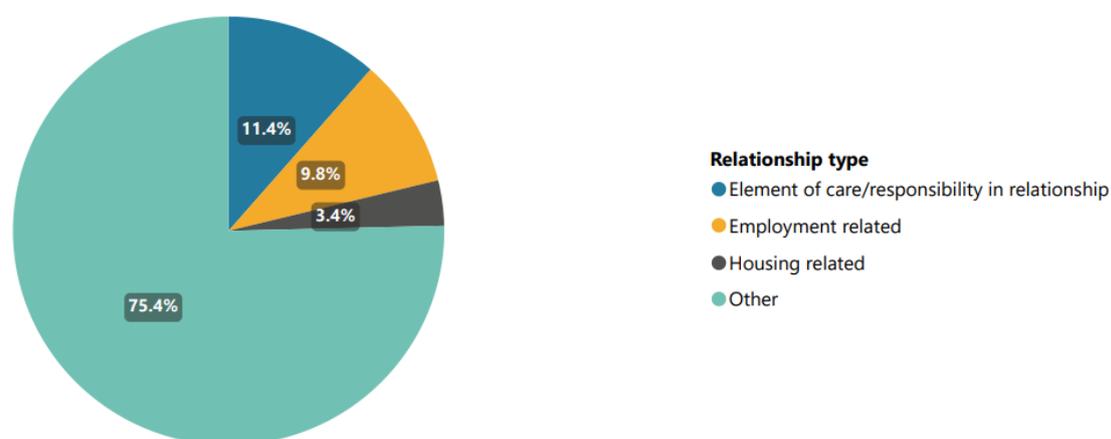


The figure below displays a more detailed breakdown of victim suspect relationship type for sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where the suspect

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was known but did not fall into the categories of intimate partner, familial or stranger. In 11% of victim records between 2019/20 and 2022/23 there was an element of responsibility in the relationship, for example, teachers, medical professionals and carers. It is not possible to state the percentage of offences where the suspect was the one who held responsibility due to inconsistency of data recording, for example, 'carer' was used to record offences where carers had been a victim or where they had been the suspect.

Figure 28: Victim - suspect relationship type for victims of sexual offences by a known (non- intimate partner or familial) suspect in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2019 - March 2023



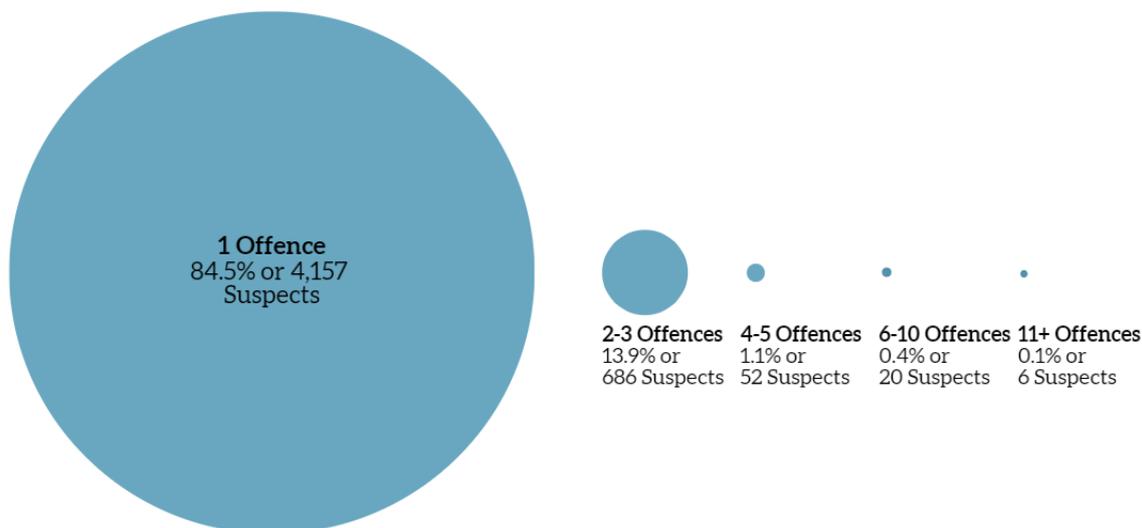
2.5. Police recorded offences: Suspects

Cambridgeshire Constabulary have shared suspect records for inclusion in this needs assessment. The corporate performance team extracted suspects records which had a link to a Cambridgeshire Constabulary recorded offence between May 2018 and March 2023. These records have then been matched to recorded crime data held by the Policy & Insight Team on a Power BI dashboard to enable analysis by specific crime types. Suspect records were included in the data shared irrespective of the offence link reason, as such it is important to note that this section refers to individuals suspected of an offence rather than confirmed perpetrators. Suspects with a link reason of 'suspect eliminated' were excluded from the analysis. All remaining suspect records linked to a sexual offence recorded in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023 have been included in the analysis in this section.

There were a total of 4,921 suspects linked to at least one sexual offence which occurred in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 – March 2023. In total these suspects were linked to 6,132 offences. The majority of suspects (85%) were linked to a single offence during the 4 years. 14% of suspects were linked to 2

or 3 offences with the remaining 2% of suspects being linked to 4 or more sexual offences.

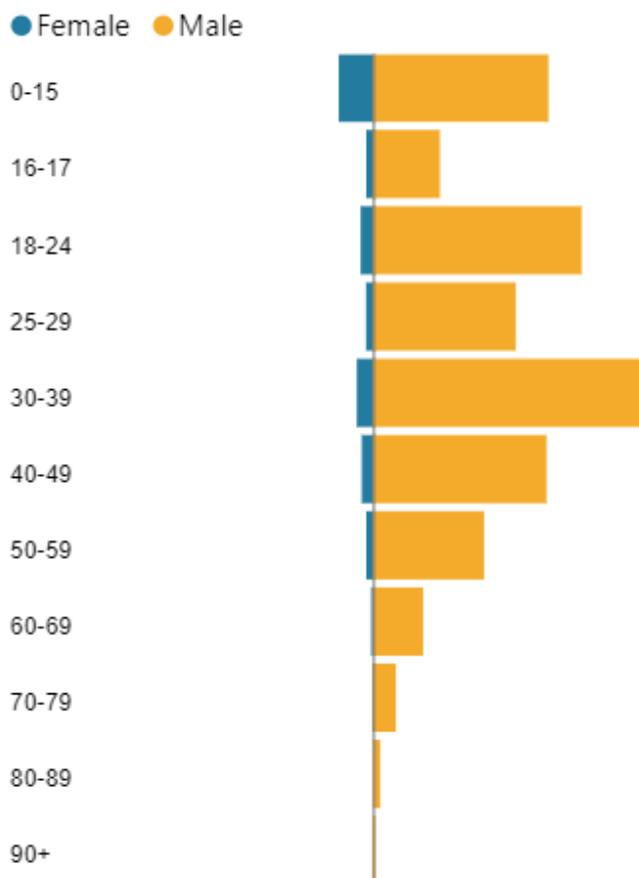
Figure 29: Number of sexual offences linked to individual suspects, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2019 - March 2023



Of the 4,921 unique suspects linked to a sexual offence reported in the four-year analysis period, the vast majority were male (90%). Females accounted for 7% of suspects and there was no gender recorded for the remaining 3%. This breakdown, alongside the high proportion (82%) of female victims, illustrates the highly gendered nature of sexual violence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, reflecting the national picture.

The figure below displays the breakdown in age of suspects (at the time the offence occurred) by gender. Males aged 30-39 were the most prevalent group, accounting for a fifth (20%) of all suspects where age and gender were recorded. 60% of suspects were males aged between 18-49. Child suspects accounted for just over a fifth of suspects (21%), with males aged under 16 accounting for 13% and males aged 16-17 accounting for 5%.

Figure 30: Age (at the time of offence) and gender breakdown, where known, for unique suspects linked to at least one police recorded sexual offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023



Replicating the methodology used for victims data, separate unique suspects tables were created for suspects linked to either a police recorded ‘rape’ or ‘other sexual offence’ between April 2019 – March 2023 to explore difference by sub-type. There were 2,114 unique suspects linked to a rape offence and 3,057 unique suspects linked to an ‘other sexual offences’ offence. The same suspect could feature in both datasets where they had been linked to both offence types during the 4-year period.

Where gender was known, males accounted for 89% of unique suspects linked to ‘other sexual offences’ and 99% of suspects linked to rape offences. Where female suspects were linked to rape offences this either represented an error in data recording or cases where a female suspect was an accomplice in the offence.

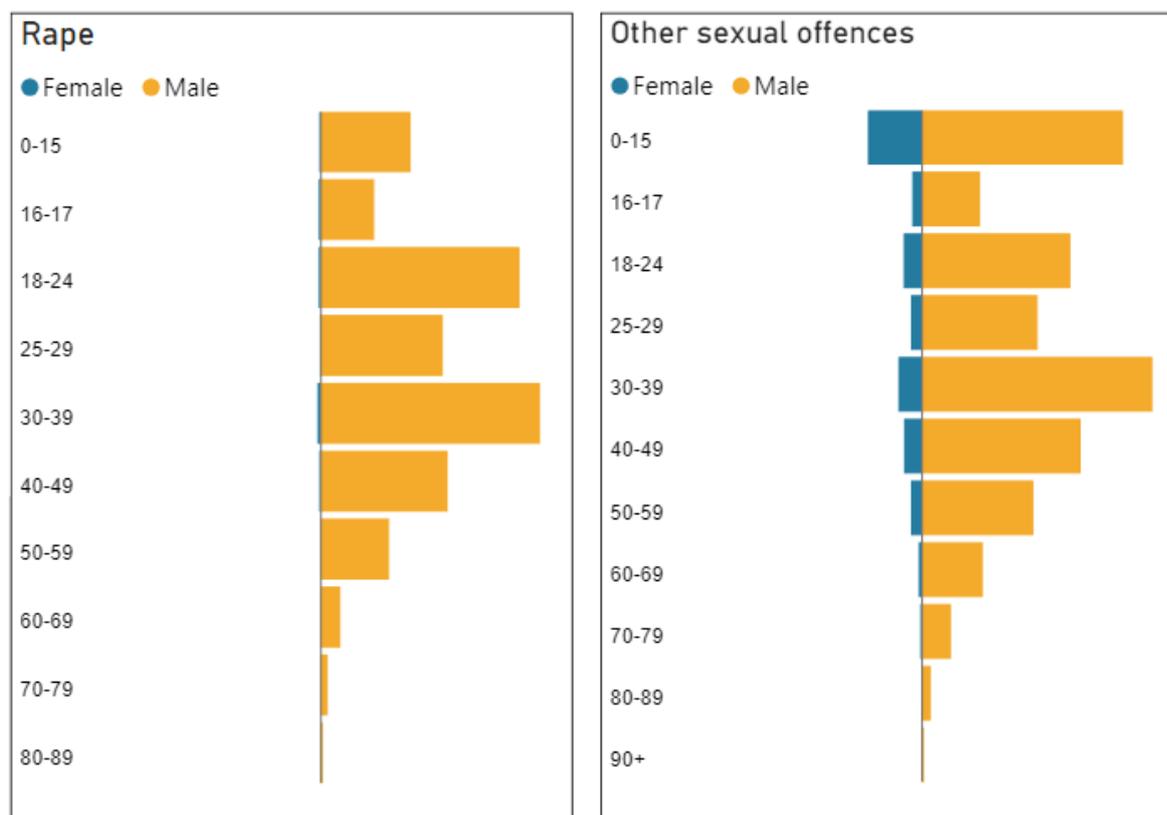
As illustrated in the figure below, the age breakdown for male suspects was similar across both sub-types of sexual offences. The main difference was a slightly higher proportion of male suspects aged under 16 for ‘other sexual offences’ (18% of all male suspects) compared to rape (10% of all male suspects).

Within the female suspects cohort linked to ‘other sexual offences’, under 16’s accounted for the highest proportion (37% of all female suspects). Due to time

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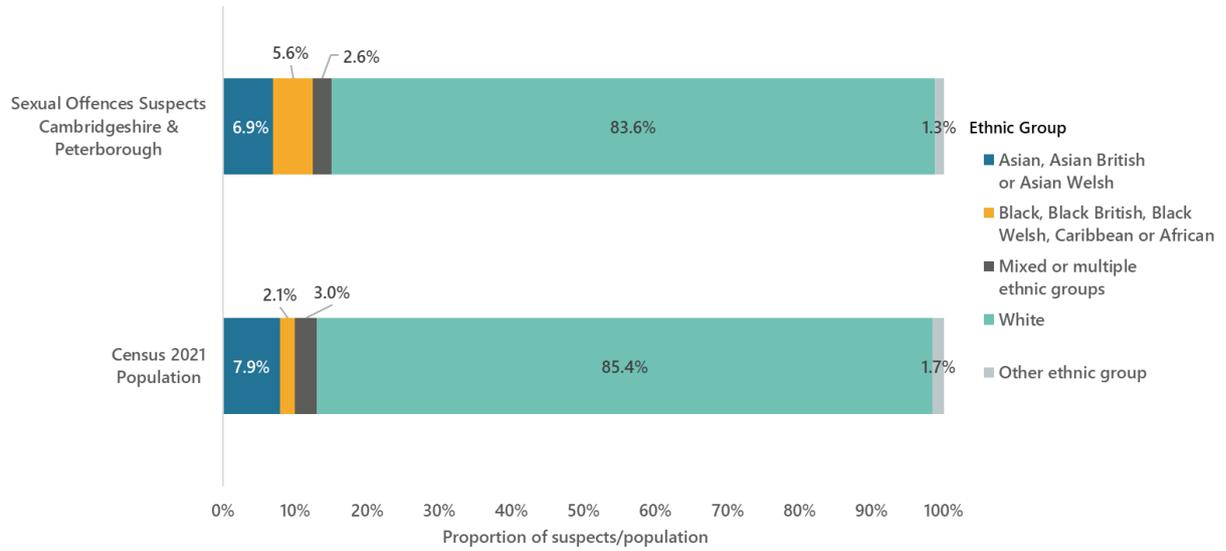
constraints a full dip sample analysis was not possible, however, to gain an insight into the nature of these offences a scan of a small subset of the MO field was carried out. The information reviewed showed that these offences primarily related to sexual activity between children, with some incidents of familial sexual assault.

Figure 31: Age (at the time of offence) and gender breakdown, where known, for unique suspects linked to at least one police recorded rape or other sexual offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023



Self-defined ethnicity was unknown (either not stated or not recorded) for 45% of unique suspects (April 2019 – March 2023). The breakdown of self-defined ethnicity for the 2,720 suspects where data was available is presented in the chart below, alongside the breakdown for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population as a whole based on 2021 census data. The ethnicity breakdown of suspects broadly reflects the local population, with white suspects accounting for 84% of the total cohort. 7% of suspects were recorded in the Asian ethnic group and 6% were recorded in the Black ethnic group. As ethnicity was unknown for a nearly half of all suspects these proportions may not be a true reflection of the ethnicity breakdown for all sexual violence suspects.

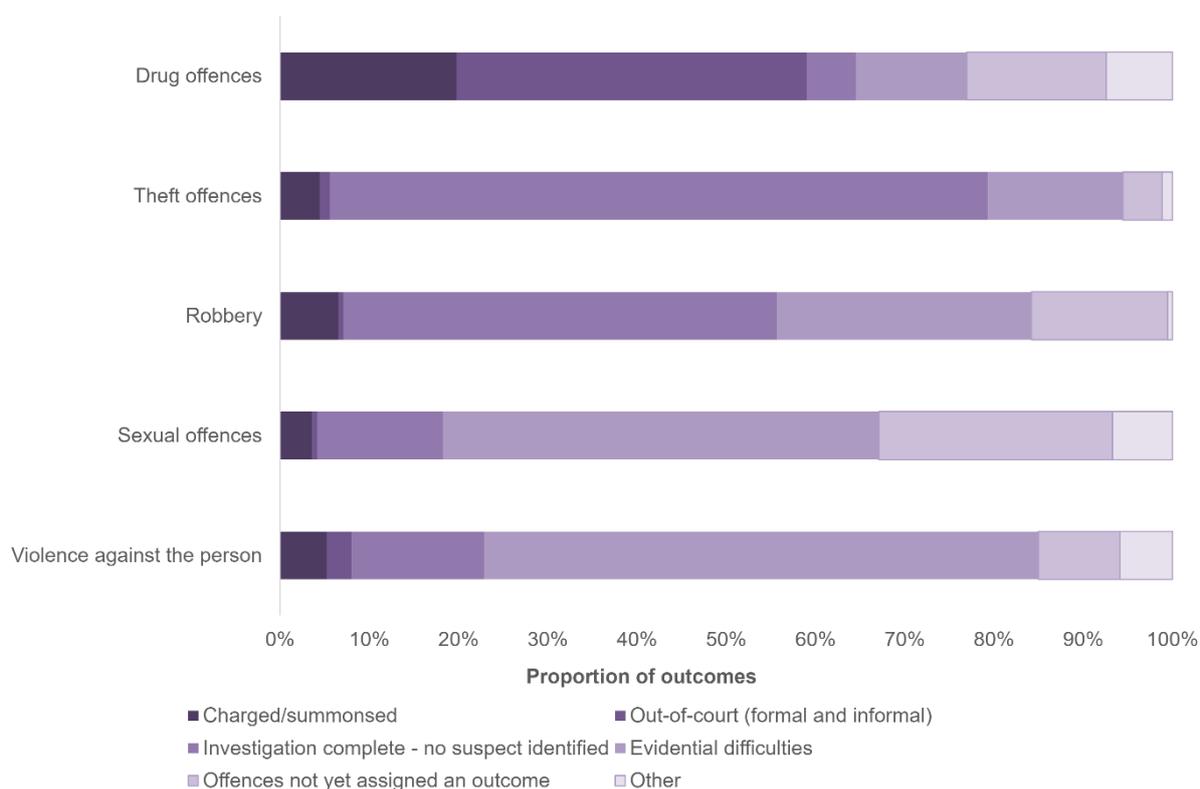
Figure 32: Breakdown in ethnic group for unique suspects linked to sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023 and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough census 2021 population count



2.6. Crime outcomes for sexual offences

Home Office crime outcomes statistics show how outcomes vary considerably with offence group, as displayed in the figure below. This figure shows the percentage of crimes recorded in the year receiving each type of outcome.

Figure 33: Outcome proportions by outcome group and offence group, 2022/23 (financial year), England and Wales



Source: Home Office, Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2022 to 2023 (Figure 2.1).

A relatively low proportion (14%) of sexual offences for that year were marked as ‘suspect not identified’. The average across all offences is 39%. In the most recent year, 43% of rape offences were closed because the victim did not support further police action against a suspect (this equates to approximately 2 in 5 cases) (HM Government, 2023).

The figure below shows the proportion of adult rape investigations closed because the victim does not support police action has generally increased since 2016, both nationally and for the Cambridgeshire Police Force area (i.e., Cambridgeshire and Peterborough). Albeit there has been a decrease in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the last two quarters shown here to 47%, below the national figure of 62%.

Figure 34: Adult rape investigations closed because the victim does not support police action, rolling annual average (%)



Source: <https://criminal-justice-delivery-data-dashboards.justice.gov.uk/chart-builder>

The national charge rate for rape offences has marginally increased in the latest year (ending March 2023) such that 2.1% (1401) of offences were assigned a charge/summons outcome, compared to 1.3% (911) in the previous year (Home Office, 2023a). This has been linked to the response following the cross-criminal justice system rape review.

For those offences that do go through to a charge and into the court system, there are clearly documented delays. This is amounting to years of waiting for many victims/survivors (Rape Crisis England and Wales, 2023). The figure below outlines the average time taken at different stages, based on the most recently published figures. There is a notable difference between the local and national average waiting time for the ‘From police referral to CPS, to CPS decision to charge’ stage. The local average figure being nearly double the national average.

When interpreting the table below, the context of the analysis in section 2.3.1 on reporting time lag for sexual offences should also be considered. Analysis on sexual offences recorded in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2022/23 showed that a quarter of sexual offences were reported at least 12 months after the offence start date. As such, when interpreting the timescales presented below it should be considered that from the victim/ survivor perspective the total time delay from the initial onset of the offence may in practice be much longer.

Table 11: Mean average time taken at different stages in the criminal justice system for rape offences

Stage in criminal justice system	Rolling Annual average as at Q1 (Jan-Mar) 2023 National (days)	Rolling Annual average as at Q1 (Jan-Mar) 2023. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (days)
From crime recorded to police decision.	324	643
From police referral to CPS, to CPS decision to charge.	142	225
From case arriving at the Crown Court to completion.	371	404
Total time from report of offence to case completion in court	837 days (2.3 years)	1,272 days (2.7 years)

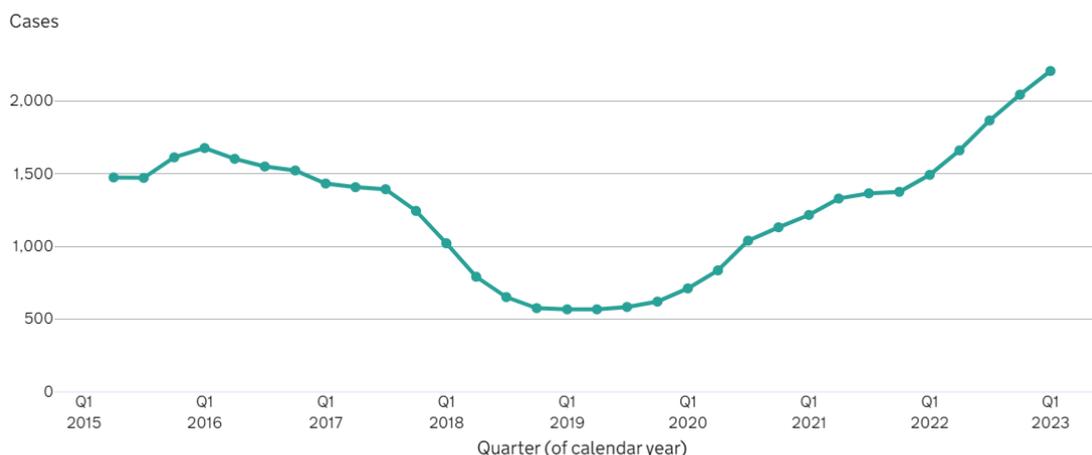
Source: HM Government (2023)

There is a backlog of crown court cases nationally and locally since the Covid-19 pandemic first affected the court system, as illustrated by the figures below. This is likely feeding into the long timescales seen above.

Figure 35: Volume of adult rape trial cases outstanding at crown court, National 2015 -2023 (annual rolling average).

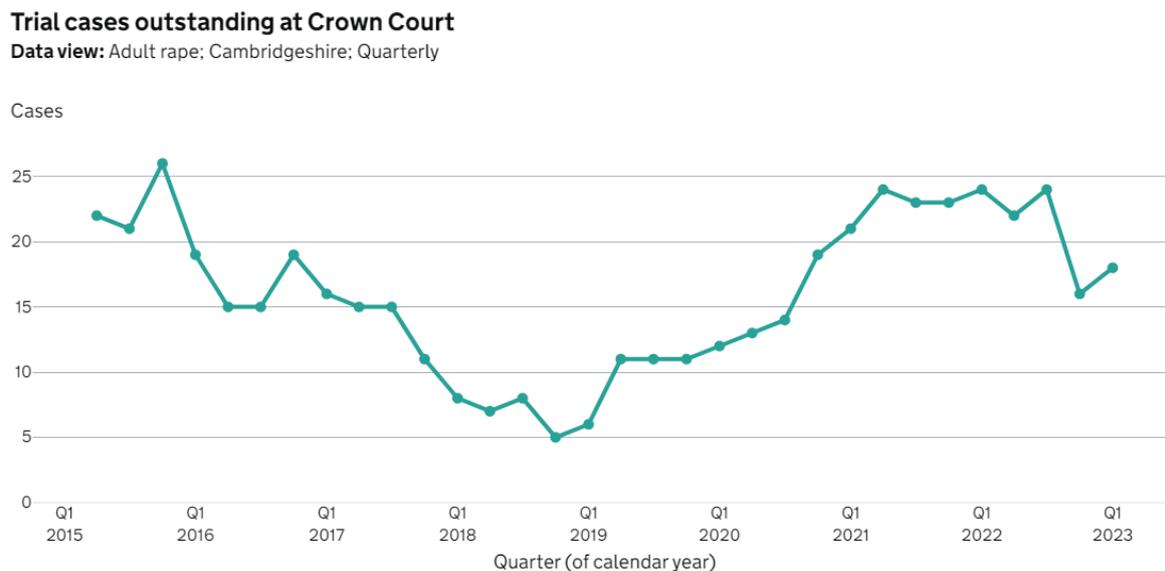
Trial cases outstanding at Crown Court

Data view: Adult rape; National; Quarterly



Source: <https://criminal-justice-delivery-data-dashboards.justice.gov.uk/improving-timeliness/courts>

Figure 36: Volume of adult rape trial cases outstanding at crown court, Cambridgeshire LCJB area (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) 2015 -2023 (annual rolling average).



Discussion with local sexual violence specialist services for this needs assessment has highlighted how the delays in the criminal justice system described above mean that victims/ survivors are requiring support over a much longer period of time. There is a need to ensure sustainable support for those victim/survivors over a period of years rather than months.

2.7. Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The Elms Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) provides support to victims of sexual assault (including rape) in Cambridgeshire.

As shown in the figure below, the majority of referrals each year were adults, accounting for 66% of referrals in 2020/21, increasing up to 70% in 2022/23. Adult referrals decreased slightly in 2022/23 since 2021/22 (-5%), but remained 30% higher than in 2020/21; whereas child referrals decreased by 11% in 2022/23 since 2021/22, but are only 5% higher than in 2020/21. Very few adult referrals were non-recent, accounting for 1-3% of adult referrals per year, whereas a notable proportion of child referrals were non-recent, accounting for 63% of child referrals in 2020/21, down to 53% in 2022/23.

Figure 37: Annual number of referrals to The Elms Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), by referral type

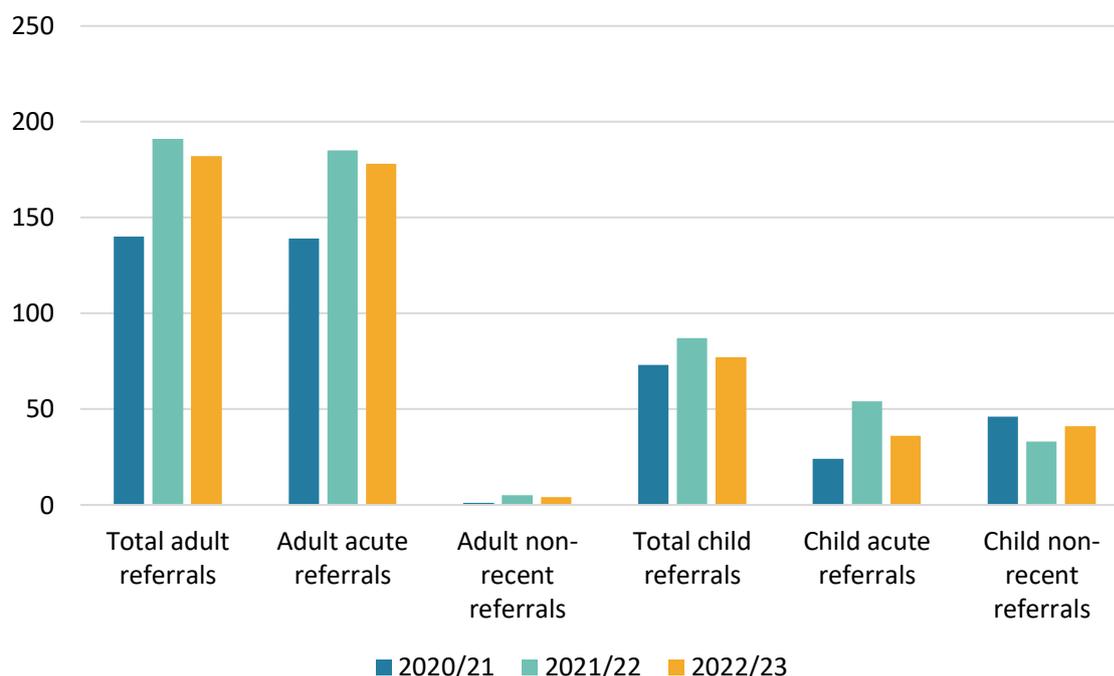


Table 12: Referrals to the Elms Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) from 2020/21 to 2022/23

Statistic	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
% Total Referrals: Adult	66%	69%	70%
% Adult referrals: non-recent	1%	3%	2%
% Adult referrals: acute	99%	97%	98%
% Total referrals: Child	34%	31%	30%
% Child referrals: non-recent	63%	38%	53%
% Child referrals: acute	33%	62%	47%

2.8. Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference (SARAC)

The Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference (SARAC) is a multi-agency meeting which hears cases where there is repeated serious sexual assaults and the dynamic is not one of Domestic Abuse. Multi-agency safety plans are developed to support those in need. The aim is to increase the safety and well-being of the adults involved and to reduce the likelihood of repeat victimisation.

In 2022/23 the SARAC process was reviewed, partner organisations agreed to continue with the SARAC process and to promote it in order to encourage referrals.

From 2018/19 to 2022/23 there have been a total of 15 referrals to SARAC, all of which were seen as cases. None of these cases were recorded as repeat referrals.

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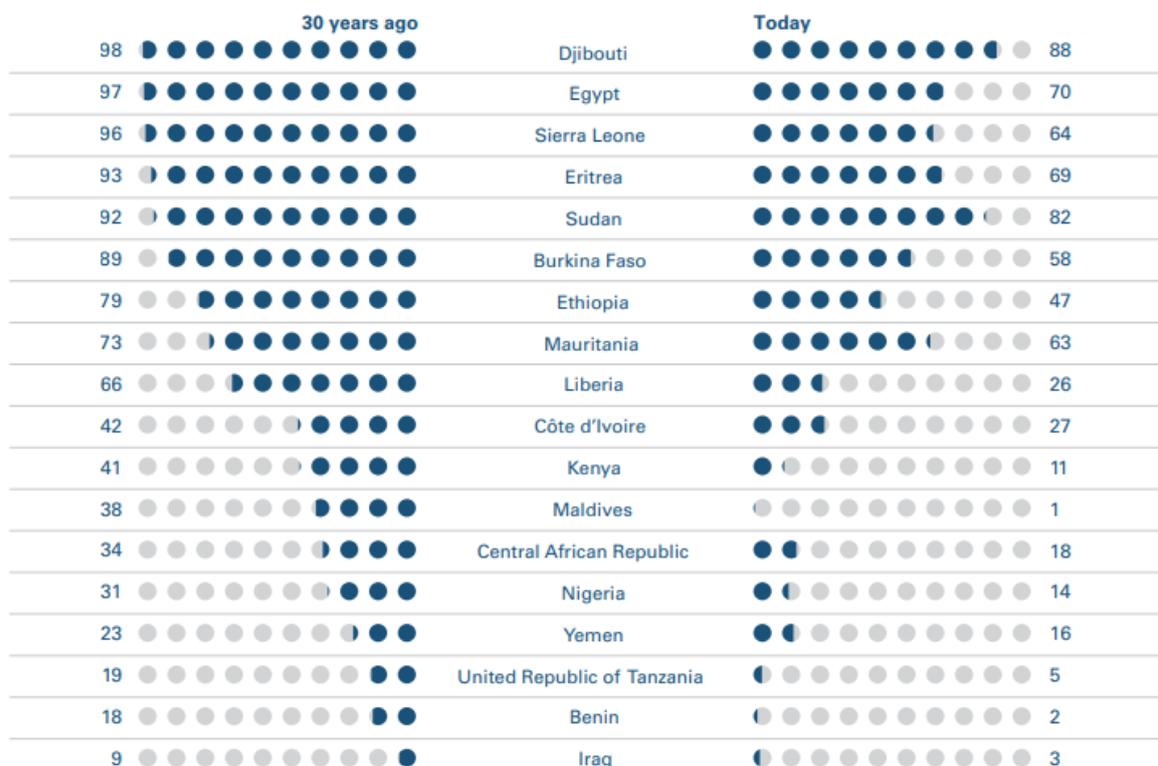
A majority of referrals came from police, but other organisations such as Rape Crisis did feature as referrers in the figures provided for this needs assessment. 80% of victims in these cases were female, with ages at referral ranging from 18-64. The records reflect a wide variety of relationships between the victim and abuser including those within the family as well as strangers (a full breakdown would be disclosive so is not included here).

2.9. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. FGM may be carried out at various life stages ranging from newborn, during childhood, adolescence, prior to marriage or during pregnancy (NSPCC, 2021). At whatever stage it occurs this can result in serious long-term health and mental health consequences for victims.

There are countries and communities internationally in which FGM is known to be more prevalent. Recent evidence indicates a long-term decline in some countries where it was previously deemed universally practiced, as outlined using UNICEF statistics in the figure below.

Figure 38: Percentage of adolescent girls aged 15-19 years who have undergone FGM in countries with a decline.



Notes: Countries included in this chart have a significantly lower prevalence of FGM today compared to 30 years ago. The chart excludes countries with a national prevalence among girls and women aged 15 to 19 years of below 5 per cent. Trend data are not available for Indonesia.

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Source: UNICEF – Elimination Female Genital Mutilation 2022, Figure 1 (UNICEF , 2022)

UNICEF states that further research is needed to understand FGM in the context of migration (UNICEF , 2022). It is important not to assume that all women and girls from a particular community are supportive of, or at risk of FGM (a variety of risk factors for outlined in statutory guidance (HM Government, 2020)).

National and local prevalence estimates for FGM were published in 2015, based on Census 2011 data (City Research Online, 2015). Unfortunately this study has not been updated to the latest census figures (and as such the prevalence rates and estimates are not appropriate to include here). However the key conclusion from this research should be noted; “**...there are likely to be affected women and girls living in every local authority area..**” (City Research Online, 2015) pp4.

For reference the Census 2021 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population figures for nationals born in countries where FGM is prevalent (i.e., who may be affected by FGM themselves) is shown below. Unfortunately, these figures are not available at a country specific and local level by sex, so these figures represent all persons rather than just females.

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Table 13: Census 2021 Population (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) of residents born in countries where FGM known to be prevalent (all persons)

Country of Birth	Peterborough	Cambridgeshire	Cambs and Peterborough	% Population : Peterborough	Cambridgeshire	% Population: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Nigeria	1091	1351	2442	0.506%	0.199%	0.273%
Kenya	685	803	1488	0.318%	0.118%	0.166%
Iraq	751	275	1026	0.348%	0.041%	0.115%
Uganda	485	527	1012	0.225%	0.078%	0.113%
Egypt	287	593	880	0.133%	0.087%	0.098%
Guinea-Bissau	538	205	743	0.249%	0.030%	0.083%
United Republic of Tanzania	163	202	365	0.076%	0.030%	0.041%
Indonesia	19	237	256	0.009%	0.035%	0.029%
Sudan	120	110	230	0.056%	0.016%	0.026%
Gambia	111	62	173	0.051%	0.009%	0.019%
Sierra Leone	50	78	128	0.023%	0.011%	0.014%
Yemen	30	83	113	0.014%	0.012%	0.013%
Eritrea	41	40	81	0.019%	0.006%	0.009%
Ethiopia	32	48	80	0.015%	0.007%	0.009%
Senegal	28	15	43	0.013%	0.002%	0.005%
Liberia	10	14	24	0.005%	0.002%	0.003%
Guinea	6	8	14	0.003%	0.001%	0.002%
Maldives	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Central African Republic	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Chad	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Côte d'Ivoire	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Burkina Faso	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Benin	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Djibouti	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Mauritania	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Mali	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data

Source: Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation Report, Figure 1, (UNICEF , 2022) and Female genital mutilation (FGM) data, (UNICEF, 2023) and Census 2021

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FGM is illegal in the UK and legislation includes performance of FGM or assistance to do so both within the UK and abroad (Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and Serious Crime Act 2015). This means that the offences encompass taking a girl abroad to be subjected to FGM. To date there has only been one successful prosecution for FGM offences (in 2019) (CPS, 2019a).

Underreporting of FGM is widely acknowledged. It is important to note that the figures below are likely to reflect changes in awareness and support available rather than solely the prevalence of FGM.

There are barriers to reporting FGM which have been documented in qualitative research with victims and survivors of FGM in England and Wales (Gangoli, et al., 2015). Whilst this was not a large-scale study this clearly highlighted the following barriers expressed by survivors themselves:

- Perception that reporting (their own victimisation) wasn't necessary for FGM they had experienced as a child in another country (i.e., historic reporting was seen as not relevant).
- Not trusting police enough to report.
- Feeling that reporting to police would not prevent FGM occurring in the community now.

Home office statistics state that there were 77 FGM offences recorded by police across England and Wales in the year ending March 2022. Since October 2015 it has been a legal requirement for healthcare professionals and teachers to report FGM identified in under 18s to the police (Home Office, 2020). 52% of those offences in England and Wales via the mandatory reporting duty (i.e., via medical/teaching professionals) (Home Office, 2022b). In July 2023, UK Parliament Women and Equalities Committee published a report on an inquiry into So Called Honour Based Abuse (SCHBA) (See section 3.14 below for further information on this topic). This report revealed that as of December 2022, 32,740 women and girls have been reported by NHS Trusts and GP practices as having experienced FGM, since data collection on FGM was first mandated in April 2015 (UK Parliament, 2023).

From 2018/19 to 2022/23 there were total of 6 FGM offences recorded across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This did include third party reporting by medical professionals as well as historic reporting. All of the records reviewed stated that the offence had occurred abroad.

Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders (FGMPOs) came into effect on 17th July 2015. These orders offer a legal route to protect victims and potential victims of FGM. They can include a requirement for education on how parents/ girls can keep safe, restrict contact with those deemed to present a risk and remove a girl's passport so that she cannot be taken out of the country (National FGM Centre , 2019). FGMPO applications can be made by a victim or potential victim (or their own legal representative), a local authority or other professionals (and family members).

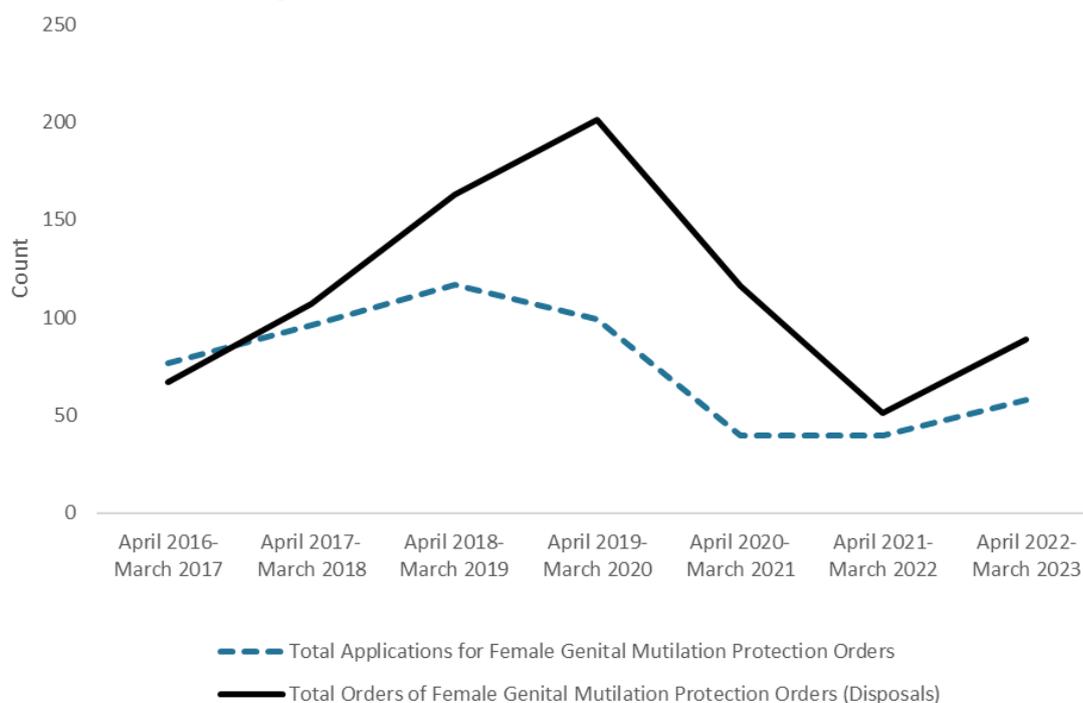
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On average over the last 5 years 60% of applications were made by local authorities, 39% by another 3rd party (e.g., police, family, Official Solicitor/Next Friend/Guardian) and the remaining 1% from the person to be protected (or their own legal representative). A large majority of applications (on average 96% in each of the last 5 years) related to a person aged 17 and under. (Source: as per MOJ spreadsheet)

National figures for both applications and orders granted are shown in the figure below, with a peak of 201 orders in 2019/20. The volume of applications and orders is yet to return to this level since 2020/21 and 2021/22 (i.e., the pandemic years).

The number of applications is typically higher than the number of orders. This is because a single application can relate to more than one person, but ultimately each order granted relates to one individual. The process by which an existing FGMPO is extended or amended does not require a new application to be made.

Figure 39: FGMPO Applications and Orders, England and Wales, 2016/17 - 2022/23 (financial year).



Source: Ministry of Justice

More local figures for FGMPOs are not available at the time of writing. This is because the number of FMPOs in local courts are too low to be published (i.e., they are suppressed for data protection reasons).

It should be noted that the national curriculum now makes learning about FGM compulsory within the secondary stage Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) This includes where to find support, and the criminal offences specifically related to FGM (Department for Education, 2021). The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership provides training resources aimed at professionals via its website ([Female Genital Mutilation | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#))

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[Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk). The partnership plans to update these resources in the coming year as part of an ongoing work plan.

The Childrens Social Care assessment process, which takes place after a referral has been received, records where FGM (or risk of FGM) was identified. National statistics based on these assessments show that less than 1% of assessments completed in England (year ending March 2022) identified FGM as a factor of need.

The total number of children assessed for which this was a concern in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough respectively are shown in the tables below.

Table 14: Count of children assessed in Cambridgeshire where assessment has identified FGM concerns (22A Female genital mutilation (FGM) – concerns that services may be required or the child may be at risk due to female genital mutilation)

Year	Count of children (Female)	As % of all children with an assessment factor recorded
2020/21	0	0%
2021/22	<5	<1%
2022/23	17	<1%

Source: CCC PIT

Table 15: Count of children where assessment has identified FGM concerns (22A Female genital mutilation (FGM) – concerns that services may be required or the child may be at risk due to female genital mutilation; Peterborough

Year	Count of children (Female)	As % of all children with an assessment factor recorded
2020/21	<5	2%
2021/22	<5	1%
2022/23	<5	1%

Source: Peterborough City Council

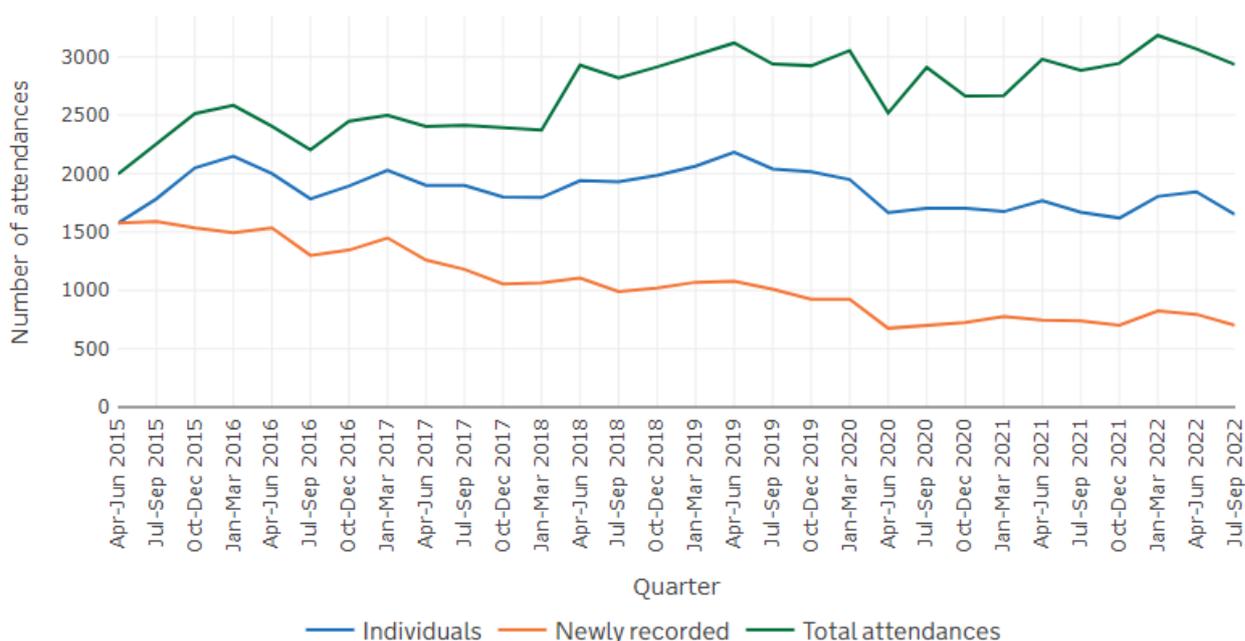
Note: Count of children based on unique children within the financial year. If a child has had multiple assessments within a year that child would only be counted once in that annual total. The following year may include that same child again if they had a new assessment in the following year.

As outlined previously there are now legal requirements for health professionals to report known FGM to police (i.e., the mandatory reporting duty). However, there are also broader recording and data sharing processes in place where women and girls affected by FGM are in contact with health services. The NHS introduced recording to generate the Female Genital Mutilation Enhanced Dataset in 2015. Data is collected by healthcare providers in England, including acute hospitals, mental

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health services and GP practices. This tracks information about the characteristics of women and girls in contact with the NHS where FGM has been identified, as well as factors such as which country the FGM took place and at what age. National figures from the NHS in England show a long-term decline in the number of newly recorded individuals where FGM was identified. (Individuals refers to all patients in the reporting period where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken. Each patient is only counted once.) (NHS Digital, 2023a).

Figure 40: NHS number of individuals, newly recorded and total attendances where female genital mutilation was identified, by quarter, England



More local figures are not available beyond the regional (NHS Commissioning Region) level summary below, which counts 170 individuals where FGM was identified in the East of England (year ending March 2023). There are gaps in recording of characteristics in this data set which make it difficult to comment on trends. However, a majority of individuals recorded by the NHS here relate to contact with Midwifery and Obstetrics services (NHS Digital, 2023a).

Table 16: Individual women and girls where FGM was identified: by age at latest attendance, England, April 2022 to March 2023

Commissioning Region	Under 18	18 and under 25	25 and under 30	30 and under 35	35 and under 40	40 and under 45	45 and under 50	50 and over	Total
East of England	0	10	45	55	50	5	5	5	170
London	5	195	505	760	580	230	50	30	2355
Midlands	10	115	360	415	250	80	20	20	1265
North East and Yorkshire	5	70	200	210	150	60	10	5	705
North West of England	5	70	225	200	135	50	15	10	710
South East of England	5	20	50	70	40	15	0	5	200
South West of England	0	35	105	130	90	40	5	5	405
Total	20	510	1510	1860	1310	480	105	75	5870

Note: Values between 1 and 7 are rounded to the nearest 5 – all other values rounded to the nearest 5.

Source: Table 3.1.1 in FGM Supporting Data - April 2022 to March 2023 by NHS Digital (2023c) Note: Commissioning region is derived from the patient’s postcode of usual address.

Discussions with midwifery professionals in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough noted that there is a low incidence of FGM identified in their work locally. Some of the women they supported locally that had been affected by FGM were refugees and asylum seekers.

They observed that patients they contact who are affected by FGM are expressing that they are not supportive of the practice for younger generations. Healthcare for women affected by FGM was accessed through standard obstetrics/ gynaecology services and standard referral routes for adult mental health support (i.e., via the GP). FGM in the form of genital piercing that has been carried out without consent is a practice linked to trafficking of Eastern European women. Occurrence of this has been identified locally by professionals (albeit local figures are not available to quantify this). Routine enquiry around FGM in the form of genital piercing is practiced locally. This specifically focuses on whether consent was gained for the procedure and is in response to historic links to sex trafficking of Eastern European women.

Figures provided by the North West Anglia Foundation Trust (NWAFT) (which covers Peterborough; Hinchingsbrooke and Stamford hospitals, so is not exclusively within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) show the current year has already seen a larger volume of FGM reports. The reasons for this increase are not clear but lead professionals advise that this could also be explained by the number of women who present with subsequent pregnancies where services are already aware of the FGM in previous pregnancies.

Table 17: Volume of FGM reports recorded by North West Anglia Foundation Trust

Year	Count of reports where FGM identified
2021/22	19
2022/23	24
2023/24 (April 2023-Sept 2023 only)	29

Source: North West Anglia Foundation Trust

2.10. Older Victims of Sexual Violence

Data on older victims/survivors of sexual violence has long been a gap at both national and local level. Until recently (October 2021) the crime survey for England and Wales asked only those aged 16 to 64 about their experience of crime. This led to a focus on those survivors of working age. However, it is recognised that older people can also be victims of sexual violence. The needs of this cohort may well vary from working age people, in particular, acknowledgement is needed about health needs and disabilities.

The lack of data is clear even in the most recent release of the CSEW data up to March 2022. We cannot produce a local prevalence estimate as the national data is not detailed enough. As can be seen in the table below which is an extract of Table 4: Prevalence of sexual assault in the last year among adults aged 16 years and over, by personal characteristics and sex, from the ONS.

Whilst an estimate of 2.3% of people that responded had experienced a sexual assault in the last year, that rises to 3.3% of women and drops to 1.2% of men. However, for the breakdown by age group there are a number of age groups where the data was insufficient for a prevalence figure to be calculated. This is particularly true for men. And notable for 75+ years.

It should be noted that for the data that is available, 2.3% of women aged 60-74 years reported having experienced a sexual assault in the last year compared with 0.3% of 35-44 years olds and 0.4% of 45-54 year olds. This indicates an increased risk for older women of being victims of sexual violence. Applying the CSEW self-reported prevalence figure to local population figures, we can estimate 2,049 victims aged 60-74 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2021/22.

Table 18: Prevalence of sexual assault (including attempts) in 2021/22 among adults aged 16 years and over, by age group and sex

Age group	All (%)	Women (%)	Men (%)
ALL ADULTS	2.3	3.3	1.2
16-19	11.3	[c]	7.6
20-24	8.8	14.6	3.2
25-34	2.6	4.2	1.0
35-44	0.3	0.3	[c]
45-54	0.3	0.4	[c]
55-59	[c]	[c]	[c]
60-74	1.5	2.3	[c]
75+	[c]	[c]	[c]

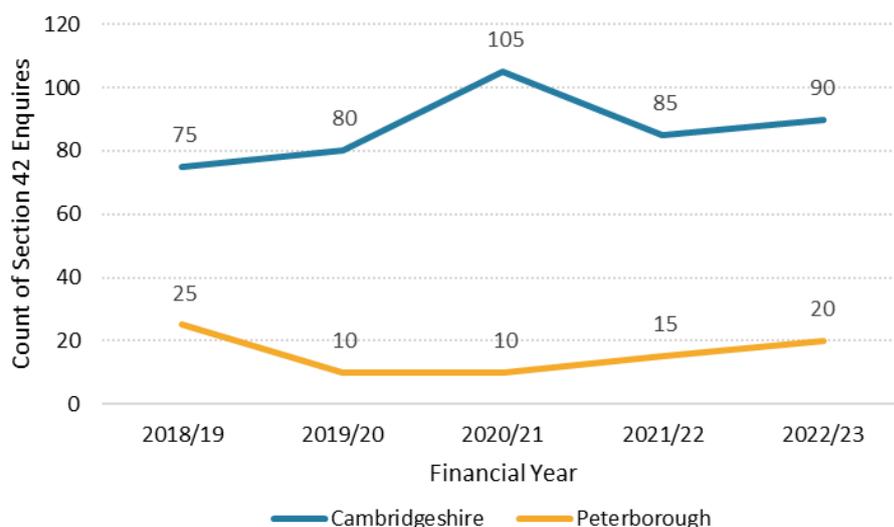
Source: Table 1 by ONS (2023c)

[c] Denotes suppressed figures for CSEW estimates because of disclosure constraints.

Local police data showed that of the 5,595 unique female victims of sexual offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019-March 2023 who had an age recorded, 2.9% were aged 60 or older.

To help inform the picture of sexual abuse in the county, we have analysed local authority safeguarding data. The NHS publishes data on Section 42 enquiries relating to different abuse types. A section 42 enquiry is carried out when the local authority has reason to believe an individual is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect. An enquiry is mandated in these circumstances under section 42 of the care act. The purpose of the enquiry is to establish whether abuse has taken place and implement any required protective measures.

Figure 41: Section 42 enquiries concluded where sexual abuse was an identified type of risk, 2018/19 – 2022/23 (financial year)



Source: (NHS Digital, n.d.)

Data on sexual exploitation in older people is also available within the Safeguarding Adults NHS dashboard. The figures for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are so low that there is a lot of suppression in the data.

Table 19: Section 42 enquiries concluded by financial year where sexual exploitation was an identified type of risk

Financial year	Cambridgeshire	Peterborough
2018/19	15	<5
2019/20	5	<5
2020/21	10	<5
2021/22	<5	<5
2022/23	5	<5

Source: Table 2 in Safeguarding Adults Data Tables by NHS Digital (2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023b)

Note: All other counts are rounded to the nearest 5 and therefore aggregated figures may not equal the England, regional and council type figures when summed.

To consider the widest possible cohort that might be experiencing sexual abuse we have analysed concerns raised to adult social care. A safeguarding concern is a document of concerns raised, resulting in initial investigations by the local authority. It must be taken with caution as not all concerns will go on to enquiry (approximately 10% of all concerns in 2022/23). An enquiry does therefore not necessarily result in proven abuse. However, it is important to understand not just the scale of victims/survivors but also the impacts on the wider system in terms of demand. Local Cambridgeshire data was analysed in relation to sexual abuse, which has been analysed by individuals rather than the total number of concerns. It is worth noting

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that older people needs in relation to current abuse might be different for those who have also suffered historic abuse.

Further it should be taken within the overall context of the service reporting. In particular to note in Cambridgeshire is;

- During the pandemic overall safeguarding concerns level were lower (4907 individuals with a concern in 2020/21 compared to 6074 in 2019/20)
- The level of reporting (both for whole financial years and monthly numbers) have not returned to the pre-pandemic level (5457 individuals with a safeguarding concern in 2022/23 compared to 6074 in 2019/20).
- In terms of the volume of individuals by the type of concern (2019/20 - 2022/23), sexual abuse and sexual exploitation were 8 and 11 respectively out of 11 categories. With Neglect and acts of missions, physical abuse, and psychological abuse being the top three categories.
- Concerns recorded officially as sexual abuse only constitute a small percentage of the overall concerns. In 2022/23, 5457 individuals received a total of 9001 concerns. Only 2% of these individuals (87) were recorded as receiving a sexual abuse concern in the same year, though it is likely this number is underrepresented due to abuse type recording practice.

The latest years data shows that in Cambridgeshire 74% of individuals aged 65+ with a sexual abuse concern were female. 68% of 18-64 individuals were female.

Figure 42: Number of Individuals receiving a Safeguarding Concern where sexual abuse was a recorded concern, by age group, gender and financial year (FY) 2019/20 – 2022/23, for Cambridgeshire



2.11. Sex work and trafficking

A 2018 study was commissioned by the Home Office and the Office of the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, aimed at documenting the nature of sex work in England and Wales as well as its prevalence (focused on adults). This study highlighted the difficulties of assessing numbers, even when making reference to multiple data sources. (Hester, 2019)

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As such it is particularly challenging to provide a prevalence figure to robustly quantify potential need in the local area. Whilst we cannot provide reliable figures on the prevalence of sex work in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, some of the driving factors for people undertaking sex work should be noted.

The research underlined that overall, people (of all genders) often embarked upon sex work in response to their financial difficulties. In the context of the cost-of-living crisis this may mean that more people are likely to engage in sex work. There are also increased risks to those already in sex work which have been documented (NUM, 2022), with sex workers stating they take on riskier work in order to meet their increased financial needs:

“I’m having to take on clients I’d rather not see [and] offer riskier/more emotionally draining services” (National Ugly Mugs Survey Respondent 2022)

As such the VAWG risks around sex work in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough need to be considered in the context of the cost-of-living crisis.

The national research noted that there were some specific groups who were more commonly seen in some types of sex work. For example, students seen in what was classified as ‘sugar arrangements’ (see glossary for a full definition). In terms of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the latter is particularly relevant where there is known to be a larger proportion of the local population who are students. The 2021 Census showed the proportion of the population of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in full-time education (and age 18 to 30 years) was 4.4%. This figure is 3.7% for England as a whole.

The national call for evidence to inform the National VAWG strategy noted specific challenges for sex workers, where violence towards them is not perceived as serious:

“Sometimes we see men who are violent who started off with violence against a sex worker, because that’s seen as less serious, or easier.– Call for Evidence, Focus Group” Source: Call for evidence, focus group (Home Office, 2021a).

The stigma surrounding sex work is also likely to increase barriers to reporting to police.

Sex work can be linked to modern slavery and trafficking. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) has been established to record all referrals of potential victims of modern slavery for assessment and support (where those referred are confirmed as victims of modern slavery). NRM referrals have been increasing over the long term (since 2009). Statistics for the most recent year available (ending December 2022) show that 14% (626) of referrals of potential victims in England and Wales related to sexual exploitation (Home Office, 2023b). The breakdown of these figures is not available to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough geographical level.

Table 20: National Modern Slavery Helpline breakdown of potential exploiter to victim(s) relationship for calls regarding sexual exploitation, 2022.

Relationship	Number of potential victims	% of potential victims
No clear relationship (including pimp)	460	55.2%
intimate partner of victim(s)	37	4.4%
Recruiter	33	4.0%
Familial relationship to victim(s)	20	2.4%
Employer	11	1.3%
Other	4	0.5%
Foster parent of victim(s)	0	0.0%
Unknown	290	34.8%
Total	855*	102.6%**

Source: (Unseen UK, 2022), Table 40, (See technical note).

Notes: * Total is larger than number of potential victims as multiple relationships may be picked. ** Total % will exceed 100% as this is the % potential victims per relationship type reported and not related to the overall percentage of sexual exploitation potential victims.

3. Domestic Abuse

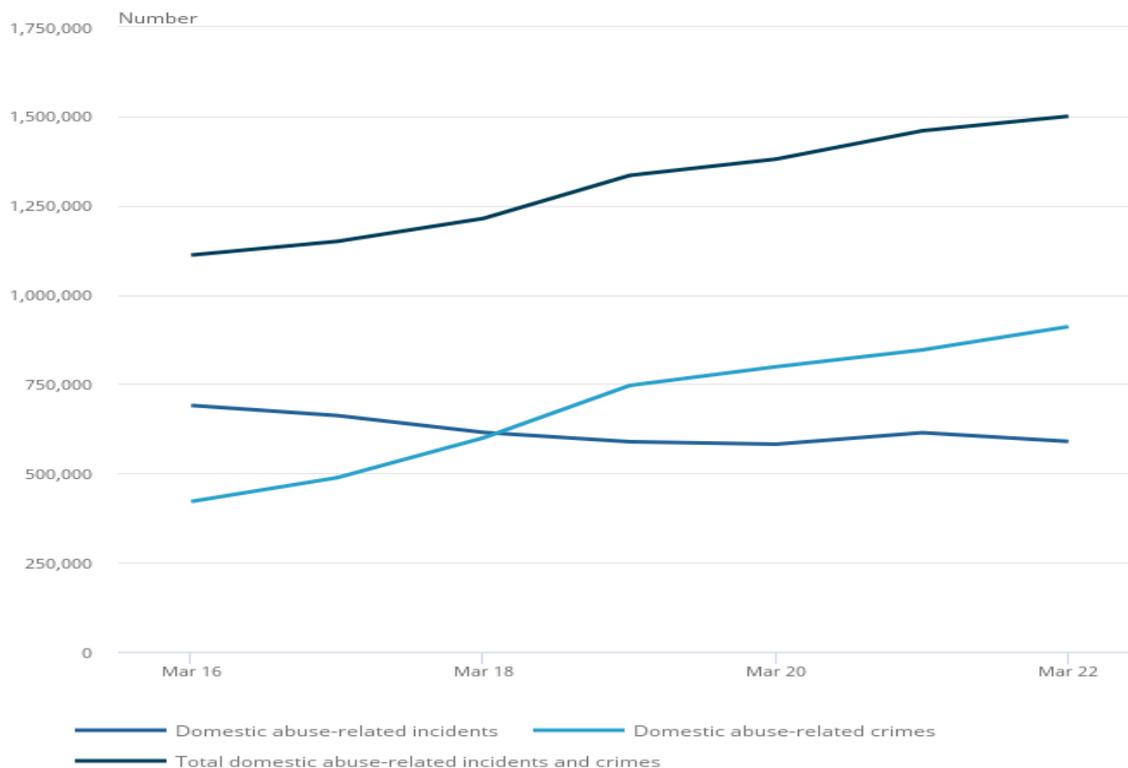
3.1. National picture

“Domestic abuse related crimes are defined as any incidence of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 16 and over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.” (ONS, 2022c)

Domestic Abuse Crime is not limited to specific offences. Any police recorded crime can be flagged as Domestic Abuse (DA) related and as such would be counted as a ‘Domestic Abuse Crime’ (the national break down in crimes marked as DA by crime type in the 2021/22 is shown in Figure 44).

The figure below shows the trend in the number of DA incidents and crimes recorded by the police from 2015/16 to 2021/22 financial years in England and Wales. DA incidents are those for which, after an initial investigation, it was concluded that no notifiable crime was committed (ONS, 2022c). Whilst the number of DA incidents has been decreasing, the number of DA crimes has been increasing. As noted by ONS, this increase could partially be attributed to victims being more willing to report DA to the police. Since 2019, the number of DA crimes has exceeded the number of incidents (ONS, 2022c).

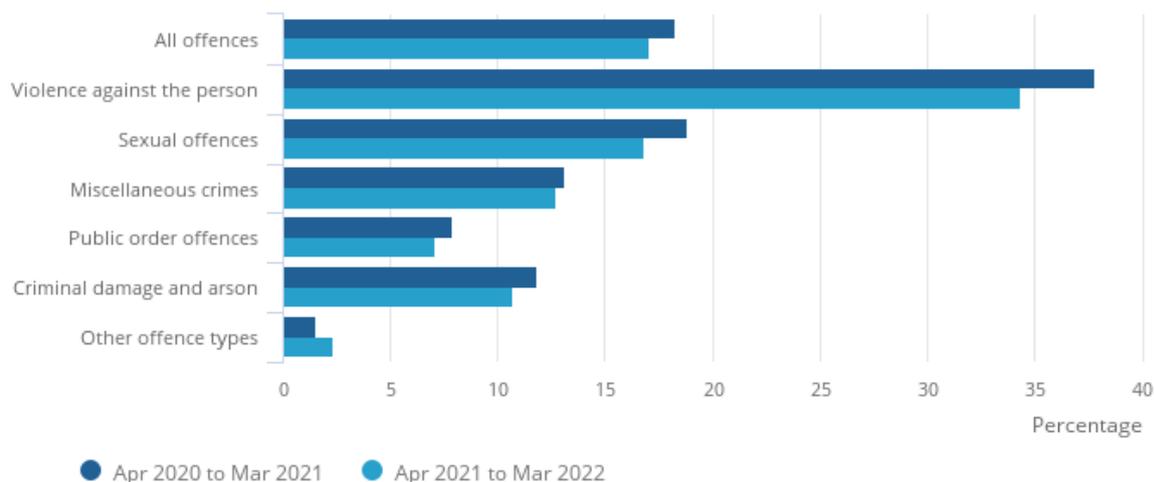
Figure 43: National police recorded domestic abuse incidents and crimes, March 2016 to March 2022



Source: Figure 4 Domestic Abuse report in England and Wales Overview, for year ending November 2022 (ONS, 2022c)

As shown in Figure 44, the offence type with the highest proportion of DA offences was Violence Against the Person (VAP) for both 2021 and 2022 (Financial year), where DA accounted for 37.8% and 34.4% respectively. Sexual offences had the second highest proportion, where DA accounted for 18.8% of sexual offences in 2020/21 financial year, decreasing to 16.8% in 2021/22 financial year (ONS, 2022a).

Figure 44: Percentage of national police recorded offences identified as domestic abuse related by crime type, for year ending March 2021, and year ending March 2022



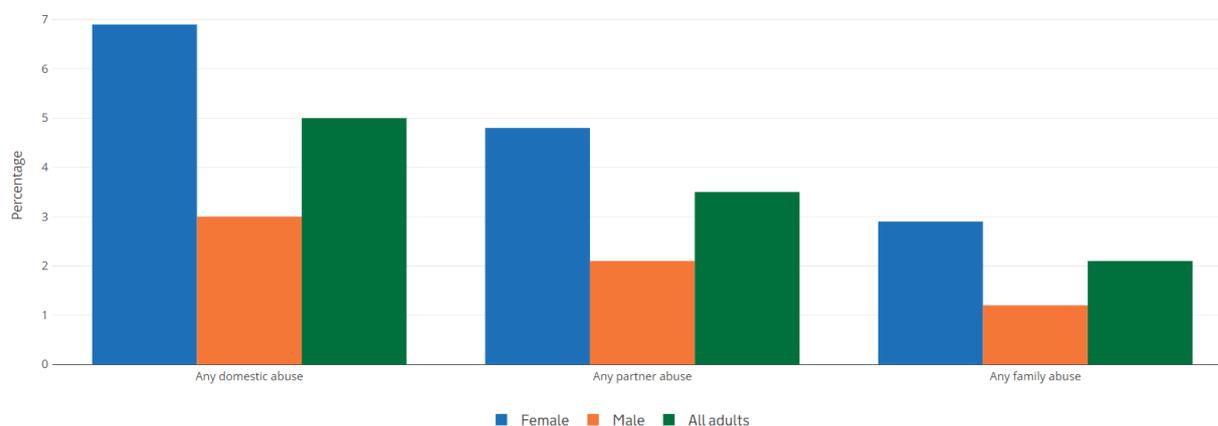
Source: Figure 7 in Domestic Abuse prevalence and trends report for England and Wales, for year ending March 2022 (ONS, 2022a)

More recent police recorded data for 2022/23 financial year shows that DA related offences increased by 14% since the year preceding lockdown (2019/20 financial year). 79% of which were violence against the person (2022/23 financial year) (ONS, 2023a). This equates to a rate of 14.9 offences per 1000 population (based on census 2021 population figures (NOMIS, 2022)) (ONS, 2023a).

The CSEW is an alternative source of data to indicate the prevalence and trend of DA in England and Wales. Results from the CSEW for the 2022/23 financial year, showed that 5.1% of respondents aged 16 to 59 had experienced DA in the last year; a decrease from the year preceding lockdown (2019/20 financial year), of 6.1%.

More detailed data available for the CSEW from 2021/22 financial year (shown in Figure 45), shows that females were more than twice as likely as males to report having experienced domestic (6.9% versus 3%), partner (4.8% versus 2.1%) or family abuse (2.9% versus 1.2%) within the last 12 months.

Figure 45: Prevalence of domestic abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking) among CSEW respondents aged 16 and over, in the last 12 months, by type of abuse, England and Wales, year ending March 2022

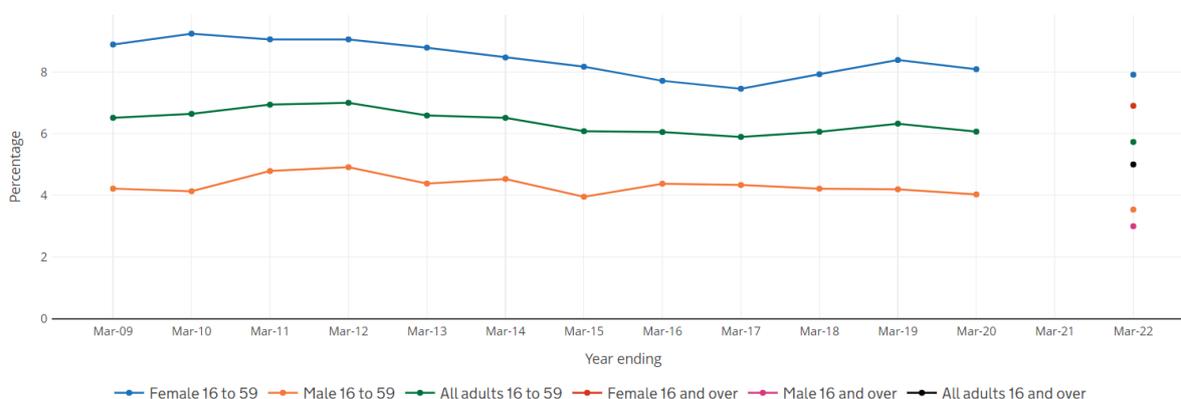


Source: Domestic Abuse Dashboard (ONS, 2023e); Table F15 (ONS, 2022b), (See technical notes)

Figure below shows that females have consistently been more likely to report having experienced domestic abuse (DA) within the last 12 months between the CSEW 2009 and CSEW 2022. The trend in females (aged 16-59) reporting DA in CSEW (financial year) saw gradual decreases from 8.9% in 2009, reaching a low of 7.5% in 2017. Afterwards the direction of the trend was more variable, but the range more constrained, with the percentage increasing to 8.4% in 2019, and decreasing again to 7.9% in 2022. This could potentially reflect a stabilising of the proportion of women experiencing DA, but the trend is too recent to form any robust conclusions.

A different pattern was seen for males, with relatively stable proportions hovering close to 4%; barring increases in 2011 and 2012, reaching 4.9% in 2012, stabilising back to previous levels shortly afterwards.

Figure 46: Prevalence of any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking) in CSEW respondents, in the last 12 months, year ending March 2022, England and Wales



Source: Domestic Abuse Dashboard (ONS, 2023e); Tables F15, F17, F18, and F19 (ONS, 2022b), (See technical notes).

3.2. Wider experience of domestic abuse

National prevalence estimates for DA are available from the CSEW based on questions to respondents about whether they have been a victim of DA in the previous year. These estimates provide the best indicator of the current scale of domestic abuse nationwide. Detailed CSEW estimates on DA were not available for 2022/23 at the time of writing. As such the 2021/22 estimates have been used to create local estimates (ONS, 2022a). Applying national prevalence estimates to the local population does not represent a perfect measure, as such, figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand (or hundred where appropriate) and should be treated as indicative estimates only.

By applying the national prevalence estimate to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population (Census 2021), we estimate that approximately **36,000** people aged 16+ would have been the victim of a DA in 2021/22. Applying the separate prevalence estimates for males and females indicates a potential 26,000 female victims and 11,000 male victims in 2021/22 (totals do not sum due to rounding). The table below displays victim estimates for those aged 16+ by detailed age group and gender for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 21: Estimated number of victims of Domestic Abuse in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2021/22 based on CSEW prevalence rate and Census 2021 population (rounded)

Age Group	Any Domestic Abuse All	Any Domestic Abuse Women	Any Domestic Abuse Men
All age 16+	36,000	26,000	11,000
16-19	3,000	Figure not available.	1,000
20-24	6,000	4,000	2,000
25-34	6,000	4,000	2,000
35-44	7,000	4,000	3,000
45-54	5,000	4,000	2,000
55-59	2,000	2,000	<1,000
60-74	4,000	3,000	1,000
75+	2,000	Figure not available.	Figure not available.

Note: totals may not sum due to rounding.

Estimates broken down by type of DA (partner and familial) and gender for Cambridgeshire are presented in the table below. It should be noted that the sum of the overarching domestic abuse categories is not the sum of the sub-categories as some victims may be included in multiple categories i.e., they can experience more than one type of abuse.

Table 22: Estimated victims of domestic abuse in 2022 based on CSEW prevalence estimate table (rounded)

Type of abuse	All	Women	Men
Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	36,000	26,000	11,000
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	25,000	18,000	7,000
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	15,000	11,000	4,000

Note: totals may not sum due to rounding.

A 2022 survey by The Women’s Aid Federation of England sought to gather insight on attitudes towards domestic abuse in the UK, with a focus on assessing how well the adults understand the scope and nature of domestic abuse and the factors or

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attitudes make domestic abuse more or less tolerable to the public (Women's Aid Federation of England, 2022).

Participants were asked about whether domestic abuse should be reported to the police or support services. 87% of adults surveyed responded positively about reporting. However, this survey found that men were more likely to view domestic abuse as a private matter (and not report) than women.

The survey also asked questions to gauge the likelihood respondents would help a female friend experiencing domestic abuse (the survey did not ask about the scenario of a male friend experiencing domestic abuse). Where respondents said they would *not* help a female friend, participants could respond to a list of possible reasons. 43% said they felt they should not get involved, 13% said that they felt the police would not treat it seriously and 7% feared the children would be removed from the family. These reasons not to get involved reflect fears and perceptions around police and support services that persist in the UK.

3.3. Experience of domestic abuse and wider family concerns

The Public Health Directorate within the top tier local authorities in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough commissioned an independent survey of children in years 8 (12-13yrs) and 10 (14-15yrs) in schools across the whole area. The latest data relates to the survey conducted in 2022.

32% of children responded that there had been 'any physical aggression OR any shouting or arguing at home in the last month that frightened them'. With girls more likely than boys to respond that at least once or twice (39% compared to 23%). When considering year group there was a much smaller difference of 34% of year 8s compared to 30% of year 10s.

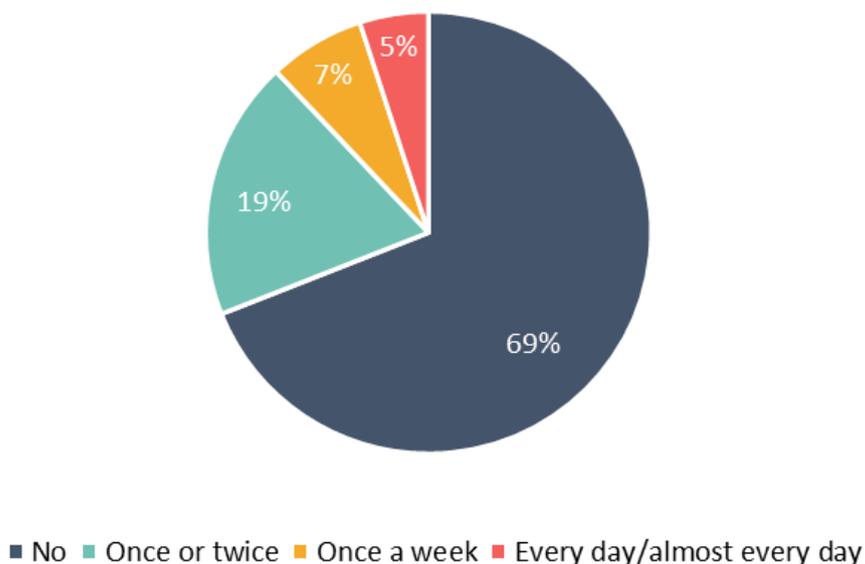
The survey also provides a breakdown by type i.e., shouting or arguing and physical aggression. Whilst this is not necessarily behaviour exclusive to DA, this is a relevant indicator. Furthermore, it relies on the child's perception of unhealthy behaviours and in some cases children may not report the abuse or be frightened by it due to a level of normalisation at home. The charts below show the responses for all respondents combined for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

1% of students in the survey reported that they were frightened every day by physical aggression in the home. 1% of year 8 and 10 students in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough gives an estimate of approximately 200 students experiencing this every day. If this figure of 1% was reflected in the wider secondary school age population a much larger number of children would be living this type of trauma. In fact using the 2021 Census population for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for residents aged 11-16 would give an approximate number of 9600 children living with

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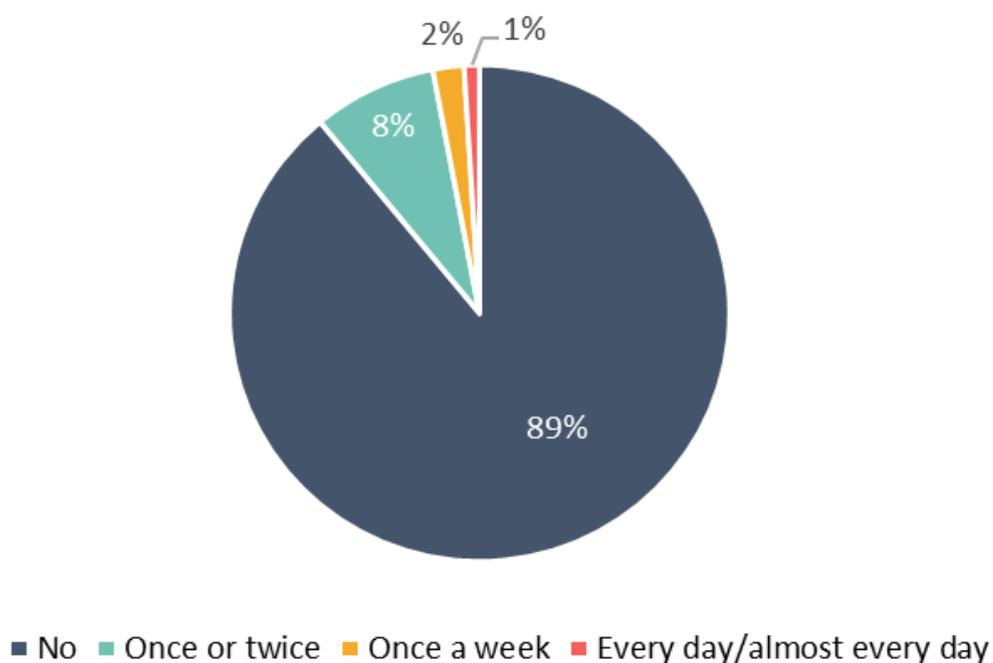
the fear of physical aggression at home daily. However, this synthetic estimate should be treated with caution as it is based on a number of assumptions that cannot be tested.

Figure 47: Has there been any shouting or arguing at home in the last month that frightened you? - All responses



Source: Data provide by Public Health from Health Related Behaviours Survey 2022

Figure 48: Has there been any physical aggression (e.g. hitting, punching, slapping) at home in the last month that frightened you? - All responses



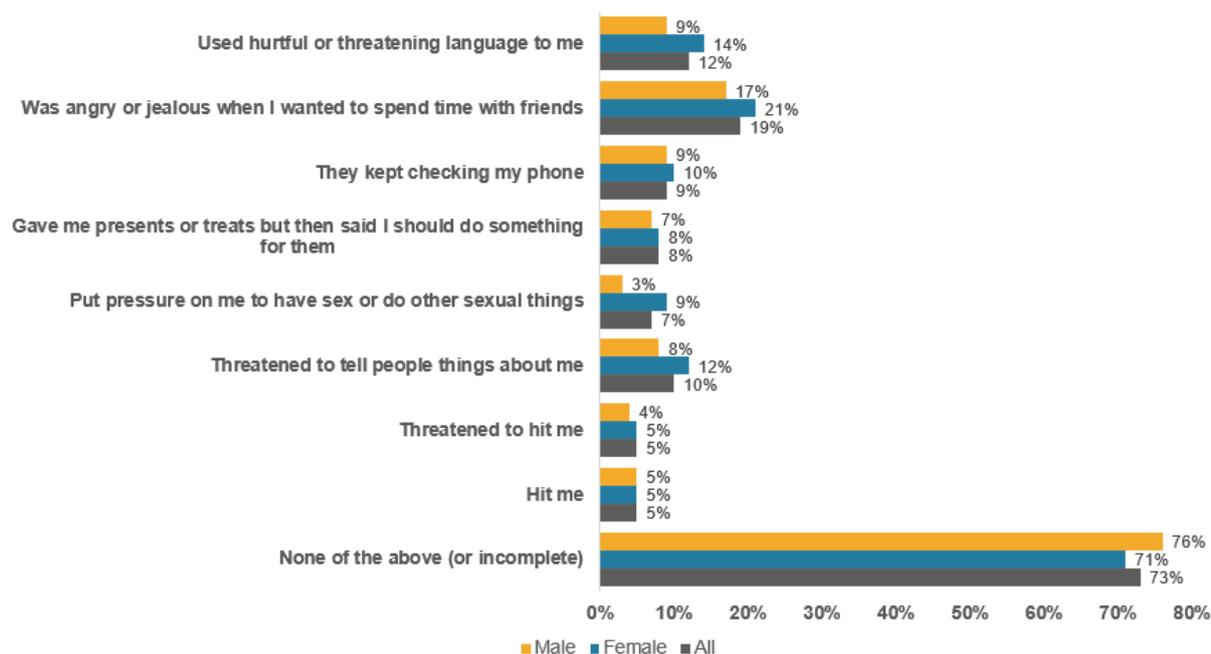
Source: Data provide by Public Health from Health Related Behaviours Survey 2022

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The survey also includes questions for young people about their own relationships. Overall, 73% of the respondents reported having experienced none of the unwanted behaviours (76% of males and 71% for females).

The breakdown below shows that girls report a higher proportion of occurrence for most unwanted behaviours in past or current relationship. This is with the exception of 'threatened to hit me' where the males responded 5% compared to females 4% and 'hit me' where males and females both responded 5%.

Figure 49: Breakdown by gender of most unwanted behaviours experienced in past or current relationships



3.4. Domestic abuse concerns involving children

The following analysis is using assessment data from Children's Social Care. The Children's Social Care assessment process takes place after a referral has been received and records concerns by a number of categories. There are three categories relevant to domestic abuse. Those being;

- 3A Domestic abuse: concerns about the child being the subject of domestic abuse.
- 3B Domestic abuse: concerns about the child's parent(s)/carer(s) being the subject of domestic abuse.
- 3C Domestic abuse: concerns about another person living in the household being the subject of domestic abuse.

Local data was supplied by Cambridgeshire County Council for assessments over the last three years. Nationally published DFE data was used for England and

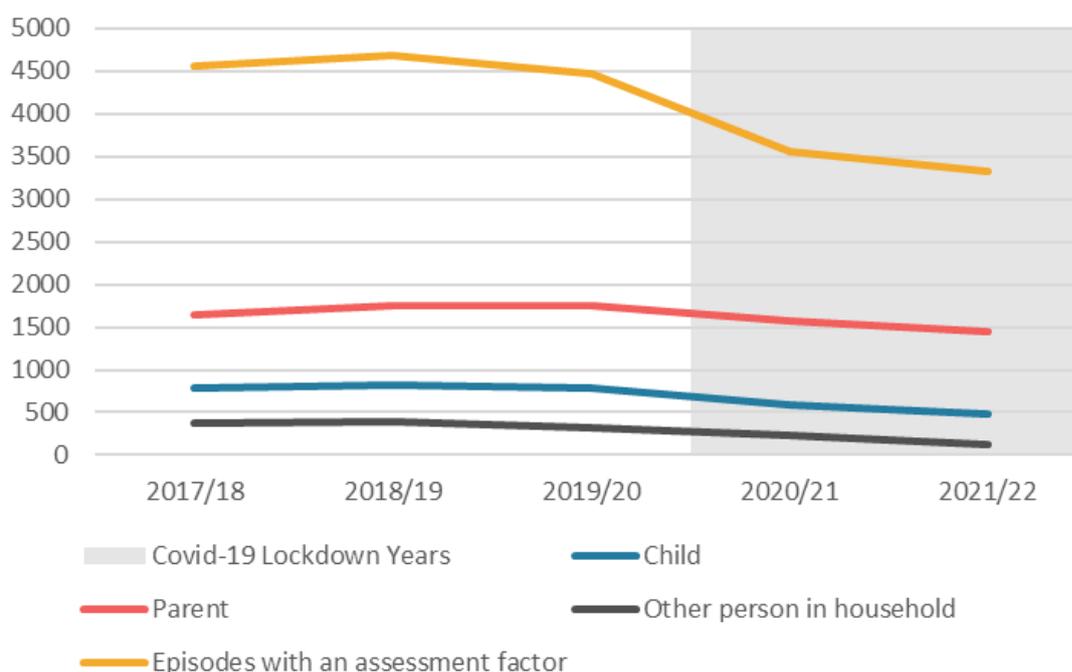
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Peterborough figures. The national data is only available up to the end of March 2022. Therefore, for the comparison with national, the 2021/22 Cambridgeshire was used.

It should be noted that children can have more than one category of concern noted and therefore the categories cannot be added together. Further all children in a household would have individual assessments and therefore whilst the number of children within each category is unique it might include data on the same household more than once. It is also possible that a child might be assessed in more than one year.

The trend for both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over the last three years for all three categories in terms of volume has been declining in overall episodes with assessment factors (i.e., total assessments completed). However, the trend started earlier for Peterborough and showed a more marked decline. The changes in volume and proportion of concerns relating to domestic abuse need to be taken in this wider context.

Figure 50: Number of assessments in Cambridgeshire by domestic abuse related concern, 2017/18 – 2021/21 (financial year)



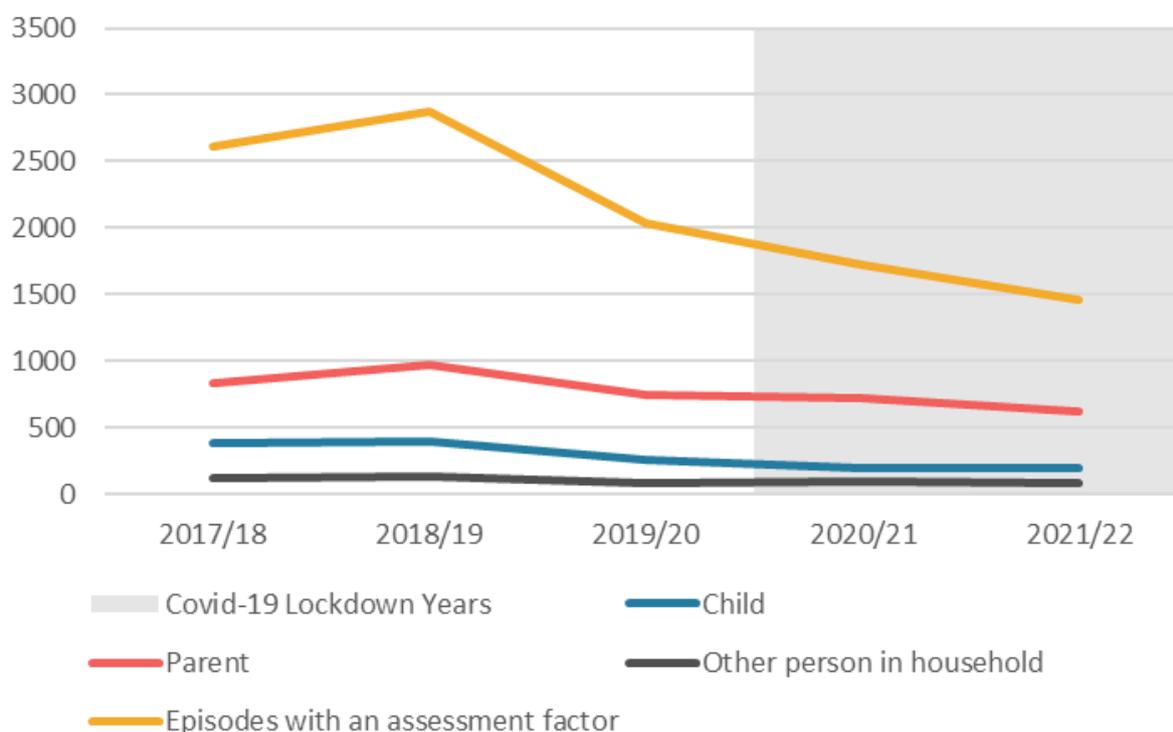
Source: DFE

Table 23: Counts and percentage of assessments in Cambridgeshire by domestic abuse related concern, 2017/18 – 2021/21 (financial year)

Cambridgeshire	2019/20 count (%)	2020/21 count (%)	2021/22 count (%)
3A Domestic abuse: concerns about the child being the subject of domestic abuse	784 (18%)	592 (17%)	491 (15%)
3B Domestic abuse: concerns about the child’s parent(s)/carer(s) being the subject of domestic abuse.	1749 (39%)	1573 (44%)	1447 (43%)
3C Domestic abuse: concerns about another person living in the household being the subject of domestic abuse	326 (7%)	229 (6%)	133 (4%)

Source: DFE

Figure 51: Number of assessments in Peterborough by domestic abuse related concern, 2017/18- 2021/22 (financial year)



Source: (Department for Education, n.d.)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough proportions haven’t dropped but have increased against a backdrop of reducing numbers for concerns about a parent being subjected to domestic abuse.

Table 24: Counts and percentage of assessments in Peterborough by domestic abuse related concern, 2017/18 – 2021/21 (financial year) (source DFE data)

Peterborough (DFE source)	2019/20 count (%)	2020/21 count (%)	2021/22 count (%)
3A Domestic abuse: concerns about the child being the subject of domestic abuse	257 (13%)	191 (11%)	193 (13%)
3B Domestic abuse: concerns about the child's parent(s)/carer(s) being the subject of domestic abuse.	745 (37%)	722 (42%)	618 (42%)
3C Domestic abuse: concerns about another person living in the household being the subject of domestic abuse	83 (4%)	93 (5%)	77 (5%)

The difference between England and Cambridgeshire for 2021/22;

- The proportion of assessments recording concerns about the child being the subject of domestic abuse were higher for Cambridgeshire than England (Cambridgeshire 15%, England 12%). This Cambridgeshire figure was also higher than Peterborough (13%).
- The proportion of assessments were notably higher for Cambridgeshire than England for concerns about a parent being the subject of domestic (Cambridgeshire 43%, England 32%). But in line with the Peterborough figure (42%).
- The proportion of assessments were lower for Cambridgeshire than England for concerns about the another person in the household being the subject of domestic abuse (Cambridgeshire 4%, England 6%).

The difference between England and Peterborough for 2021/22;

- The proportion of assessments were similar for Peterborough and England for concerns about the child being the subject of domestic abuse (Peterborough 13%, England 12%).
- The proportion of assessments were notably higher for Peterborough than England for concerns about a parent being the subject of domestic abuse was than England (Peterborough 42%, England 32%). But in line with the Cambridgeshire figure (43%).
- The proportion of assessments were similar albeit very slightly higher for Peterborough and England for concerns about the another person in the household being the subject of domestic abuse (Peterborough 5%, England 6%)

Table 25: Assessments (2021/22) by domestic abuse related concern

Domestic abuse concern	England	Cambridgeshire	Peterborough
3A Domestic abuse: concerns about the child being the subject of domestic abuse	12%	15%	13%
3B Domestic abuse: concerns about the child's parent(s)/carer(s) being the subject of domestic abuse.	32%	43%	42%
3C Domestic abuse: concerns about another person living in the household being the subject of domestic abuse	6%	4%	5%

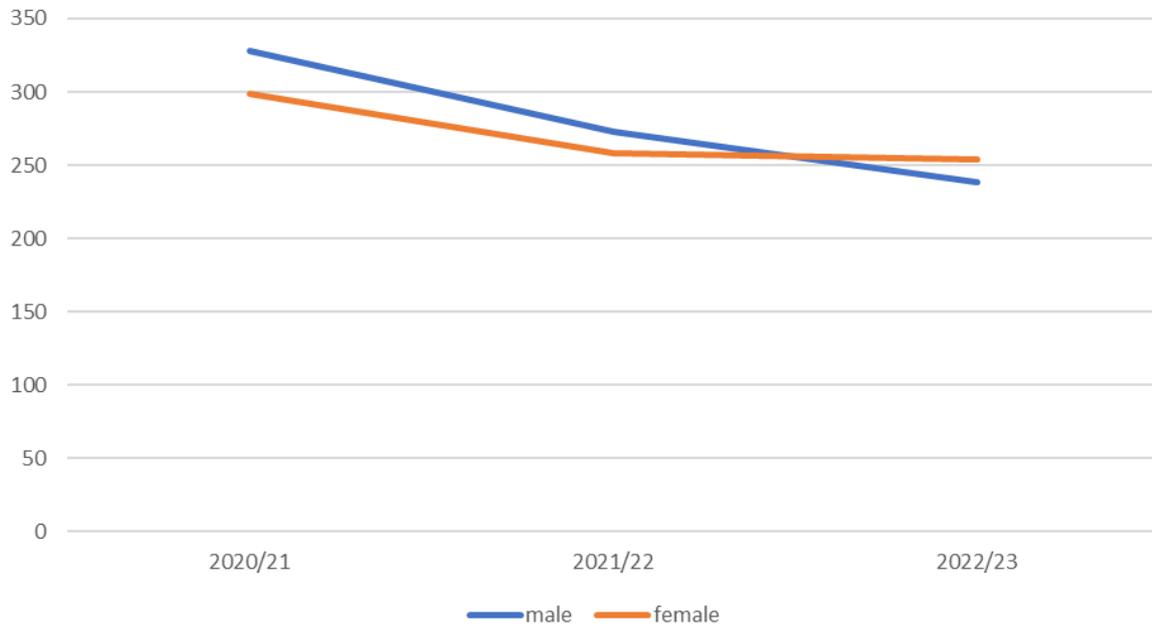
Source: DFE

Data for the last three financial years has been provided by Cambridgeshire County Council for the number of children where any of the three categories for domestic abuse had been noted in the assessment. The following analysis is based on unique children rather than assessments. Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children as a victim of DA where they see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse and are related to the victim or the suspect. As such all 3 categories shown here reflect children who are victims of DA. The trend shows an overall decline in the number for all three categories.

For the number of children being the subject of the abuse the decline is steeper for males than females. The total number of females in 2022/23 is now slightly higher than males. A reverse of the position in 2020/21.

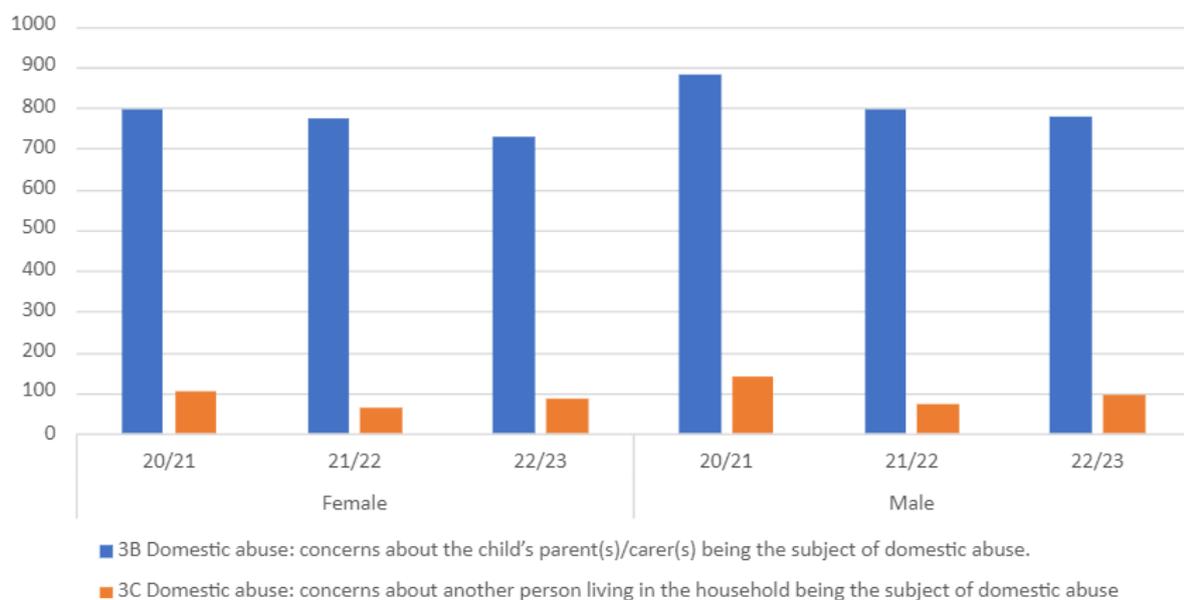
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Figure 52: Number of children where domestic abuse had been flagged as a concern about the child being the subject of the domestic abuse at assessment by gender and financial year.



Source: Cambridgeshire County Council

Figure 53: Number of children where domestic abuse had been flagged as a concern for a parent / carer or another person in household as the victim at assessment by concern type, gender and financial year.



Source: Cambridgeshire County Council

3.5. Older victims of domestic abuse

As with sexual abuse the data for older victims/survivors of domestic abuse has long been a gap both at national and local level. The same issues apply in relation to the crime survey for England and Wales asked collecting data on those aged 16 to 64 about their experience of crime until recently. This led to a focus on those survivors of working age. However, it has long been recognised that older people also suffer domestic abuse (Age UK, 2022). The needs of this cohort may well vary from working aged people, in particular acknowledgement is needed about health needs and disabilities.

The data from the CSEW now includes older people as the age cap of 64 has been removed. But the data only allows us to see a snapshot at present and not a long-term trend. Population growth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough remains at a high level, particularly compared to other areas of the country. Increases were seen in all age group over 50-54 years and over. The increase for the 70-74 year olds was particularly notable locally. This will provide an ongoing challenge for services as demand is therefore likely to increase for older people.

According to the House of Lords briefing – Domestic abuse of older people there is no widely acceptable prevalence rates for older victims of domestic abuse (Sheppard, 2021). The CSEW estimated that 210,000 adults aged 60 to 74 years of age experienced domestic abuse in financial year 2017/18. But did not produce an estimate for those age 75 plus.

In 2020 a report by Age UK estimated around 180,000 women and 98,000 men in the same age group (60-74 years) experienced domestic abuse in 2018/19 (England and Wales figure) (Age UK, 2020). This was based on the CSEW data. Both these reports were before the Covid Pandemic. There is not yet robust analysis or evidence if the pandemic exacerbated the problems facing older victims or not.

The report clearly demonstrates that the victimisation remains more common for women even in older age groups.

A report in 2018 highlighted several issues that are particularly pertinent to older women suffering abuse (Allcock, 2018). These included;

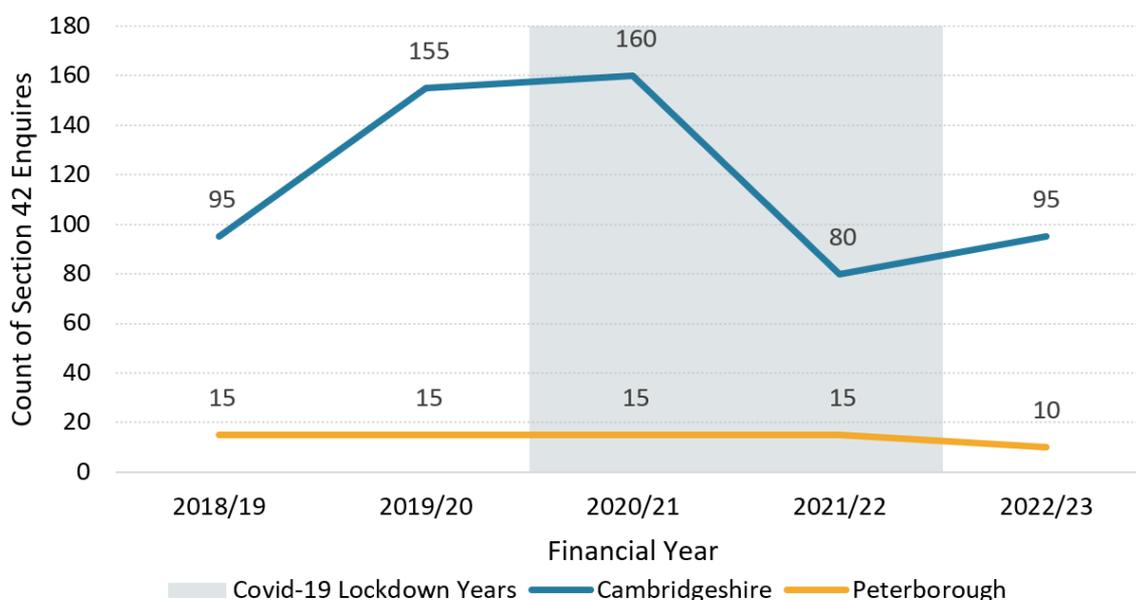
- Older women were more likely than younger women to be living with their abusers (Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, 2008).
- Older women had additional barriers to seeking help.
- Dependence, particularly financial, and isolation were common experiences for older women affected by domestic abuse (Brownell, 2015).
- Older women who are more vulnerable due to health issues or an increase in frailty might suffer specific types of abuse relating to their additional needs (Knight, 2016).

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In addition to these specific issues faced by older victims, research indicates that they also suffer the same impacts as younger victims, such as wearing down of their confidence and restrictions of opportunities and at times severe isolation (Knight, 2016).

To help inform the picture of domestic abuse in the county, we have analysed local authority safeguarding data. The NHS publishes data on Section 42 enquiries relating to different abuse types. A section 42 enquiry is carried out when the local authority has reason to believe an individual is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect. An enquiry is mandated in these circumstances under section 42 of the care act. The purpose of the enquiry is to establish whether abuse has taken place and implement any required protective measures.

Figure 54: Section 42 enquiries concluded where domestic abuse was an identified type of risk in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2018/19 – 2022/23 (financial year)



Note: 2019/20 wasn't highlighted for covid-19 as it wasn't substantially impacted.

Source: (NHS Digital, n.d.)

In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough an Older Peoples DASH was developed and is now business as usual across the area. Its use has been recommended in at least two domestic homicide reviews (South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership, 2018).

To consider the widest possible cohort that might be experiencing domestic abuse we have analysed concerns raised to adult social care. A safeguarding concern is a document of concerns raised, resulting in initial investigations by the local authority. It must be taken with caution as not all concerns will go on to enquiry (approximately

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10% of all concerns in 2022/23). An enquiry does therefore not necessarily result in proven abuse. However, it is important to understand not just the scale of victims/survivors but also the impacts on the wider system in terms of demand. Local Cambridgeshire data was analysed in relation to domestic abuse, which has been analysed by individuals rather than the total number of concerns. It is worth noting that older people needs in relation to current abuse might be different for those who have also suffered historic abuse.

Further it should be taken within the overall context of the service reporting. In particular to note in Cambridgeshire is;

- During the pandemic overall safeguarding concerns level were lower (4907 individuals with a concern in 2020/21 compared to 6074 in 2019/20)
- The level of reporting (both for whole financial years and monthly numbers) have not returned to the pre-pandemic level (5457 individuals with a safeguarding concern in 2022/23 compared to 6074 in 2019/20).
- In terms of the volume of individuals by the type of concern (2019/20 - 2022/23), domestic abuse was 6 out of 11 categories. With Neglect and acts of missions, physical abuse, and psychological abuse being the top three categories.
- Concerns recorded officially as domestic abuse only constitute a small percentage of the overall concerns. In 2022/23, 5457 individuals received a total of 9001 concerns. Only 6% of these individuals (325) were recorded as receiving a domestic abuse concern in the same year, though it is likely this number is underrepresented due to abuse type recording practice.

The latest years data shows that in Cambridgeshire 69% of individuals aged 65+ with a domestic abuse concern were female. 76% of 18-64 individuals were female.

Figure 55: Number of Individuals receiving a Safeguarding Concern where domestic abuse was a recorded concern, by age group, gender and financial year (FY) 2019/20 – 2022/23, for Cambridgeshire



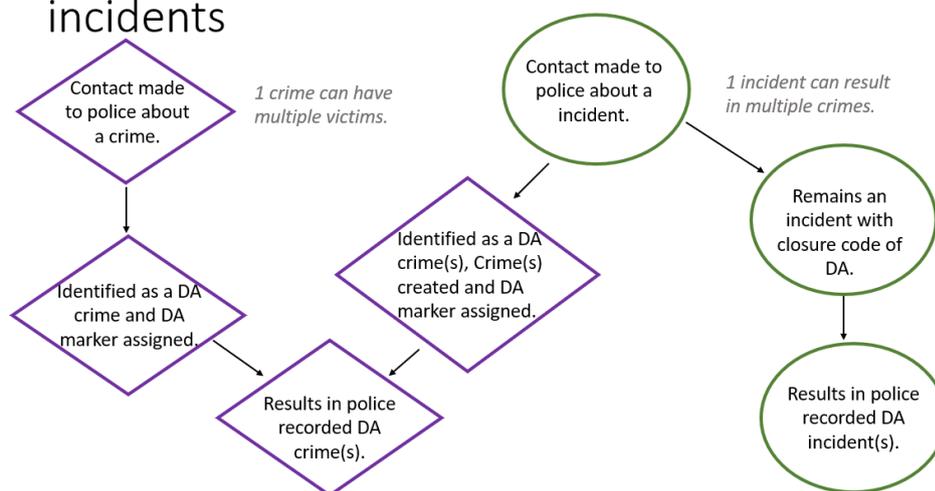
3.6. Police incidents and crimes

3.6.1. Data note

Domestic Abuse (DA) reported to the police can be recorded under two different data sets; DA incidents and DA related crimes. The visual below displays the two different recording routes and illustrates how the same incident can feature on both data sets when an initial incident of DA is recorded and it is then established that the incident constitutes a criminal offence resulting in a DA related crime being recorded. In order to avoid double counting, only DA related crimes and DA incidents which did not go on to be crimed are analysed in this report. This reflects the approach used by the ONS for national police recorded DA data.

Figure 56: Flow of police recording – DA Crimes and DA incidents

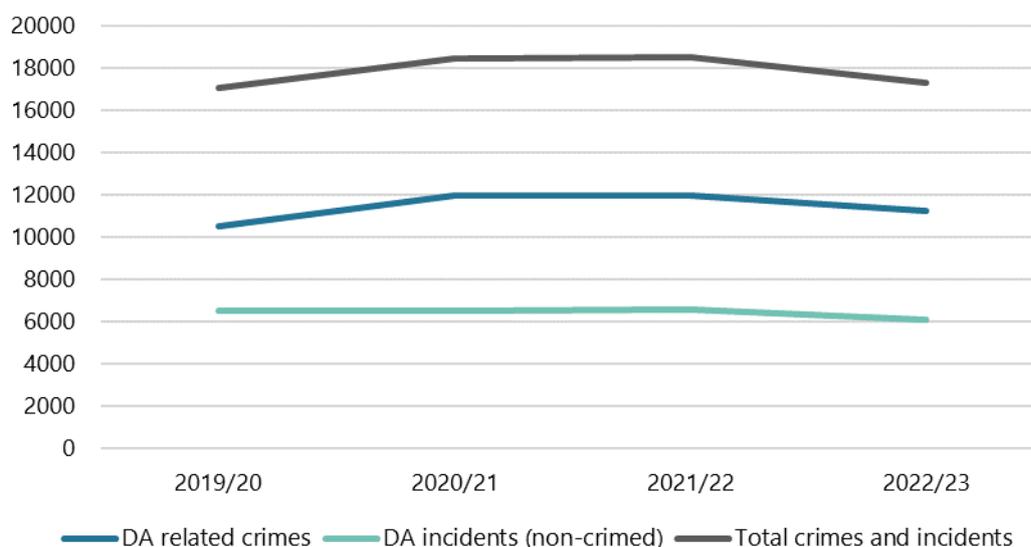
Domestic abuse police recorded crimes and incidents



3.6.2. Overall trend

Police recorded data shows that the number of crimes with a DA marker has increased slightly in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over the past 4 years, up 7% in 2022/23 compared to 2019/20. The biggest increase was observed in the pandemic year of 2020/21, a pattern seen across the majority of districts (see district summaries in section 6). The total number of DA related crimes has dropped off slightly in the latest year. The number of DA incidents recorded by the police which did not result in a crime being recorded decreased by the same proportion as crimes increased (7%) between 2019/20 and 2022/23. This may indicate that increases in DA related crimes are linked to improved police recording.

Figure 57: Police recorded DA related crimes and DA incidents (non-crimes), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2019/20 - 2022/23 (financial year)

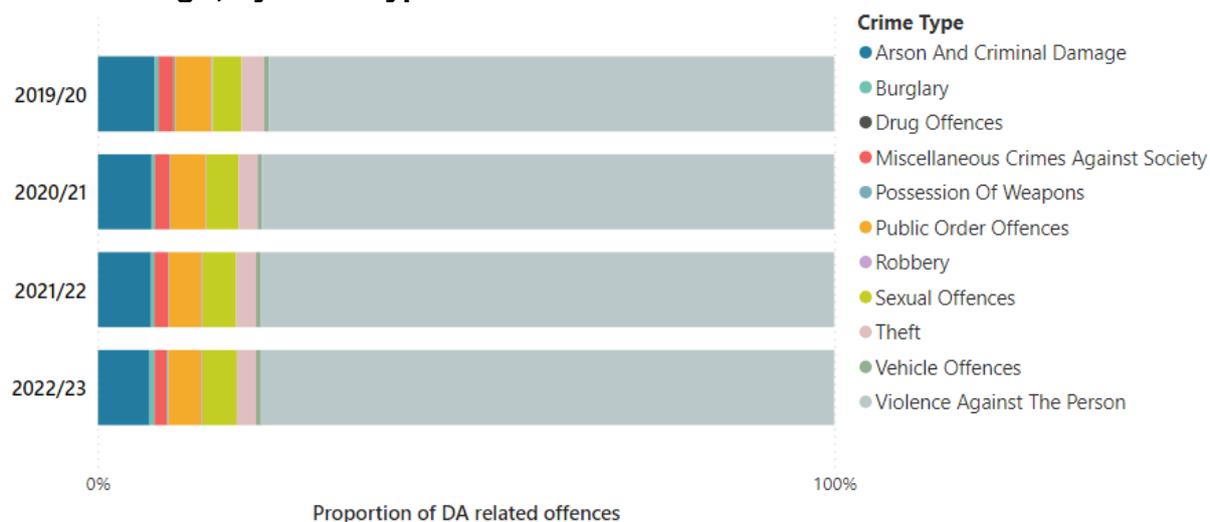


3.6.3. DA crimes

As discussed in the methodology note, any crime can be assessed as DA related and have a DA marker applied, irrespective of the offence type. In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2022 and March 2023 16% of all offences were recorded as DA related (11,220 offences). This is slightly down on the peak of 20% recorded in 2020/21, which was likely linked to the Covid 19 lockdown periods. The current level is consistent with the pre-pandemic level recorded in 2019/20 which was also 16%.

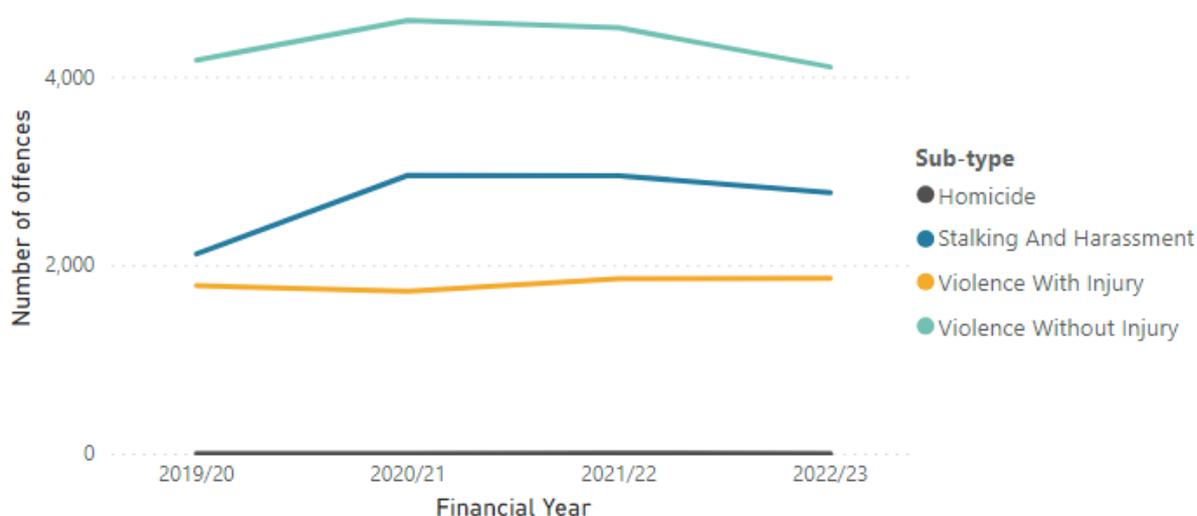
Violence against the person has consistently accounted for the majority of DA related offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (as illustrated in the figure below), ranging from 77%-78% of all offences over the last four years. Arson and criminal damage was the next most prevalent category of DA offence, accounting for 7% of offences in 2022/23. 5% of DA offences in 2022/23 were sexual offences and 4% were public order offences. The fact that all crime types are represented in the data illustrates the wide-ranging nature of DA related offending.

Figure 58: Police recorded DA related offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, by crime type



Within the violence against the person crime category, the violence without injury sub-type accounted for the highest proportion of offences in 2022/23 at 47%. Stalking and harassment accounted for just under a third of offences (32%) and violence with injury accounted for 21%. The chart below shows how volumes of DA offences by violence sub-type have changed over time. This shows a marked increase in stalking and harassment offences in 2020/21. This increase may be linked to increased recording following the introduction of this new category under Home Office counting rules in May 2018. Levels of stalking and harassment have plateaued at this elevated level in 2021/22 and 2022/23, indicating that the increase observed could not solely be attributed to impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic. Violence without injury offences have decreased in the last two years, whilst levels of violence with injury have remained relatively stable.

Figure 59: Police recorded DA related violence against the person offences in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough by sub-type, 2019/20 - 2022/23 (financial year)



A specific offence of engaging (or attempting to engage) in a coercive or controlling behaviour in an intimate or family relationship was newly created in the Serious Crime Act (2015). A total of 444 coercive control offences were recorded in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2022/23, offence levels have remained relatively stable in the past three financial years. Peterborough has consistently seen the highest number of offences annually.

Table 26: Police recorded coercive and controlling behaviour offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2019/20 - 2022/23 (financial year)

District	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Cambridge	55	77	78	47	257
East Cambridgeshire	25	34	28	33	120
Fenland	37	60	53	62	212
Huntingdonshire	80	86	79	85	330
Peterborough	114	152	157	158	581
South Cambridgeshire	56	45	68	59	288
Total	367	454	463	444	1,728

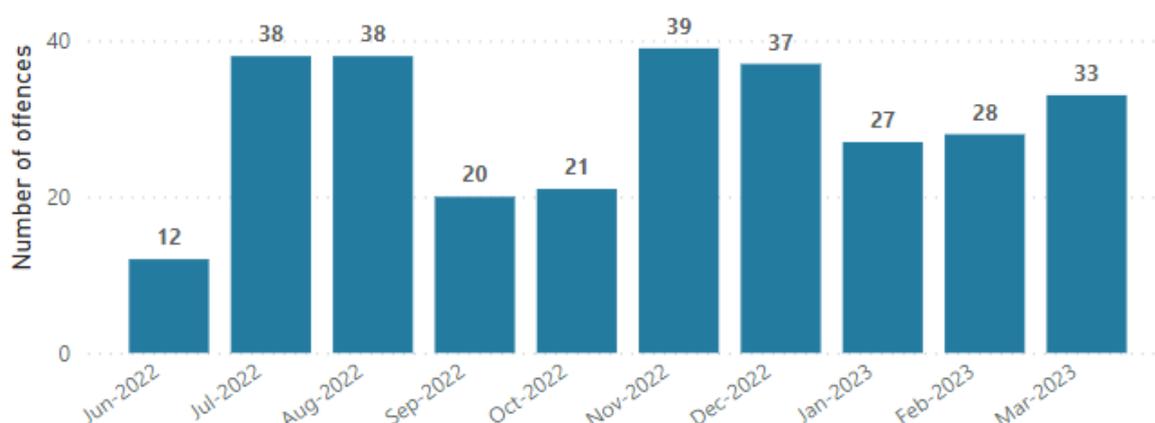
Of the 1,728 coercive control offences recorded between 2019/20 and 2022/23, 48 (2.7%) were not marked as DA related. As this offence title specifically states that behaviour occurs in an intimate or family relationship, this raises concerns about the consistency of use of the DA marker in the police recorded crime data. Consequently, DA crime data presented in this section may be an underrepresentation.

A further new offence category relevant to VAWG is non-fatal strangulation, which came into force on 7th June 2022. The chart below displays the monthly count of DA

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related offences since the non-fatal strangulation category was introduced in June 2022. July 2022 (the first full month that the offence was live) saw 38 offences recorded, the only month since with a higher level was November 2022 (39 offences) indicating that recording practice was embedded quickly after the introduction of the offence category. A total of 293 DA related non-fatal strangulation offences have been recorded in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between June 2022 – March 2023. Similarly to coercive control, Peterborough has recorded the highest offence levels.

Figure 60: Police recorded DA related non-fatal strangulation offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough



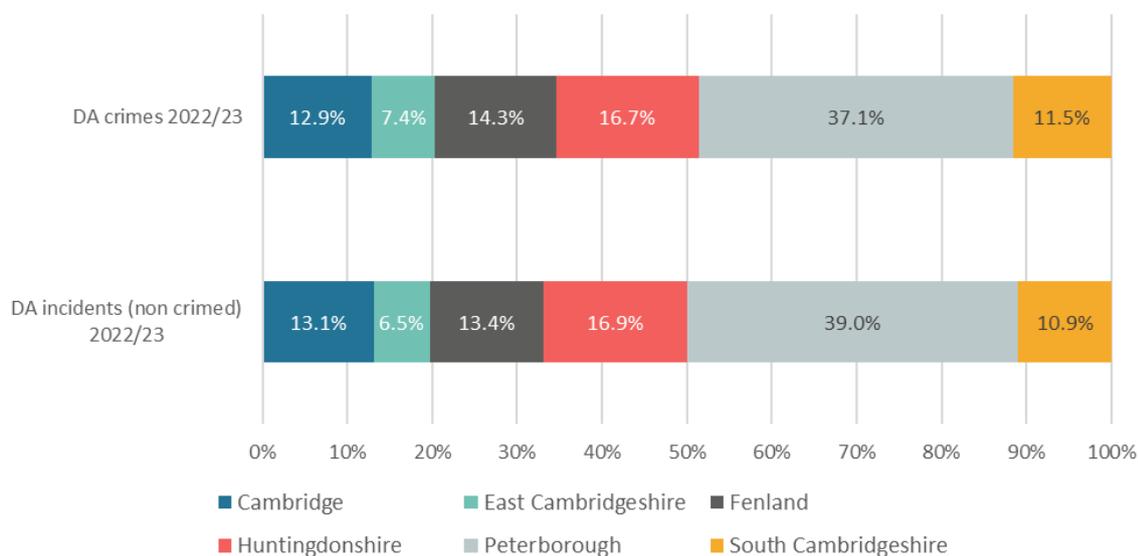
Analysis has been completed on police recorded suspect records linked to non-fatal strangulation offences marked as DA related, to better understand the suspected perpetrators associated with this offence type. The data showed 280 suspect records associated with 277 unique offences between June 2022 and March 2023. There were 266 unique suspects, the majority of whom (95%) were linked with a single non-fatal strangulation offence between June 2022 – March 2023. 4% of suspects were linked to two offences and 1% were linked to three non-fatal strangulation offences. Demographic analysis on the 266 unique suspects showed that 92% were male, a higher proportion than for overall DA suspects (70%). The most common age group was 30-39, accounting for 38% of all suspects. Just over a quarter of suspects were aged between 18-25, with 15% aged 25-29 and 11% aged 18-24. This age breakdown broadly reflects the age profile of wider DA suspects presented in section 3.9.1.

Research has shown non-fatal strangulation to be an important risk factor for homicide, with one study finding victims of non-fatal strangulation to be 6 times more likely to experience attempted homicide and 7 times more likely to experience homicide (Glass, et al., 2008). As such, ongoing recording and monitoring of non-fatal strangulation offences is essential. Further research to map victim pathways for survivors of non-fatal strangulation would be beneficial to gain greater insight into experiences relating to this very high-risk crime type.

3.6.4. Geographical analysis

Peterborough had the highest levels of DA in 2022/23 accounting for 37% of all DA related crimes and 39% of all non-crimed DA incidents recorded countywide.

Figure 61: Proportion of police recorded DA crimes and incidents by district, April 2022 - March 2023



The table below displays rates for DA crimes and incidents to understand the countywide picture when taking varying population densities into account. This shows that Peterborough had the highest rates of both police recorded DA related crimes and non-crimed DA incidents in 2022/23 followed by Fenland.

Table 27: Police recorded DA crime and incident rate per 1,000 population, April 2022 – March 2023

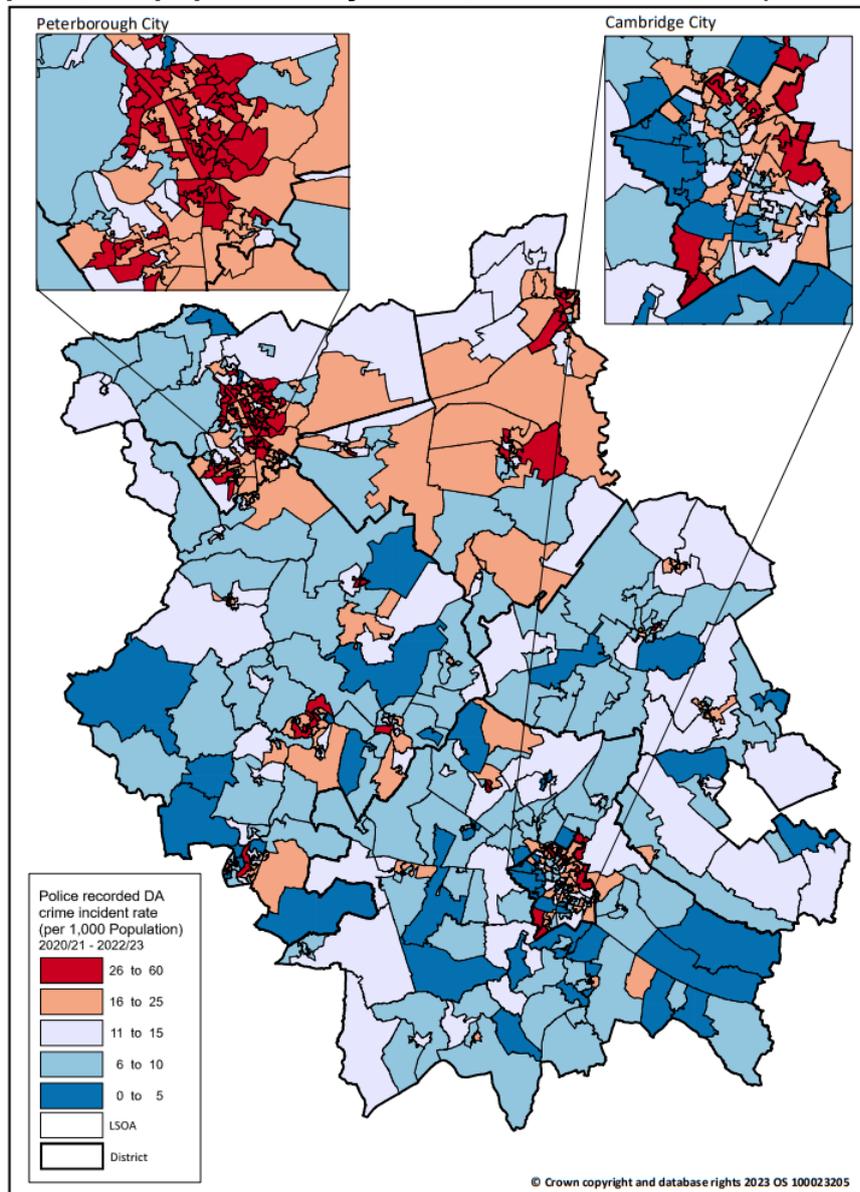
District	Rate of DA related crimes per 1,000 population	Rate of (non-crimed) DA incidents per 1,000 population
Cambridge City	9.9	5.5
East Cambridgeshire	9.5	4.5
Fenland	15.7	8.0
Huntingdonshire	10.4	5.7
Peterborough	19.3	11.0
South Cambridgeshire	8.0	4.1

The map below displays the rate of DA incidents per 1,000 population for all LSOA's in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The highest rate LSOAs are shown in red with the lowest rates shown in blue, this allows a visual identification of cold spots within the county with low levels of DA reporting based on local population size. These lower rates may be due to actual lower levels of DA but could also represent lower

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levels of reporting where DA is occurring. Cold spots were mainly located in the rural areas of South Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire. Of the LSOAs with the lowest 20% of DA incidents in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 38% were located in South Cambridgeshire and 26% were in Huntingdonshire. Cambridge City had the next highest proportion at 16%, the map below shows that there was a mixed picture in the City with lower rates in the south/west and higher rates in the north/east.

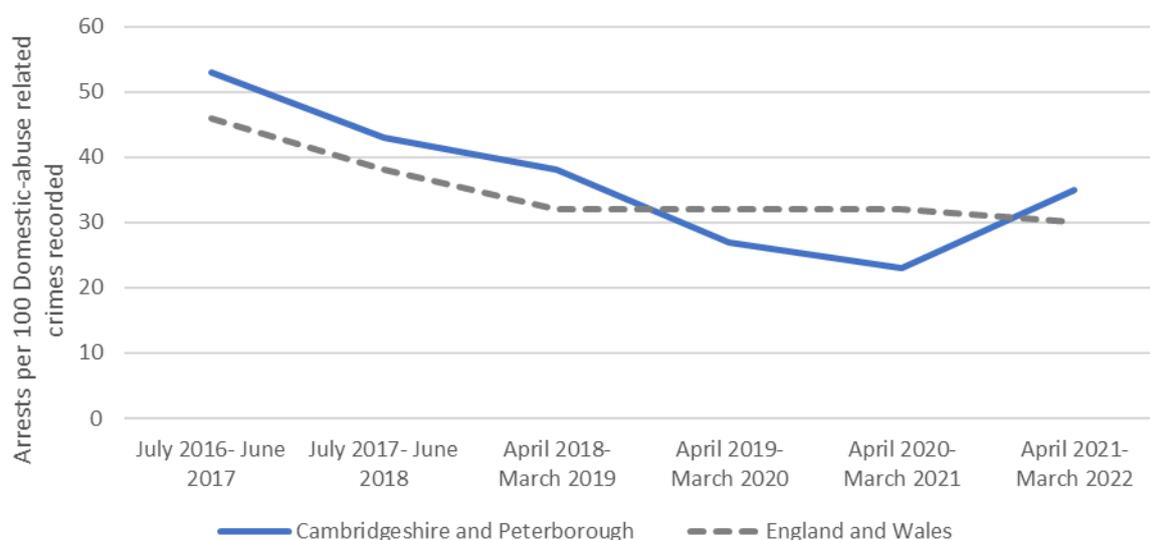
Figure 62: Thematic map of police recorded average annual DA incident rate per 1,000 population by LSOA, 2020/21 – 2022/23 (financial year)



3.7. Crime outcomes for DA offences

National and local figures showing the arrest rate (per 100 DA related crimes recorded) shows an overall decrease since 2016/17, as shown in the figure below. This is broadly in line with the national trend, albeit the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough rate was below the national figure in 2019/20-2020/21. In 2021/22 the rate was 35 arrests per 100 crimes in Cambridgeshire, slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales (30 arrests).

Figure 63: Arrests per 100 domestic abuse related crimes, 2016/17-2021/22.



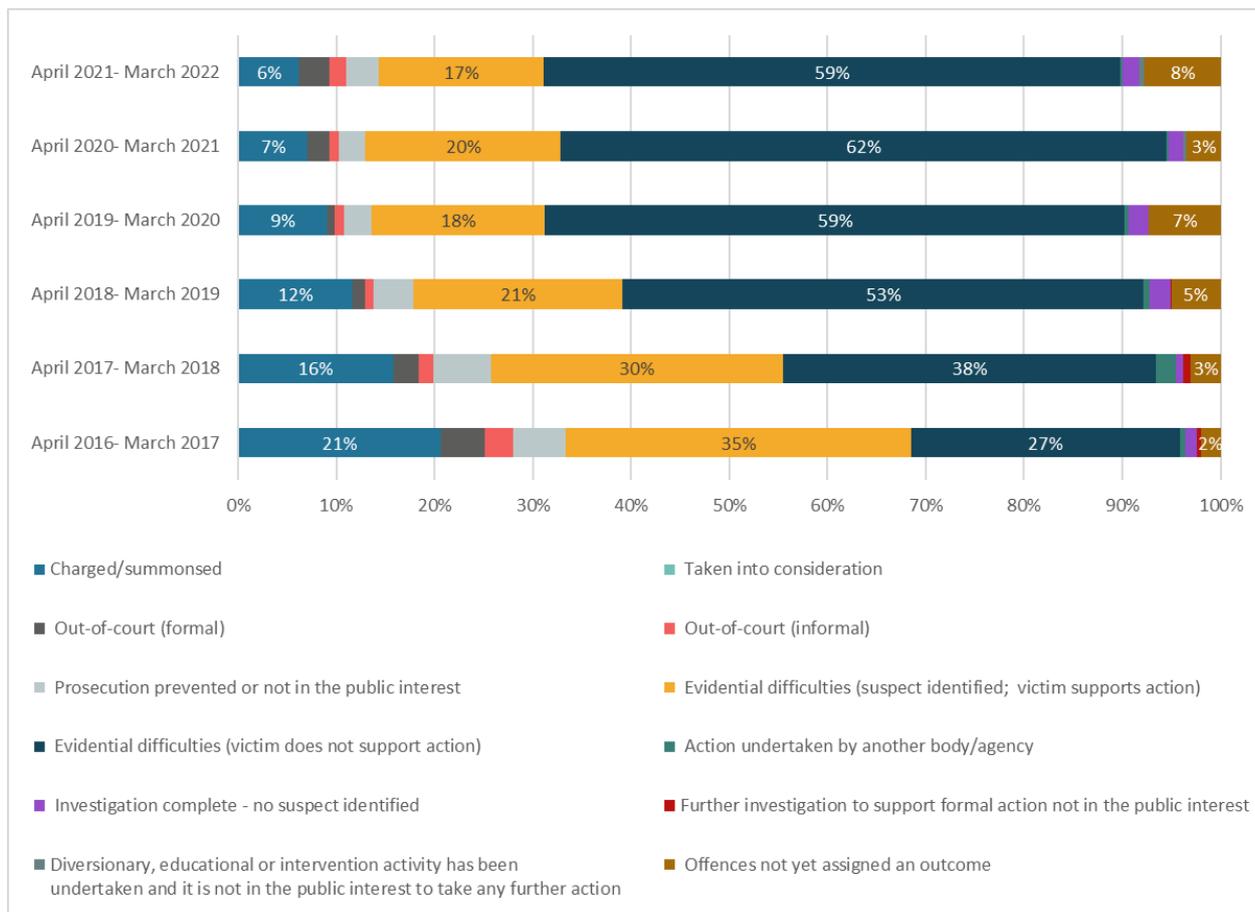
Source: ONS Domestic Abuse data tools (2017-2022) (ONS, 2022d)

A breakdown of the outcomes assigned to DA crimes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is shown in the figure below. Of all DA crimes in 2021/22, the outcome was a charge in only 6% of offences, down from 21% in 2016/17, following consistent year-on-year reductions. The predominant outcome type across all the years included here (2016/17-2021/22) reflect evidential difficulties.

There has been a shift in the proportion of DA crimes where the victim does not support action. Whilst the proportion of crime outcomes ‘Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)’ has decreased over time, the proportion recorded as ‘Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)’ has increased. This has culminated in 59% of DA crimes in 2021/22 with the outcome ‘Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)’. It would be valuable to understand what is influencing this shift.

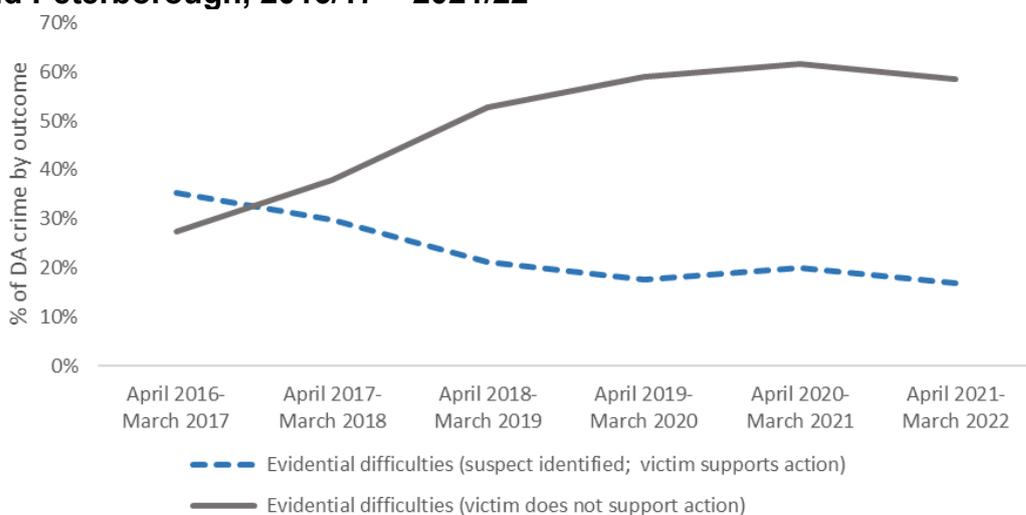
The proportion of crimes recorded as not yet assigned an outcome was 8% in 2021/22, up from 2% in 2016/17.

Figure 64: Outcomes assigned to crimes identified as domestic abuse-related recorded by outcome group (%), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2016/17 to 2021/22



Source: ONS Domestic Abuse data tools (2017-2022) (ONS, 2022d)

Figure 65: % of DA crime outcomes - evidential difficulties, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2016/17 – 2021/22



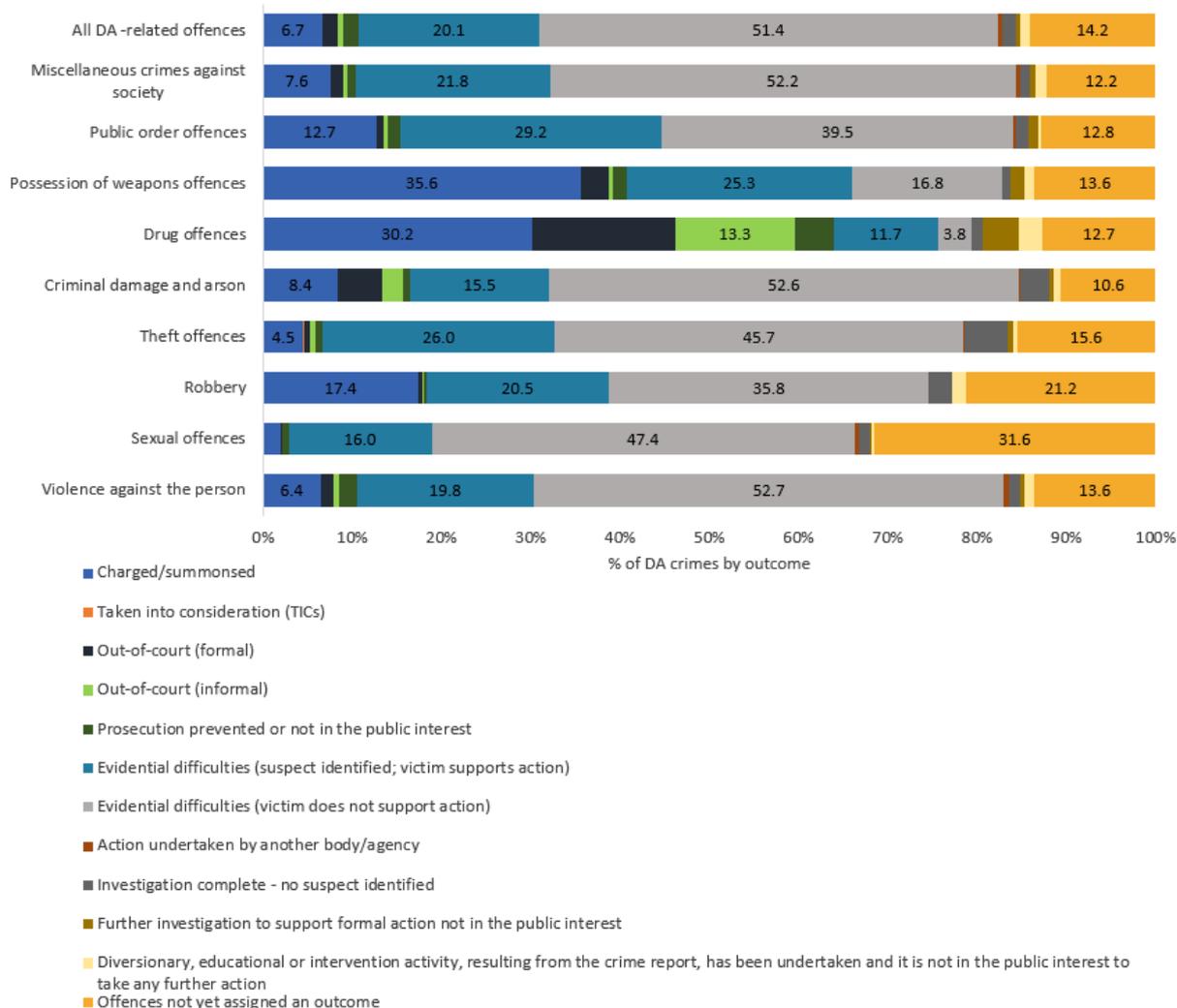
Source: ONS Domestic Abuse data tools (2017-2022) (ONS, 2022d)

Home Office figures published by the ONS also break down outcomes of DA related offences by offence group (ONS, 2022f, p. 4). This shows some variation in the

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outcomes by offence group, as seen in the figure below. The outcome 'evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)' formed over half of the outcomes for violence against the person, criminal damage and arson, and miscellaneous crimes against society crimes. Just under half of DA related sexual offences (47.4%) had the same outcome. Charge outcomes tended to be seen more frequently within DA-related possession of weapons offences, drug offences and robbery.

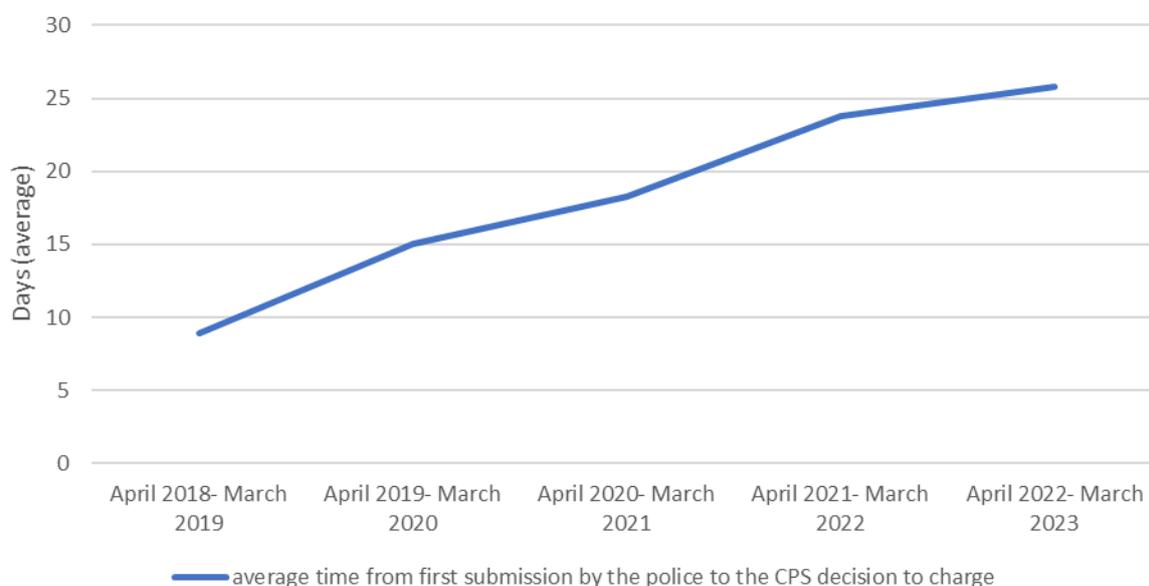
Figure 66: Outcomes of DA related offences in England and Wales by offence group, year ending March 2022



Source: Table 4 in Domestic Abuse and the Criminal Justice System Dataset by ONS (2022f).

National figures are published by the Crown Prosecution Service to state the timeliness of processes relating to domestic abuse flagged cases (CPS, 2023). This shows an increase in the average time from first submission by the police to the CPS decision to charge. Since 2018/19 there has been an 190% increase (to 25.8 days) in 2022/23. The increased wait time is likely to have an impact on victims.

Figure 67: Average time from first submission by the police to the CPS decision to charge for Domestic abuse cases (National), 2018/19-2022/23



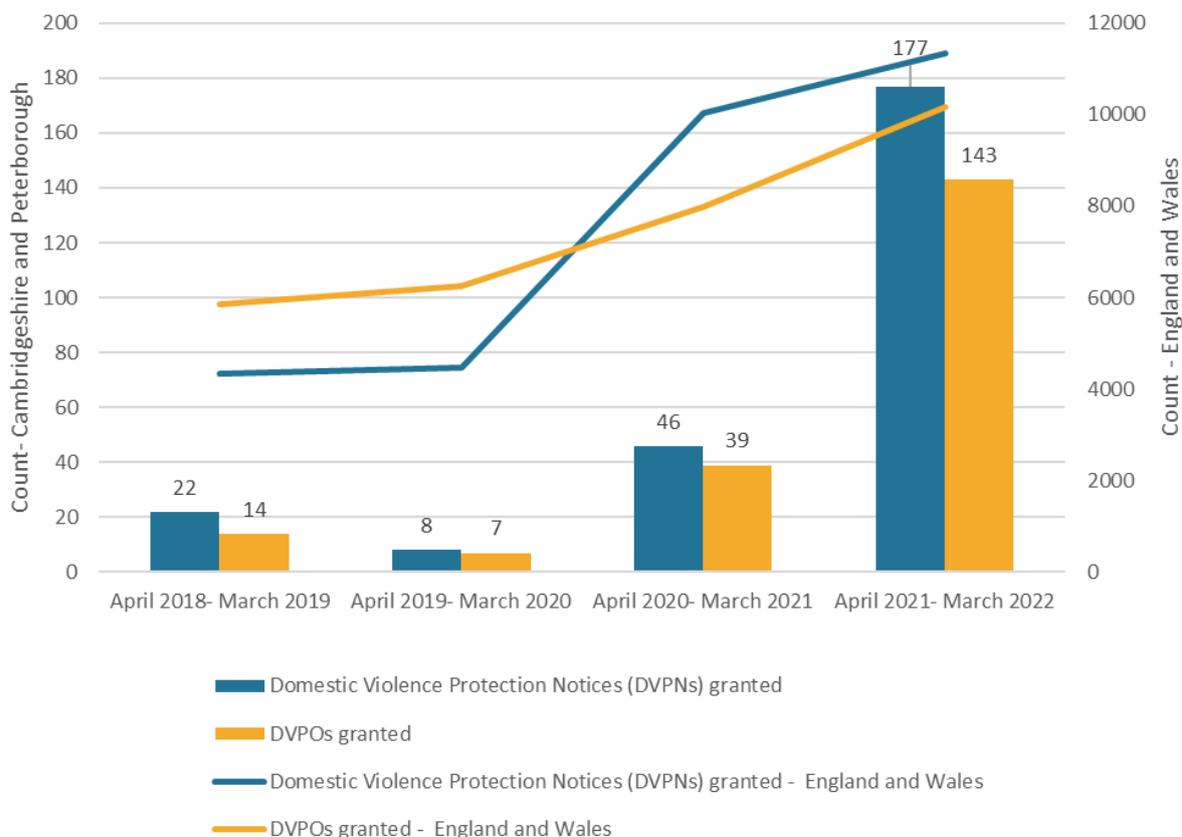
Source: CPS Quarterly data summaries

Furthermore, the CPS state that 17.6% of prosecutions for Domestic Abuse related cases (nationally) were dropped in 2022/23 (and the same proportion in 2021/22).

3.8. Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)

A Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) can be issued by police on an emergency basis to provide initial protection to a victim of domestic abuse (ONS, 2020). A DVPN acts to prohibit a suspected perpetrator from contacting the victim or returning to the victim's home for a period of up to 48 hours. A Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) can follow a DVPN and be in force for 14-28 days, once granted by magistrates (Home Office, 2022c). Both the DVPN and DVPO do not require the consent of the victim. As the figure below shows, the number of both DVPNs and DVPOs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough follows the trend for England and Wales. There has been a marked increase locally since 2018/19 with 8 times the amount of DVPNS and 10 times the amount of DVPOs granted in 2021/22. Lead professionals have advised that this is likely reflecting operational changes to facilitate the use of DVPNs and DVPOs, rather than an increase in demand.

Figure 68: Number of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPOs) granted, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough/ England and Wales 2018/19 – 2021/22.



Source: His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) data; ONS DA data tool.

Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) are due to be introduced shortly and will ultimately replace DVPNs and DVPOs. The new Orders/ Protection notices will generate some changes as summarised below (Home Office, 2022d):

- Alternative application routes available (so victims and third parties can apply to the family court directly)
- Increased flexibility in the duration of the order.
- Criminal, family, and civil courts will be able to make a DAPO as part of existing court proceedings (these need not be DA-related).
- DAPOS will be able to impose prohibitions and / or positive requirements on perpetrators (with variation over time possible in response to risk levels).
- Powers to utilise electronic monitoring (tagging) of perpetrators.
- All DAPOs will include notification requirements, so perpetrators will be required to notify the police if they change their name or address.

3.9. Police recorded offences: Victims

Police recorded victim records have been shared by Cambridgeshire Constabulary for inclusion in this needs assessment. Victim records have been matched to recorded crime data so they can be analysed by specific crime types. All victim records linked to a recorded DA related offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023 have been included in the analysis in this section.

There were 43,143 victim records linked to a DA related offence in a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough district between April 2019 and March 2023. There were an additional 263 victim records which had an unknown offence location or insufficient data to geocode to a specific location. These records have been excluded from the main analysis in this section, however, the table below shows the geographic breakdown based on the victim’s last known home address and the gender breakdown for unique victims by geography. As it is possible for the same victim to experience multiple offences, therefore, in addition to analysis based on all victim records, unique victims tables have been created to provide more accurate insights into victim demographics. In 64 of the 263 offence records, the victim’s last known address was recorded as outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (24%). For the 245 unique victims, 80% were female, 18% were male and 3% did not have gender recorded.

Table 28: Victim home address location, by gender, for DA offences recorded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary with an unknown offence location, April 2019 - March 2023

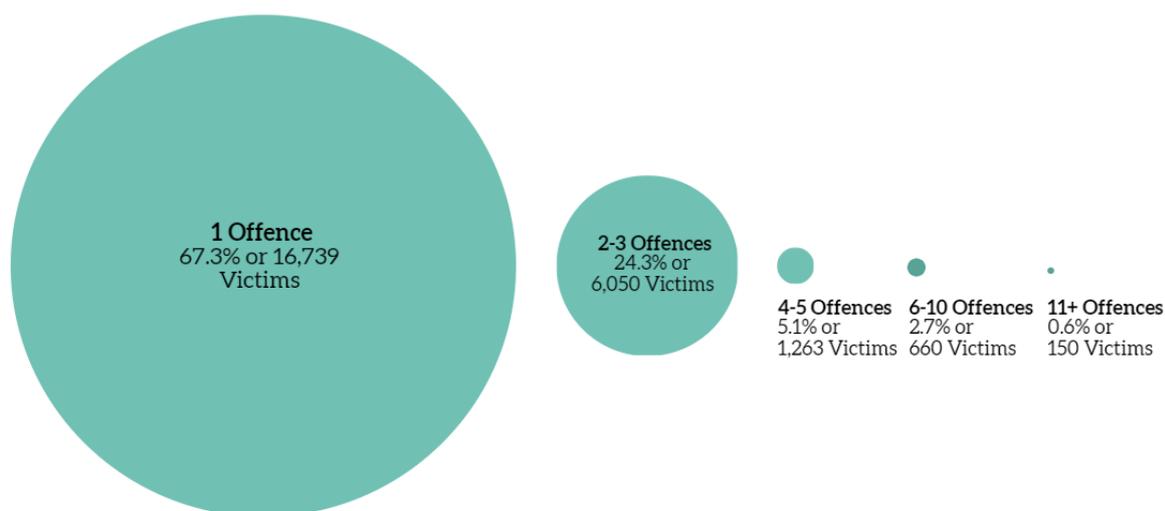
Home district	Total crimes	Unique victims	Proportion of unique victims female	Proportion of unique victims male	Proportion of unique victims gender unknown
Cambridge City	22	20	85.0%	15.0%	0.0%
East Cambridgeshire	3	3	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
Fenland	21	20	85.0%	15.0%	0.0%
Huntingdonshire	40	38	73.7%	23.7%	0.0%
Peterborough	59	55	83.6%	16.4%	0.0%
South Cambridgeshire	21	20	75.0%	20.0%	5.0%
Out of county	64	57	91.2%	5.3%	3.5%
Unknown residence	33	32	59.4%	34.4%	6.3%
Total	263	245	80.0%	17.6%	2.5%

There were 24,862 unique victims for whom at least one DA related offence was recorded in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 – March 2023.

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The majority of victims (67%) had reported more than one offence during the four-year period, illustrating the high levels of repeat victimisation associated with DA. Just under a quarter of victims (24%) had reported 2-3 offences. 8% of victims had reported over 4 or more offences, the highest number of offences reported by a single victim was 71 offences.

Figure 69: Number of police recorded DA related crimes by individual victims, in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023



3.9.1. Victim demographics

There were 24,862 unique victims who experienced at least one DA related offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023. The majority of victims were recorded as female (66%), with 32% of victims being male. Gender was unknown for 2% of victims. Females are overrepresented in police recorded crime data, compared to local population data.

Unique victims have been identified by individual financial year (i.e., all duplicate victim ID's within each 12 month period have been removed) in order to produce a time series of the number of unique victims who reported a DA related offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by gender. It should be noted that the combined total number of victims using this methodology will be higher as victims who reported offences in more than one financial year will be counted multiple times. The figure below displays the number of unique victims in each financial year by police recorded gender.

Figure 70: Number of unique victims who experienced at least one police recorded DA related offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, by gender, 2019/20 – 2022/23 (financial year)

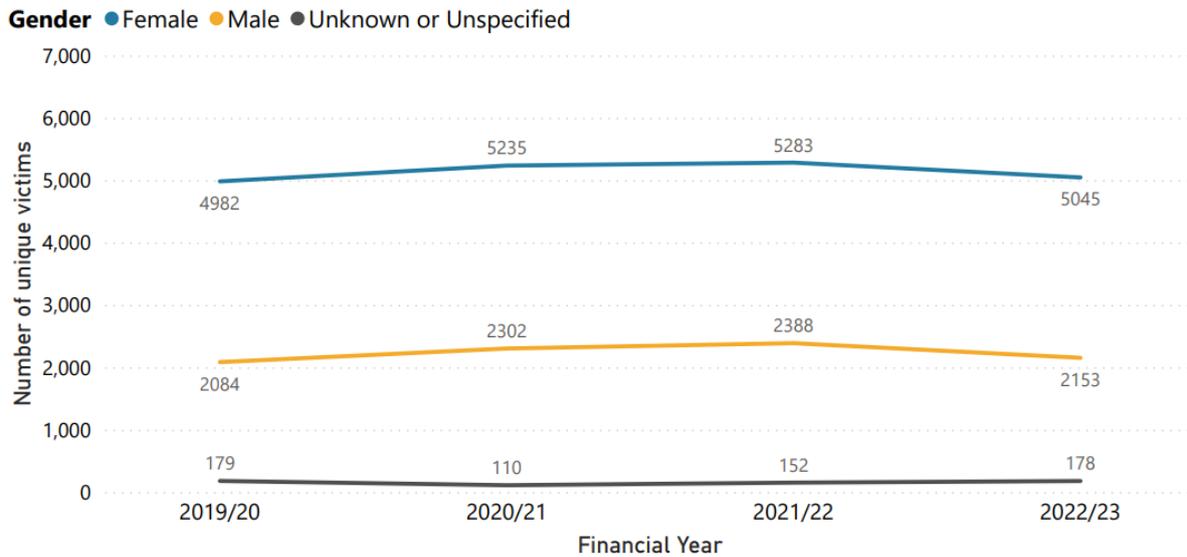
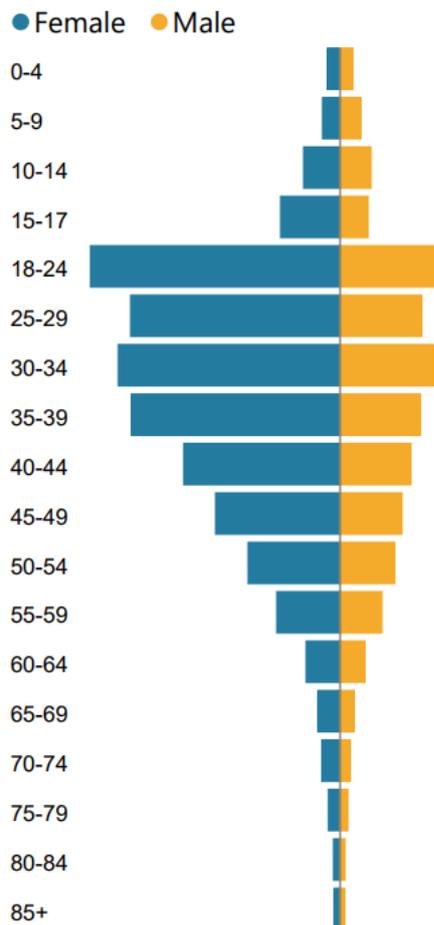


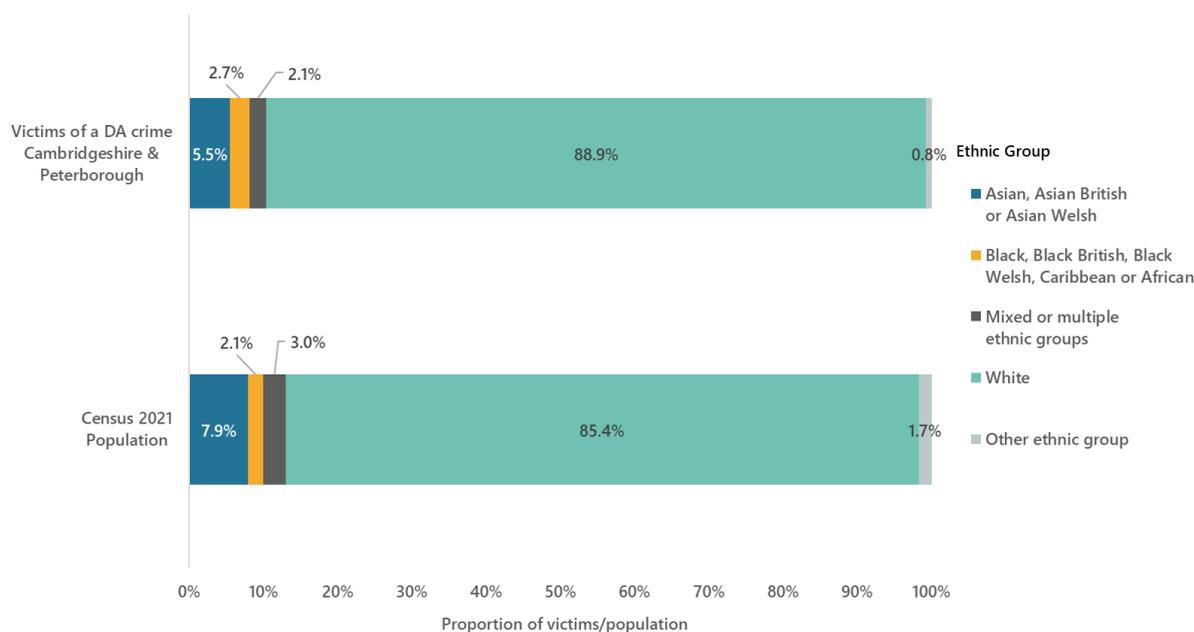
Figure 71: Age (at the time of offence) and gender breakdown, where known, for unique victims who experienced at least one police recorded DA related offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2019 - March 2023



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Self-defined ethnicity was unknown (either not stated or not recorded) for 35% of unique victims of a DA related offence between April 2019 – March 2023. The breakdown of self-defined ethnicity for the 3,908 victims where data was available is presented in the chart below, alongside the breakdown for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population as a whole based on 2021 census data. The victim cohort was broadly in line with the local population. Where self-defined ethnicity was known, 89% of victims of DA offences were recorded as white, slightly above the proportion of population of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough recorded as white (85%). In line with the victim cohort for sexual offences, Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh victims were slightly underrepresented, accounting for 6% of victims of DA compared to 8% of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population. However, with over a third of victims not having ethnicity recorded, it is difficult to draw any definitive conclusions from the analysis. Improvements in data completeness and quality would enable a broader discussion on under-representation in victims who report to the constabulary.

Figure 72: Breakdown in ethnic group for unique victims of DA offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023 and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough census 2021 population count



3.9.2. Victim – suspect relationship

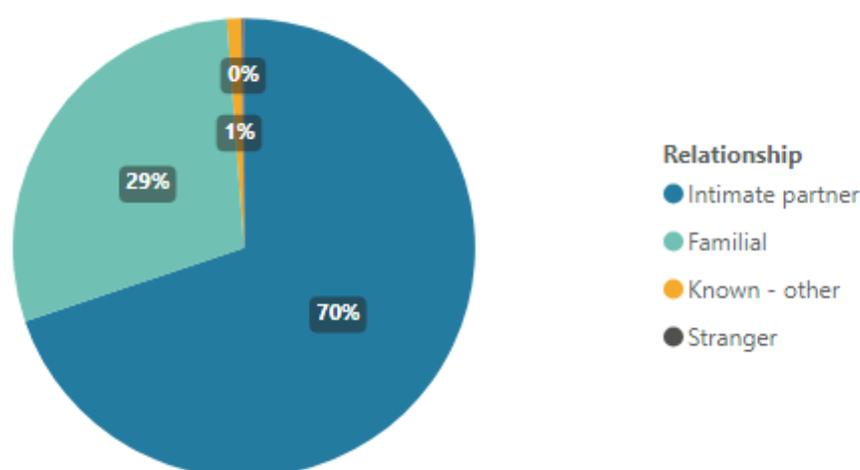
Of the 43,143 victim records linked to a DA related offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 – March 2023, 13% had an unknown victim suspect relationship (either none recorded, relationship not disclosed, relationship unknown, or recorded as ‘described person’ or ‘victim is crown’). Analysis has been conducted on the remaining 37,574 victim records to explore the relationship between the victim and suspect, where known, whilst acknowledging that this does

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not present a complete picture due to the missing data. It should also be noted that repeat victims are included within this data. Therefore, caution should be taken in trying to broaden the analysis to the total population.

Of the 37,574 victim records which had a victim-suspect relationship recorded, the majority (70%) were intimate partner (including both current and ex-partners). Familial relationships accounted for 29% of DA records (a more detailed breakdown of familial relationship types is presented below). A total of 1% (449 records) had a relationship of 'known-other' or stranger, this should not be the case based on the definition of DA so indicates some data recording issues.

Figure 73: Victim - suspect relationship type (where known) for victims of DA related offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2019 - March 2023

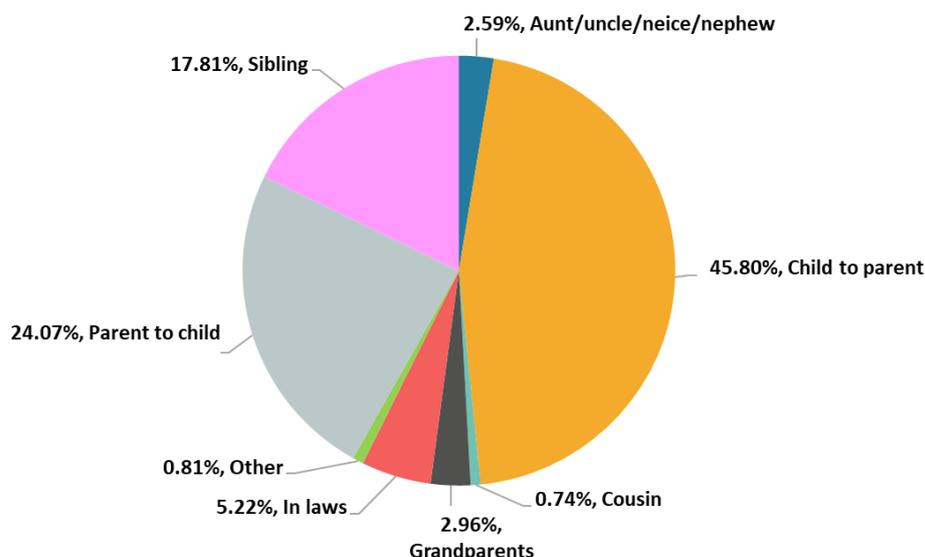


3.9.2.1. Familial Domestic Abuse

The chart below displays the breakdown in victim-suspect relationship type for familial DA victim records. Of the 10,895 victim records (2019/20 – 2022/23), the majority were committed between parents and their children, with child-to-parent incidents accounting for just under half (46%) of records and parent-to-child incidents accounting for 24% of records. In order to assess the reliability of relationship coding, a dip sample analysis was completed on 50 randomly selected child-to-parent offences (records where the victim-suspect relationship was recorded as son or daughter). 48 of these offences were found to be child-to-parent, one was found to be parent-to-child and in one offence it was not possible to ascertain the relationship type. As such, it should be considered when interpreting the proportions presented above that some child-to-parent incidents may be recorded as parent-to-child and vice versa.

Outside of parent/child offences, siblings accounted for the next highest proportion of records at 18%. Grandparents, aunts/uncles/nieces/nephews, and cousins all also featured within the data.

Figure 74: Familial victim - suspect relationship (where known) for victims of DA related offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2019 - March 2023



Briefing papers which provide more detailed information on the issue of Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) (specific to under 19s) can be found on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership website ([Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)). There was a specific CAPVA IDVA for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to work with families experiencing CAPVA; this post now sits with the Family Respect Project.

Levels of reporting are known to be low for CAPVA and as such it is possible that the number of child-to-parent DA offences referenced in this document understate the local prevalence to an even greater extent than for overall DA. Research commissioned by the London Violence Reduction Centre analysed data from the British Crime Survey and found that 40% of parents/carers who had experienced violence from a child between 2011 and 2020 had not reported it to police (Brennan, et al., 2022). Primary barriers to reporting that were identified in the research were feelings of shame and fear of criminalisation of the child or them being removed from the home.

Known issues included repeated police call outs to de-escalate violence, where concerns around criminalisation of their child leads to parents seeing temporary cessation of violence as a solution and agencies working to the best of their ability to reduce harm but with limited access to advice and expertise (Magilton, 2020). The needs assessment recommended that a model of support be commissioned aiming to reduce the cycle of repeated police call outs, to support families to reduce the incidence and levels of child to parent abuse and to reduce demand on agency resources and support (Magilton, 2020)

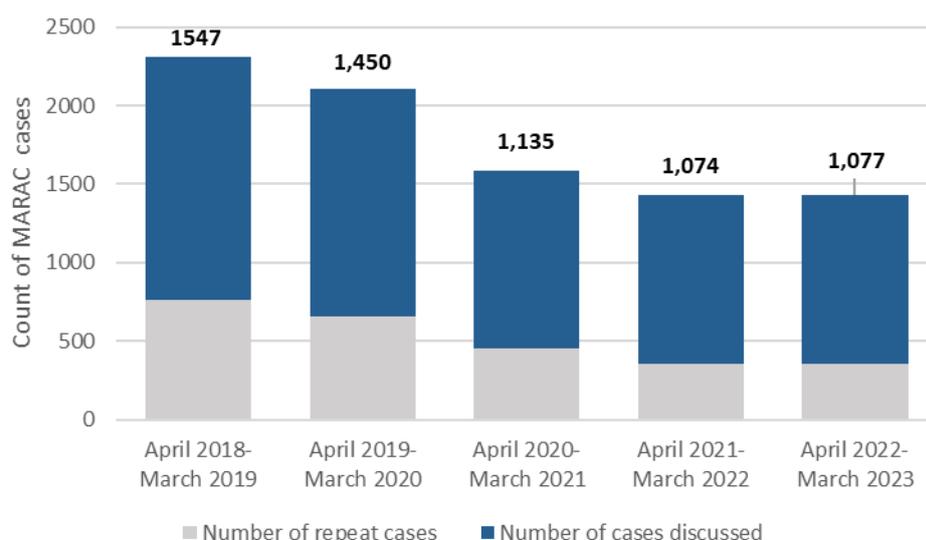
3.10. Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a meeting in which local frontline services share information and work out how best to help victims at risk of significant harm or homicide. This multi-agency meeting is held three times a week for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

From 2018/19 to 2022/23 the total number of cases seen at MARAC for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has reduced by 30%. In this period the annual proportion of repeat cases has also reduced from just under half (49%) in 2018/19 to a third (33%) in 2022/23. These figures may have been impacted by the change in threshold for MARAC referral from January 2020 onwards (i.e. an increased level required in the DASH assessment from 14 to 17).

The latest year is more in line with the national (England) figure for repeat cases at MARACs, being 30-33% across the past 4 years.

Figure 75: MARAC Cases in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2018/19-2022/23



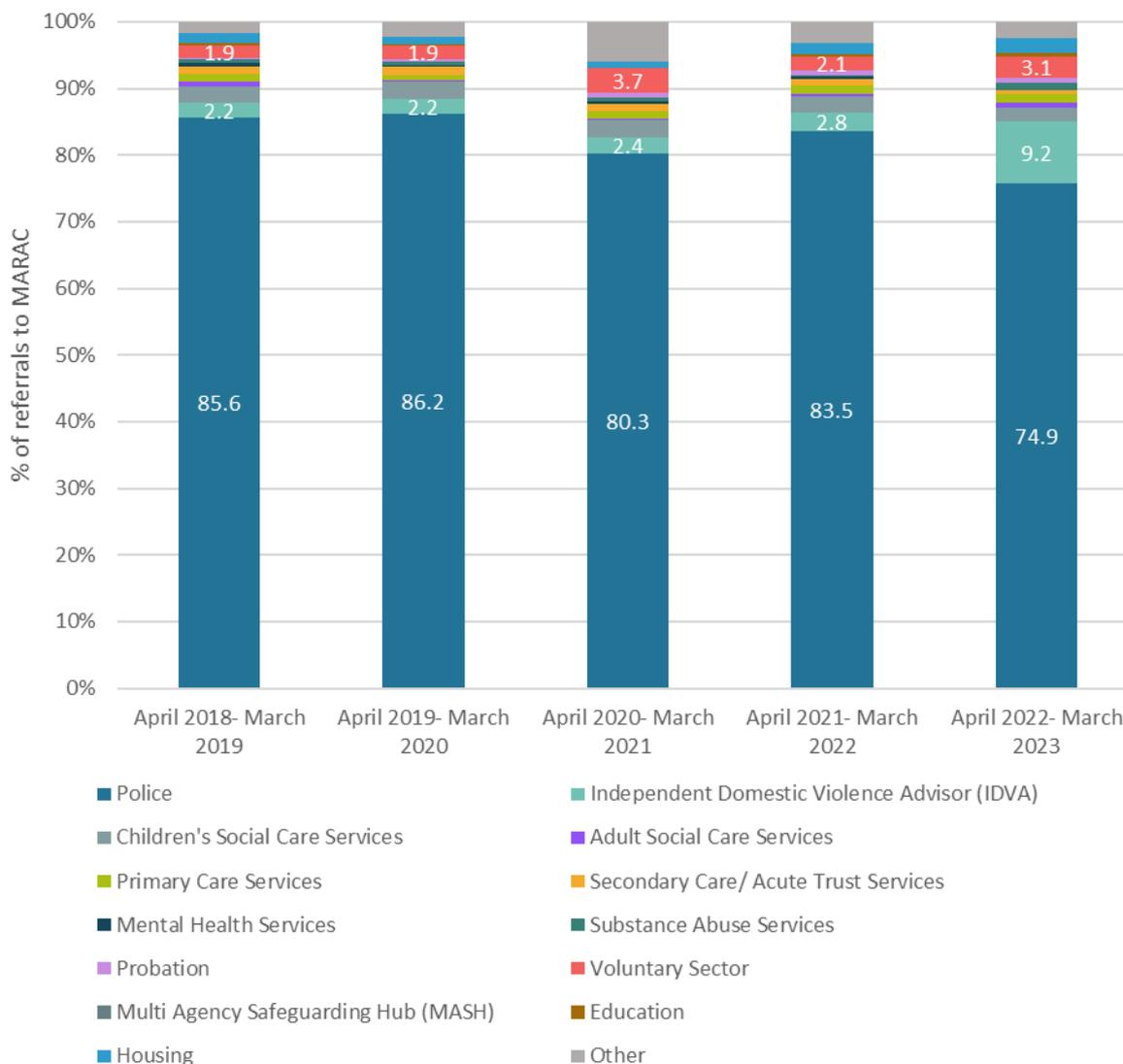
MARACs routinely report the number of children (under 18s) in the household and this gives an indication of the number of children affected. On figures for the latest available year (2022/23) this equated to 1,047 children in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

A majority of referrals to MARAC come from the police, as shown in the figure below. In the most recent year this equated to 74.9% (807) referrals to MARAC from police, this was a lower proportion than previous years. From 2018/19 to 2021/22 this police referrals to MARAC ranged from 80.3%-86.2%. There has been an increase in the proportion of referrals that have come from IDVAs in the most recent year. Between 2018/19 and 2021/22 IDVAs referred 2.2-2.8% of MARAC cases. However, in

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2022/23 IDVAs have referred 9.2% (99) of cases. This may reflect changes to IDVA provision in the area which are providing more routes for referral to MARAC recently.

Figure 76: Referrals to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough MARAC by source (%) 2018/19-2022/23



In terms of victim characteristics, a majority of victims referred to MARAC are female with 96.3% (1,037) in the most recent year being female and 3.7% (40) being male. Detailed age breakdown of MARAC victims was not available.

The Safe lives collated ethnicity breakdown figures for MARAC using the term BME (black and minority ethnic) group. Unfortunately, this terminology for ethnicity is no longer supported and is likely to generate misleading analysis by masking different ethnic groups that may be unaccounted for in the data source. As such, analysis of MARAC victim ethnicity is not included in this assessment.

The proportion of cases with LGBT victims recorded was highest in 2020/21 at 1.4% but remains below 1% for subsequent years. The proportion of cases where the victim had a disability has been just above 3% for the last 3 years.

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Safe Lives provides prevalence figures to estimate the expected number of cases seen at MARAC. This states that 40 cases per 10,000 of the female population age 16+ are expected, based the prevalence of high-risk victims including both those who report and do not report to the (Safe Lives, n.d.) (Safe Lives, 2020). Applying this prevalence to the Census 2021 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population (female age 16+), this equates to 2,938 cases expected at MARAC, a higher figure than that recorded locally in 2021/2022 (1074 cases) and 2022/23 (1077 cases).

3.11. Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law)

Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) is a police policy giving people the right to know if their current or ex-partner has any previous history of violence or abuse. The 'right to know' element of this scheme enables police to share information proactively. The 'right to ask' element allows individuals or third parties to ask the police to check if a current or ex-partner has a history of violence or abuse. The figures for both elements of this scheme are shown below. There has been a long-term increase in right to ask applications and disclosures, likely due to increased awareness of this scheme.

Figure 77: 'right to know' Applications and disclosures Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

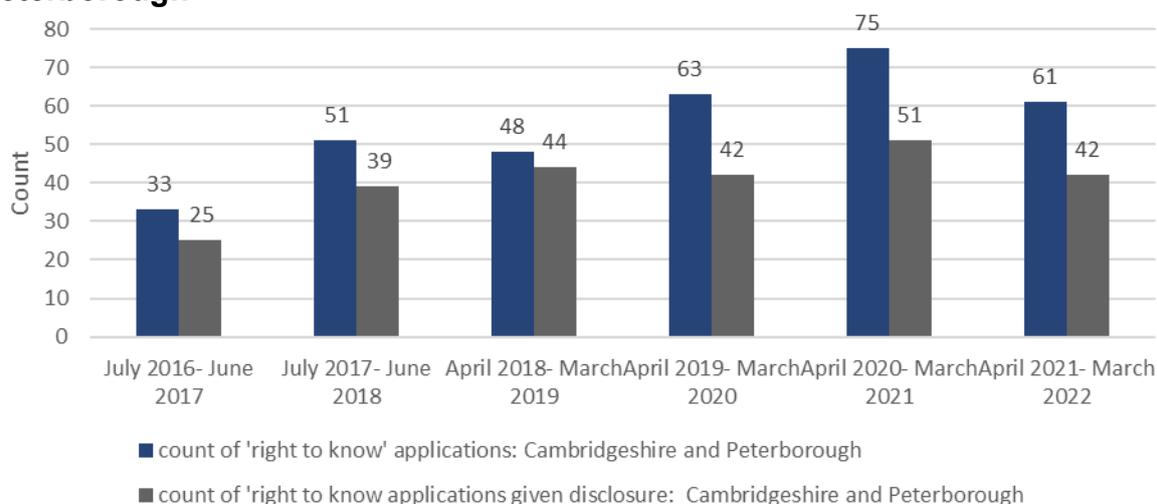
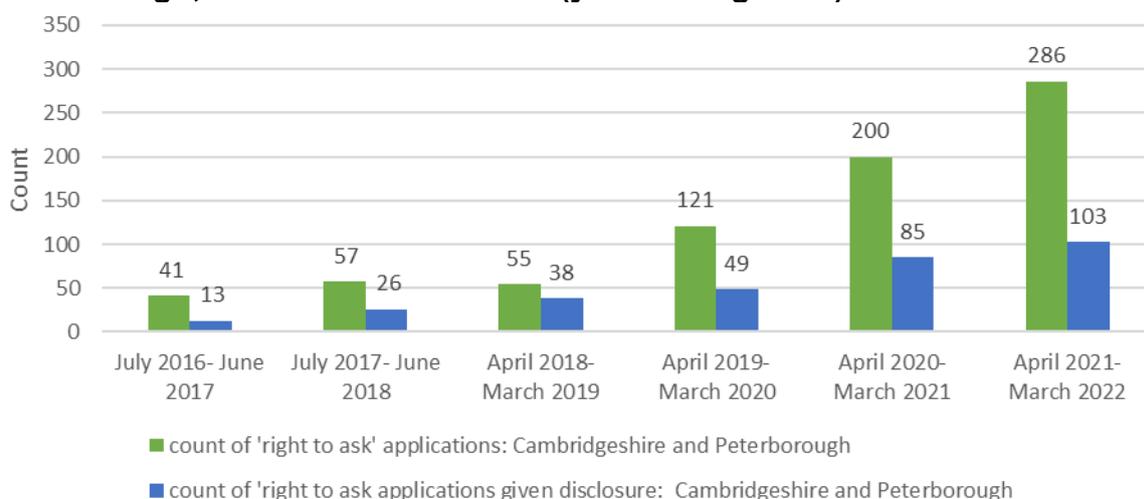


Figure 78: ‘right to ask’ Applications and disclosures in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2016/2017 – 2021/2022 (year ending June)



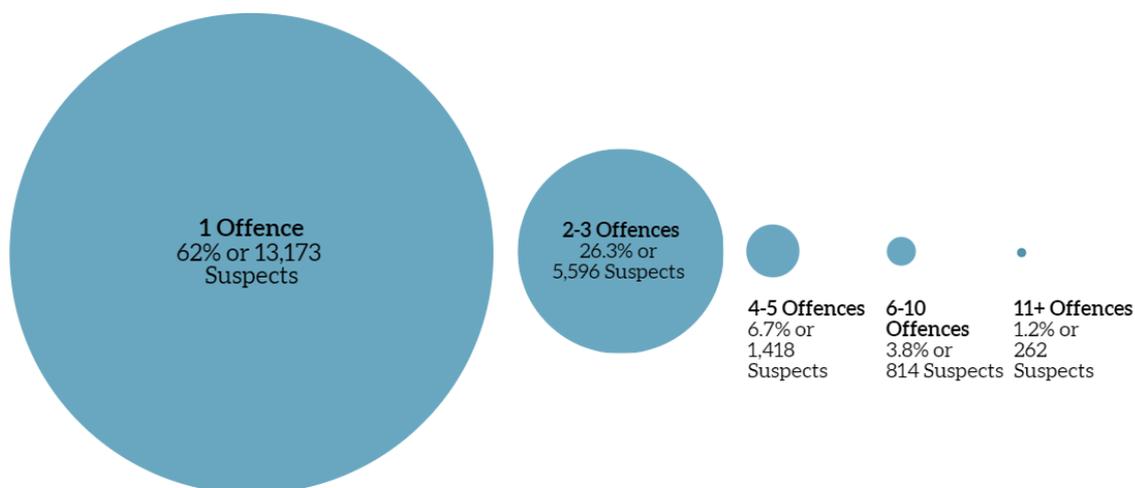
3.12. DA Perpetrators/ Suspects

3.12.1. Police recorded offences: Suspects

Cambridgeshire Constabulary have shared suspect records for inclusion in this needs assessment. The corporate performance team extracted suspects records which had a link to a Cambridgeshire Constabulary recorded offence between May 2018 and March 2023. These records have then been matched to recorded crime data held by the Policy & Insight Team on a Power BI dashboard to enable analysis by specific crime types and makers, for example, offences with a DA marker. Suspect records were included in the data shared irrespective of the offence link reason, as such it is important to note that this section refers to individuals suspected of an offence rather than confirmed perpetrators. Suspects with a link reason of ‘suspect eliminated’ were excluded from the analysis. All remaining suspect records linked to an offence marked as DA related in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 and March 2023 have been included in the analysis in this section.

There were a total of 21,263 suspects linked to at least one DA related offence which occurred in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 – March 2023. In total these suspects were linked to 41,961 offences, indicating high levels of repeat offending. Whilst the majority of suspects (62%) were linked to a single offence during the 4 years, over a quarter (26%) were linked to 2 or 3 offences. The remaining 12% of suspects were linked to 4 or more DA related offences with the highest offence count for an individual suspect being 64 offences.

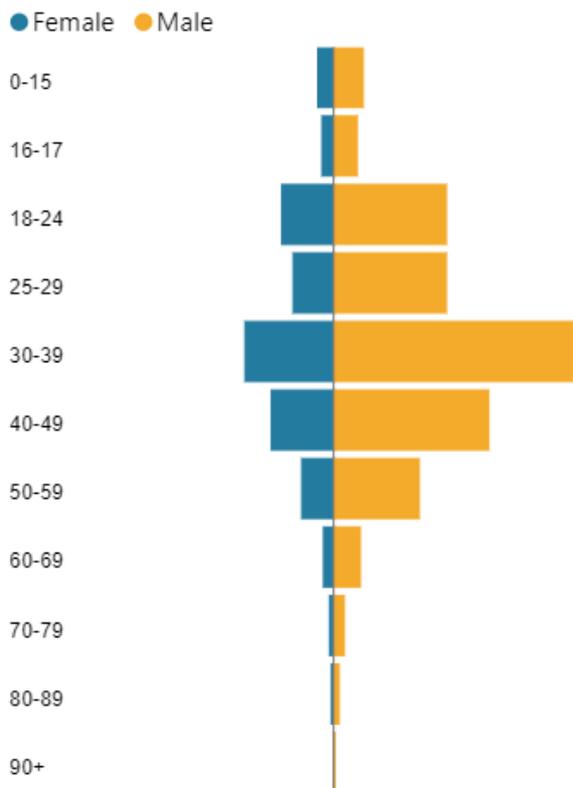
Figure 79: Number of DA related offences linked to individual suspects, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2019 - March 2023



Of the 21,263 unique suspects linked to a DA related offence reported in the four-year analysis period, the majority were male (70%). Females accounted for over a quarter (28%) of suspects and there was no gender recorded for the remaining 2%.

The figure below displays the breakdown in age of suspects (at the time the offence occurred) by gender. Males aged 30-39 were the most prevalent group, accounting for just over a fifth (21%) of all suspects where age and gender were recorded. 55% of suspects were males aged between 18-49. Suspects aged under 18 accounted for 7% of all DA suspects.

Figure 80: Age (at the time of offence) and gender breakdown, where known, for unique suspects linked to at least one police recorded DA related offence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023



Additional analysis was completed on suspect records with an age of 0-15 to better understand these offences. Due to time constraints a full dip sample was not possible. Instead to give an indication of what information was pertinent a scan of a small subset of the field MO was carried out. The information reviewed showed that these offences were primarily incidents which occurred between children and members of their family, with a small number of incidents appearing to be IPV. Some incidents referenced neurodivergent or mental health related needs of the suspect. The table below shows the crime sub-type breakdown for these 1,903 offences. Violence without injury accounted for the highest proportion of all offences at 64%. Criminal damage and violence with injury each accounted for 12% of offences, indicating the inclusion of both lower and higher harm offences within this subset. The majority of suspect records were recorded as male (64%) with females accounting for 35% of offences.

Table 29: Crime sub-type breakdown for all DA related offences with a linked suspect aged 0-15 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, April 2019 - March 2023

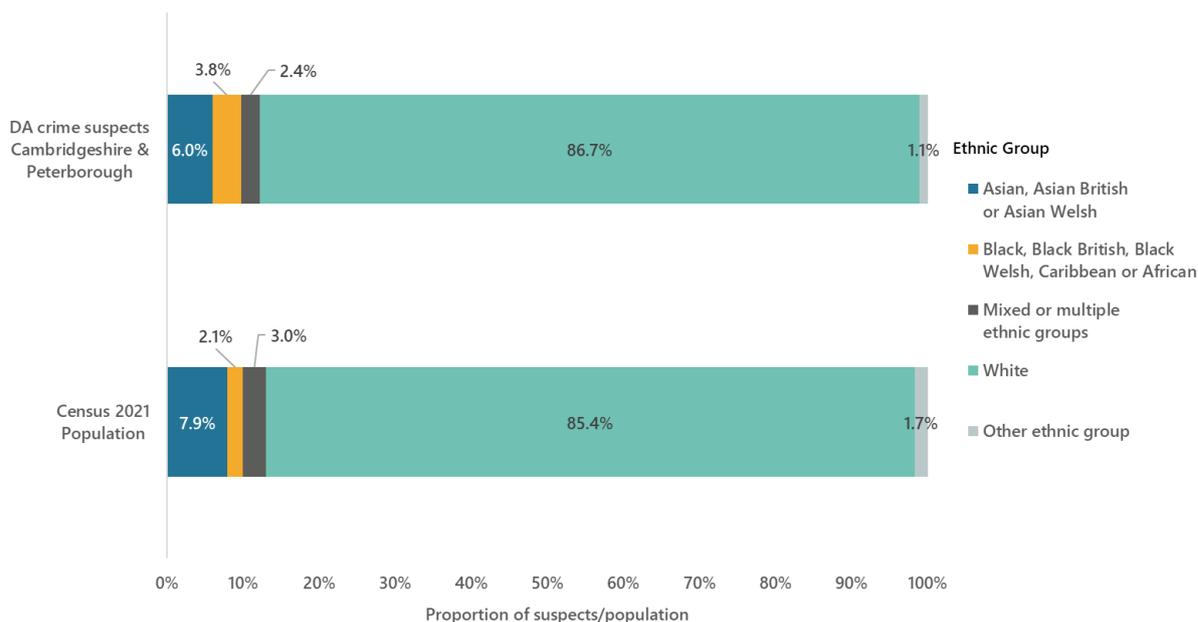
Crime Sub-type	Female % of total	Male % of total	Unknown or Unspecified % of total	% of total
Violence Without Injury	23.2%	36.8%	0.4%	60.4%
Criminal Damage	3.7%	9.9%	0.0%	13.7%
Violence With Injury	4.7%	7.7%	0.1%	12.5%
Stalking And Harassment	0.7%	1.8%	0.0%	2.6%
Rape	0.0%	2.4%	0.1%	2.4%
Other Theft	0.9%	1.4%	0.0%	2.3%
Other Sexual Offences	0.6%	1.6%	0.0%	2.2%
Misc Crimes Against Society	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	1.1%
Other Offences Public Order	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%
Public Fear, Alarm Or Distress	0.1%	0.6%	0.0%	0.7%
Theft Or Unauthorised Taking Of A Motor Vehicle	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
Theft From The Person	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
Burglary - Residential	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
Possession Of Drugs	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Arson	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Possession Of Weapons	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Bicycle Theft	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
All offences	35.1%	64.4%	0.6%	100.0%

Self-defined ethnicity was unknown (either not stated or not recorded) for over a third (35%) of unique suspects (April 2019 – March 2023). The breakdown of self-defined ethnicity for the 13,811 suspects where data was available is presented in the chart below, alongside the breakdown for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population as a whole based on 2021 census data. The majority of suspects were white (87%), with the self-defined ethnicity breakdown closely reflecting the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population.

Small differences can be seen in ethnic minority groupings such as:

- Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh accounted for smaller proportion of suspects than the general population (6% compared to 7.9% respectively).
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups accounted for a slightly smaller proportion of suspects than the general population (2.4% compared to 3% respectively).
- Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African accounted for a slightly larger proportion of suspects compared to the general population (3.8% compared to 2.1% respectively).

Figure 81: Breakdown in ethnic group for unique suspects linked to DA related offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2019 - March 2023 and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough census 2021 population count



3.12.2. Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel (DAPP)

The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel (DAPP) is a partnership led intervention to deter the most prevalent and systemic domestic abusers. Each month, a cohort of perpetrators is identified through police and partner research and subjects are scored using an RFG (Recency, Frequency, Gravity) framework which was developed by Strathclyde Police. Police and partners are also able to refer perpetrators through professional judgement, enabling anybody who is identified as posing a risk of harm to be considered for adoption. The DAPP aims to provide practical solutions to repeat DA cases. Members include local housing providers and drug and alcohol services, with the aim of addressing significant contributory factors which compound DA, as well as seeking long-term solutions to prevent repeat offending. The case should have been to MARAC but not currently be a MAPP (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) nominal.

In respect of the risk involved, the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel lies above MARAC and below MAPP. MARAC has a limited number of specialist safeguarding providers who contribute to meetings and MAPP involves a number of partners who specialise in cases where the risk involved to both individuals and the wider public is deemed to be so great that it needs an enhanced level of risk management.

Analysis of cases for which referrals came to DAPP from April 2021- March 2023 was completed for this needs assessment. The source of these referrals is shown in the table below; a majority come from police sources, however, there were some gaps in recording such that 13% were referral source unknown.

Table 30: DAPP referrals from April 2021-March 2022, by referral source

Referral Source	Count of Referrals to DAPP	%
Police (via RFG Matrix)	26	29%
Police	17	19%
Professional Judgement	16	18%
Unknown/ not recorded	13	14%
Probation	8	9%
MARAC	6	7%
Housing	1	1%
IDVA	1	1%
IDVA/Probation	1	1%
MARAC/Probation	1	1%
Vulnerability Focus Desk	1	1%

Of the total of 91 perpetrators referred to the DAPP between April 2021 and March 2023, 96% (87) were male and 4% (4) were female. The perpetrator age ranged from 17-80 years old with a median average age of 36. More perpetrators were discussed at DAPP as they were cases carried over from the previous year.

The main type of DA identified was Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) (95%, 86 cases), however, familial abuse was identified in a small proportion of cases. As such, 3 cases were recorded as a combination of both IPV and familial and 2 cases were recorded as solely familial abuse. Almost a third (31%, 28 cases) stated that there was 'Mention of strangulation/choking/hands on neck'.

Perpetrator ethnicity was recorded and while there are some gaps in recording (2% of records) it is possible to compare with the ethnic group breakdown for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole (according to the 2021 Census). This indicates that there is a lower proportion of perpetrators from the ethnic group 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh' seen by the DAPP compared to the local population. Conversely the ethnic group of 'White' is represented at a slightly higher rate at the DAPP than the local population.

Figure 82: Perpetrator ethnicity as recorded for DAPP (all cases referred from April 2021-March 2023)



In terms of victim information, there is somewhat less clarity in the data provided and some gaps in recording. Some perpetrators have multiple known victims but the recording of victim characteristics was not available for all of those victims.

The average median victim age, where recorded, was 34 years and 97% of cases (88) involved a female victim.

58% of cases recorded that children under the age of 18 were involved, however detailed age, sex or ethnicity information about these children was not available in the data provided for analysis.

Ethnicity analysis to mirror that shown for perpetrators above was carried out, however, it should be noted that there were gaps in ethnicity recording for victims which mean that not all victim ethnicities were recorded (particularly where there were multiple known victims of the perpetrator). Accurate percentages could not therefore be provided. Improvements in recording of victims data would enable more insights to be provided.

In 2022 an evaluation of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel (DAPP) was commissioned by the DASVP (Kerrs, 2022). This assessed the impact of the panel’s activities over a one-year period (April 2021-March 2022) in reducing the harm from perpetrators of domestic abuse to their victims, and so increasing the safety of those impacted by these crimes. Focus groups with professionals who attend the DAPP were also carried out as part of this research and recommendations brought forward to the DASVP. This research also included case studies shared in the DA case study section (4.3) of this report.

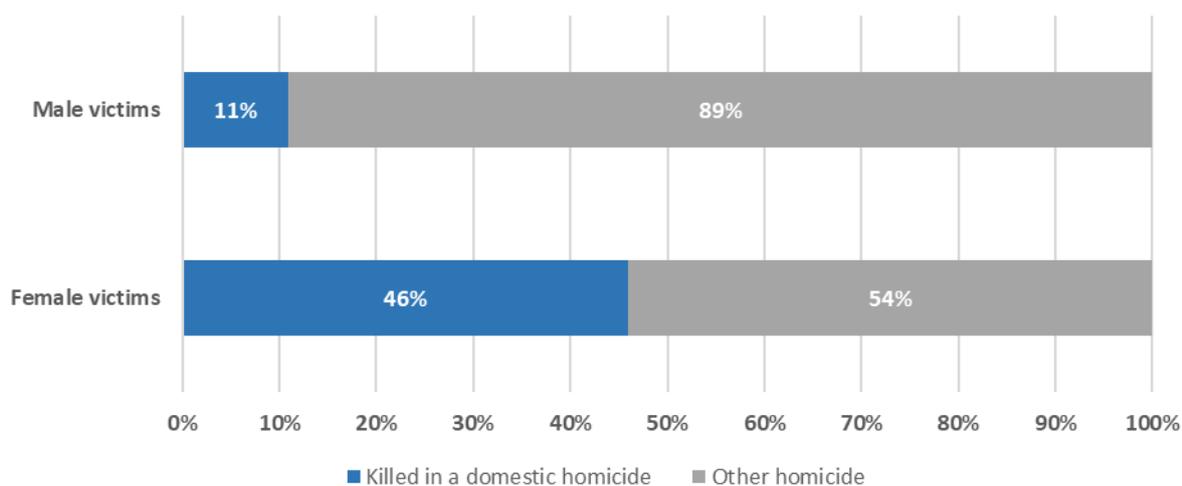
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Academic research has been published recently examining Police Strategies for Managing Serious Domestic Abuse Perpetrators in a number of police force areas. This included the area of Suffolk police force which is on the border of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (Godfrey, et al., 2023). Among the recommendations coming out of this research was the need to overcome potential gaps in offender records that occurred when offenders moved across county or police borders. The recommendations called for regional level data sharing. As participating police forces in this research are in close proximity to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough this finding should be noted. Cambridgeshire is part of a regional forum to share good practice in work to tackle domestic abuse perpetrators.

3.13. Domestic Homicide

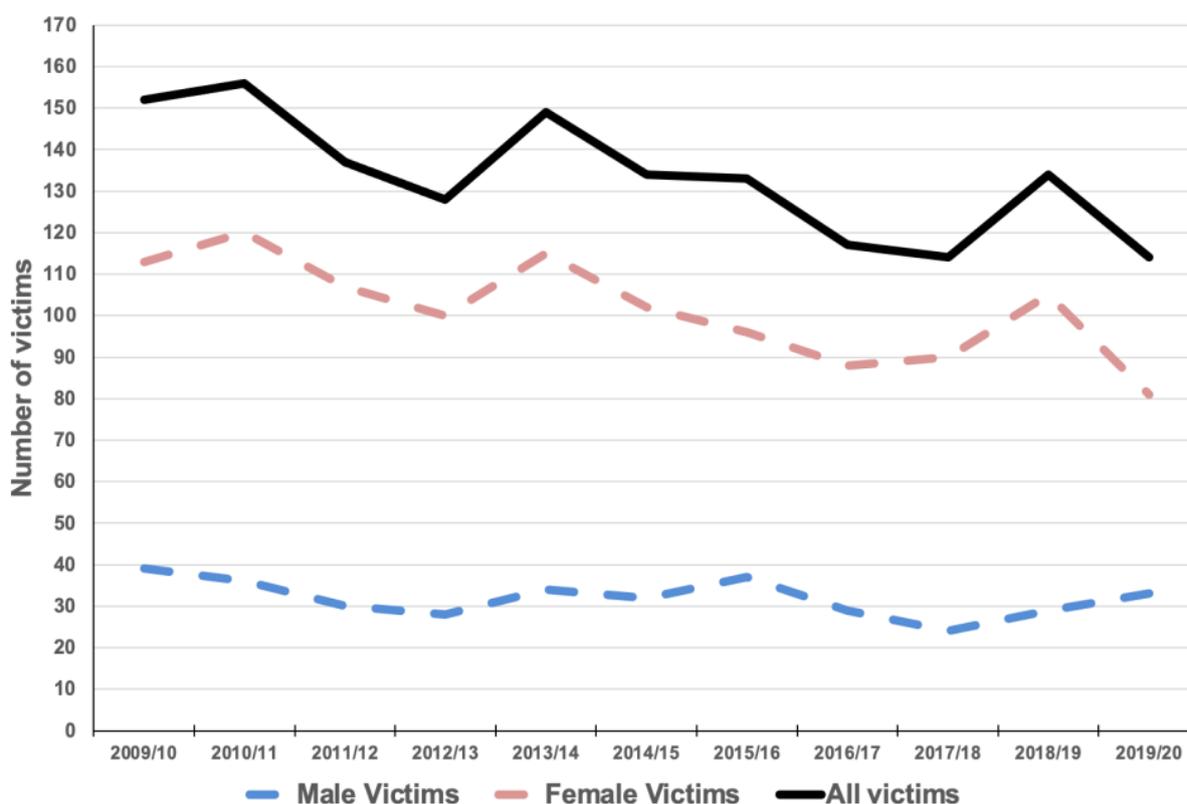
The statistics for all adult homicides in England and Wales (year ending March 2022) reflect the higher likelihood of a female homicide victim being killed in a domestic homicide, as shown in the figure below. Nearly half (46%, 84) of adult female homicide victims were killed in a domestic homicide in the year ending March 2022 (a percentage consistent with previous years).

Figure 83: Percentage of all adult homicide victims in England and Wales killed in a domestic homicide, year ending March 2022.



The national trend in domestic homicides has seen a long-term decline in the number of victims, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 84: Number of domestic homicides in England and Wales: 2009/10 to 2019/20



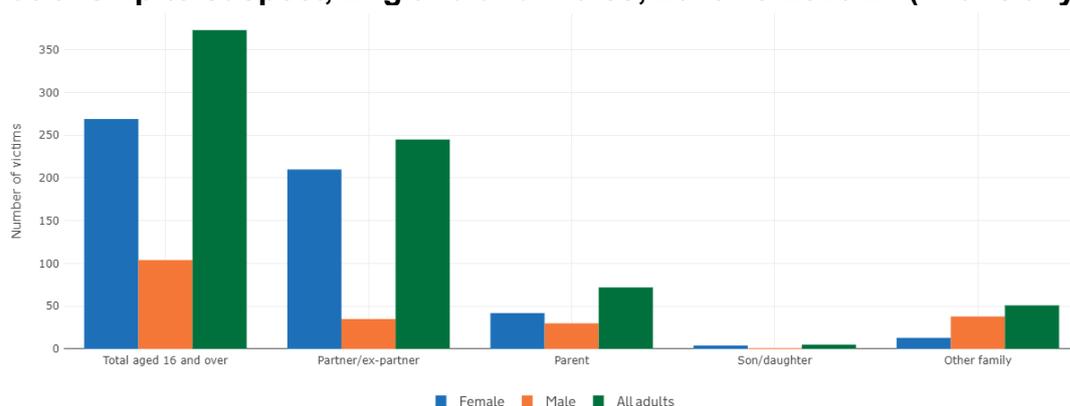
Source: Homicide in England and Wales: year ending March 2020, Office for National Statistics, appendix tables Table 12A, where domestic homicide is a category used.

In England and Wales there were a total of 373 domestic homicides (with victims age 16 and over) in the period 2018/19 to 2020/21 (year ending March).

National data for the period 2018/19 to 2020/21 (year ending March) shows that 72% of domestic homicide victims aged 16 and over were female, and 28% male (ONS, 2023e), with an average age of 48 for females and 49 for males (ONS, 2022e, p. 22a).

For female victims of domestic homicides, perpetrators were most likely to be partners or ex-partners (accounting for 78%). However, for male victims, perpetrators were most likely to be an “Other family” member (accounting for 37%), shortly followed by a partner or ex-partner (accounting for 34%).

Figure 85: Number of domestic homicides of adults aged 16 and over, by relationship to suspect, England and Wales, 2018/19-2020/21 (financial year)



Source: Domestic Abuse Dashboard (ONS, 2023e), displaying Home Office data, Table 22c (ONS, 2022e) (See technical note)

3.13.1. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Homicides

Between 2018/19 and 2022/23 there were a total of 27 domestic homicides/ suicides in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as outline in the table below.

Table 31: Domestic Homicide Typology Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2018/19-2022/23

Typology	Count	%
Homicide	13	48%
Homicide - suicide	1	4%
Suicide	12	44%
Other	1	4%
Total	27	100%

The demographics of victims of domestic homicide were as follows:

- The average age at death across all victims was 49 years with the average age for females being 46 and males 53. Victim ages ranged from 17-91 years.
- The victim gender breakdown was 59% female and 41% male; whilst 63% of suspects were male.
- When considering the victim – suspect relationship for this period, there were 70% which were intimate partner and 30% familial.
- Victim sexuality was recorded with 93% being heterosexual; however, sexuality data was not recorded for a large proportion of perpetrators.
- Ethnic group / ethnicity of victims was not recorded in detail and with consistency in terminology.

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The victim first language was routinely recorded in this dataset and showed a majority had English as their first language, however Lithuanian and Polish also featured. The perpetrator first language information was not shared in this data.

Table 32: Victim first language. Domestic Homicide Victims Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2018/19-2022/23

Victim First Language	Count of Victims	% of Victims
English	22	81%
Lithuanian	3	11%
Polish	1	4%
Not stated	1	4%

Specific analysis of the suicides included in the figures above showed that:

- South Cambridgeshire has the highest prevalence of domestic abuse related suicides in the county, accounting for 42% of which equates to 5 out of the 12 cases.
- All 12 suicides in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were intimate partner.
- In 7 out of 12 cases the abusive partner was female, and the remaining 5 were male.

DHRs are multi-agency reviews into the deaths of adults which may have resulted from violence or abuse; by a person to whom they were related or with whom they had an intimate relationship, or where they were a member of the same household. Since 2016, these include those who have died by suicide and there is information/evidence to suggest that they were subjected to DA. It is the statutory responsibility of Community Safety Partnerships to commission DHRs in accordance with the guidance (Home Office, 2016).

A thematic review of all DHRs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been published, this report encompassed domestic homicides/suicides which took place between August 2011 and February 2021 (DASV Partnership Team, 2022). This report has been produced by the DASV Partnership to provide an overview of a decade of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and to identify themes and similarities that have arisen. It includes key findings and recommendations to help inform future strategies and policies.

More recently, a research project was commissioned by the DASVP in 2021/22; a Lithuanian DHR project to help understand why Lithuanian females were more likely to suffer a DA related death in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight, 2022).

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The following themes were identified upon review of the DHRs relating to Lithuanian victims:

- English as a second language and varying language barriers
- Access to translation
- Challenges with basic information about victims
- Gaps in knowledge about life prior to entry to the UK
- Employment
- Trips back to Lithuania
- Housing circumstances
- Immigration status concerns as a barrier to engagement with support
- Fear of police intervention

The areas for follow-up or further questions emerging from these themes are summarised below.

- There may be an opportunity to raise DA awareness via settings where English language learning is offered.
- Can the partnership be assured that interventions with perpetrators are available where their English is not proficient?
- The offer or provision of translated written forms of information (such as information leaflets or forms) were also not generally described; understanding this could help check for gaps in translated information for potential victims in future
- With gaps in knowledge about life prior to entry to the UK, it may prove harder to assess risk or need for each victim.
- There is opportunity to improve domestic abuse awareness in the workplace.
- Because trips back to Lithuania were a common feature among victims, there may be value in exploring links with DA support services in Lithuania, or resources originating from Lithuania, to complement local resources in the UK.

3.14. So Called Honour Based Abuse (SCHBA) and forced marriage

3.14.1. National picture

So called honour-based abuse (SCHBA) includes any form of abuse where the perpetrator is motivated by the defence of “honour”. It can manifest in many different ways, including but not limited to; forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), honour-killings, abandonment, and breast-flattening (UK Parliament, 2023).

Whilst there is currently no statutory definition of SCHBA, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) defines it as: “an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or

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defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour" (CPS, 2019b). Some, however, have expressed concerns that the definition does not "sufficiently capture the breadth of honour-based abuse, provide sufficient content about the motivations of perpetrators and the challenges faced by victims, or recognise that honour based abuse is often a course of conduct or pattern rather than a single incident", which can have implications for juries and judges on cases involving SCHBA (UK Parliament, 2023).

Karma Nirvana (a specialist charity for victims and survivors of Honour Based Abuse) defines Honour Based Abuse as:

"Any incident or pattern of controlling; coercive; manipulative; intimidating; or threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse perpetrated by one or more family, extended family, and/or community members and/or current/former intimate partners in response to perceived or alleged transgressions of accepted behaviours. While most often perpetrated against women and girls, anyone can experience honour-based abuse regardless of age, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, or gender, including men and boys.

It can encompass but is not limited to:

Psychological, emotional, physical, sexual, spiritual and faith-related, economic, financial, and hate-aggravated abuse; forced marriage; female genital mutilation; abduction; isolation; threats; murder; and other acts of domestic abuse. People living in the context of an honour dynamic face additional barriers to their ability to speak out against and report abuse for fear of repercussions including further and more severe abuse; shame; stigma; and being shunned/ostracised." (Karma Nirvana, 2023a).

The number of offences tagged as involving honour-based abuse in England and Wales has been increasing over the last few years (see home office statistics (2023d)). A 9% increase in police recorded offences marked as HBA was seen in 2021/22 in England and Wales (excluding Devon and Cornwall Police), compared to the previous year. The following year (2022/23), saw a further 1% increase reaching 2,905 offences. Of these, 3% involved FGM, and 6% involved forced marriage (Home Office, 2023c). A third of these FGM offences were reported under the mandatory reporting duty for FGM (Home Office, 2023c).

Further analysis of FGM can be found in section 2.9 above.

"Forced marriage" is defined as follows:

"A forced marriage is a marriage that takes place without the full and free consent of both parties. Force can include physical force, as well as being pressurised emotionally, being threatened or being a victim of psychological abuse. Forced marriages are not the same as arranged marriages. In an

arranged marriage families take the lead in selecting a marriage partner but the couple have the free will and choice to accept or decline the arrangement.”

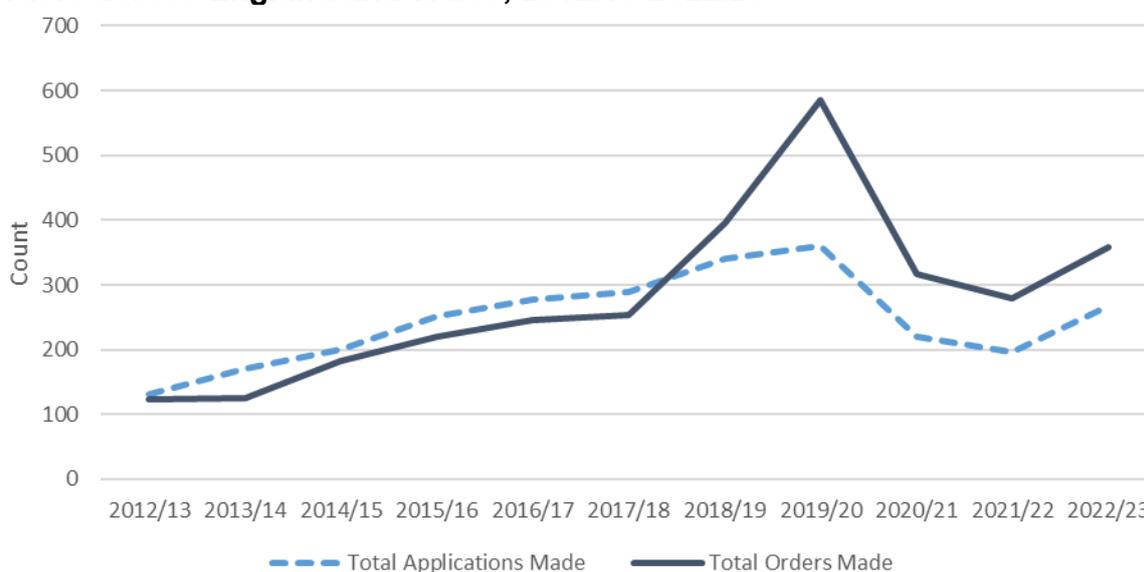
Source: (HM Courts & Tribunals Service , 2020)

There were 302 cases of possible forced marriages and/or possible FGM dealt with by the Forced Marriage Unit in 2022 (FMU; run by the Home Office and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office) in 2022. Victims were most likely to be under 26 (68%); to be British Nationals (74%); and to be female (78%). 29% were younger than 18, and 22% were male (Home Office, & Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, 2023).

A Forced Marriage Protection Order is a legal mechanism that aims to protect the person who has been, or is being, forced into marriage. The court can make an order in an emergency to put protection in place immediately.

Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs) are recorded at a low volume nationally but since they were introduced in November 2008 there has been a long-term increase in protection orders (and applications). This increase may be attributed to better awareness of forced marriage and avenues of support for victims. The ministry of justice notes that newly compulsory health and relationship education in state-funded schools in England (since 2020) should have also improved awareness of forced marriage in recent years (Ministry of Justice , 2023). Local figures for FMPOs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were not available at the time of writing.

Figure 86: Applications and orders made for Forced Marriage Protection Orders across England and Wales, 2012/13-2022/23



Source: Ministry of Justice (2023)

Nationally, the most common crime types in 2022/23 marked as so-called honour based abuse (SCHBA), were controlling and coercive behaviour (19%), followed by assault with injury (at 16%), and assault without injury (12%) (see full breakdown in Table 33).

Table 33: Percentage of national offences involving so called 'honour-based' abuse recorded by the police, by offence category, England and Wales (excluding Devon and Cornwall Police), April 2022 - March 2023

Offence category	Percentage
Controlling and coercive behaviour	19
Assault with injury	16
Assault without injury	12
Threats to kill	9
Kidnapping	8
Malicious communications	6
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	6
Stalking	6
Harassment	4
Cruelty to children/young persons	2
Public fear, alarm or distress	1
All other offences	10
Total	100

Source: Table 4 in Statistics on so called 'Honour-based' abuse offences, England and Wales, 2020 to 2021 (Home Office, 2023c).

Note: Numbers may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Karma Nirvana (a specialist charity for victims and survivors of Honour Based Abuse) publish data on total contacts to their National Honour Based Abuse helpline for inclusion in this assessment. Karma Nirvana reported that 9,616 contacts were made to it's helpline in 2022/23, in reference to 2,346 cases. Of these cases, 417 involved individuals facing forced marriage. 210 cases involved children aged between 1 and 17, of which 192 were girls and of which 82 were at risk of child marriage (Karma Nirvana, 2023b).

Half of the 2,162 cases (where information was available on the reason for contact) involved individuals who were either experiencing SCHBA, forced marriage, or child marriage at the time of their initial contact, and 14% of cases "were facing the immediate risk of a forced marriage". 39% of cases were calling following having fled from SCHBA, DA, forced marriage or child marriage. Many cited multiple factors prompting them to make contact (Karma Nirvana, 2023b).

Of the 1,343 cases where they gave information on the trigger of their abuse, Karma Nirvana reported most individuals cited that the primary trigger for the abuse they were experiencing was a history of SCHBA in the family. 17% of cases cited wanting to end their marriage as being a trigger; and 83 cases reported experiencing SCHBA specifically due to being LGBTQ+. 16% of cases disclosed that they had experienced abuse (Karma Nirvana, 2023b).

Of the 888 cases where information was available on the barriers they had experienced in disclosing their abuse, 64% cited that they were scared of the repercussions from their abusers; 16% said they were afraid of compromising their

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immigration status; and 13% were afraid to bring shame or dishonour onto their family. Just under a third (31%) said they did not know their rights if they were to disclose their abuse (Karma Nirvana, 2023b).

Of the 1,883 cases in which callers identified the perpetrators, around half (49%) were the victim's partner. In cases where perpetrators were familial, both their mother and father were cited as perpetrators in 60% of cases. The father was named as the sole perpetrator in 10% of cases; with the mother the sole perpetrator in 6% of cases. Other perpetrators cited included in-laws, siblings, grandparents, and members of the community (Karma Nirvana, 2023b).

Concerns/Unresolved issues

Research by Karma Nirvana (based on responses from 130 of 224 local authorities in the UK) indicated that as of September 2021, only 22% of local authorities have the system capability to tag Children's Social Care case files as involving or being at risk of SCHBA; with some using instead the definition of "abuse linked to faith or belief" (Karma Nirvana, 2022).

Karma Nirvana have expressed several concerns surrounding the recording and reporting of SCHBA. One being that the DARA risk assessment form being rolled out nationally excludes any screening questions on SCHBA, despite it being included on the DASH risk assessment. Another was regarding the separation between the reporting of DA and SCHBA by ONS; and the lack of inclusion of SCHBA in the DA crime survey undertaken by ONS (Karma Nirvana, 2022). Another organisation; "Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) found that in 2020, half (50%) of Children's Social Services departments were not recording child marriages. They also report, amongst other issues, a lack of refuge availability for victims, particularly those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) (IKWRO, 2022).

A report by Parliament stressed the need for a statutory definition, as well as better and more consistent training on the topic across various organisations such as police forces and schools (UK Parliament, 2023).

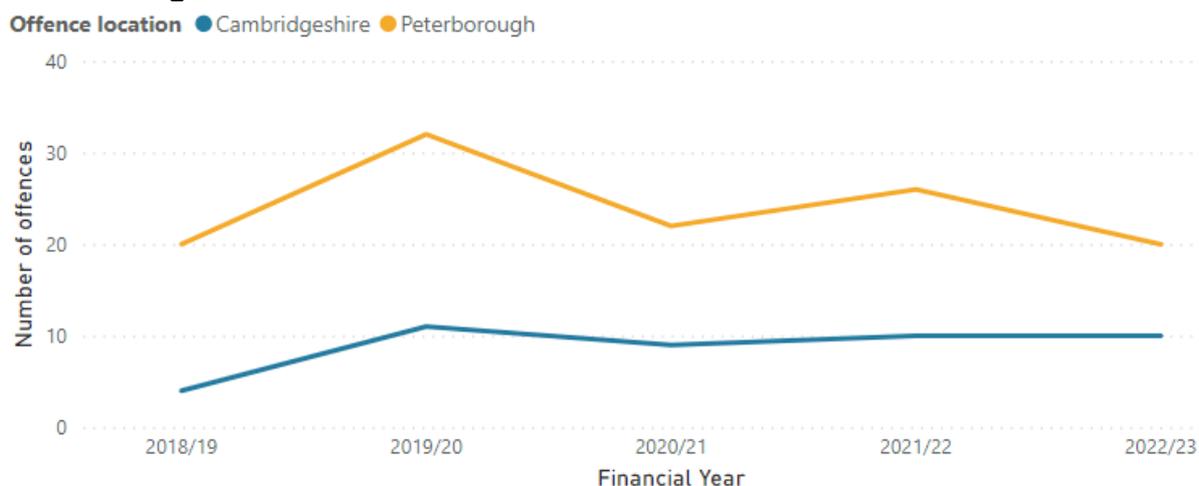
3.14.2. Police recorded Honour-Based Abuse (HBA) marker crimes/keyword crimes

The annual count of HBA related offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has ranged between a low of 24 and a high of 43 over the past five financial years. As shown in the table and figure below, police recorded data is not showing year-on-year increases locally. Peterborough has consistently had a higher number of HBA related offences compared to Cambridgeshire between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

Table 34: Police recorded HBA offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, from 2018/19 to 2022/23

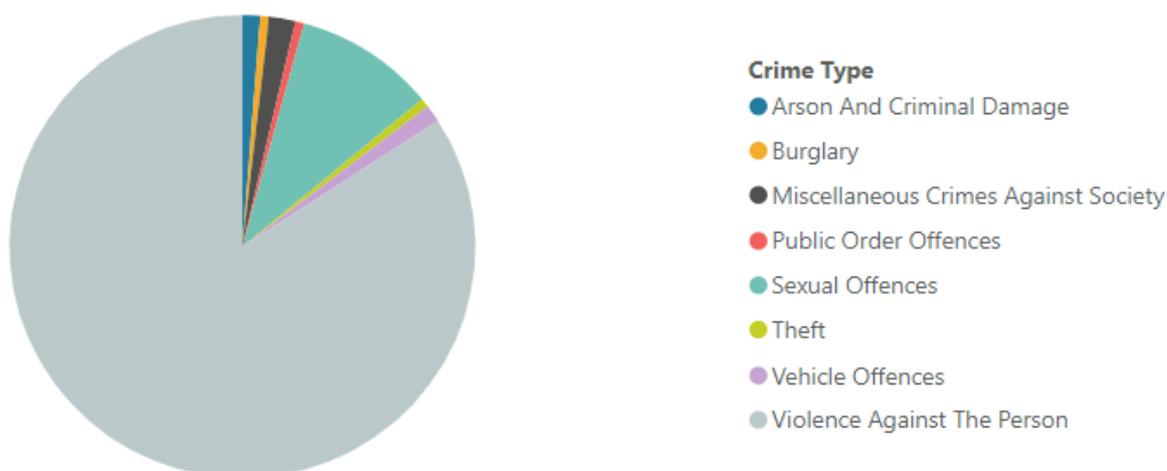
Geography	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Cambridgeshire	<5	11	9	10	10	44
Peterborough	20	32	22	26	20	120
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	24	43	31	36	30	164

Figure 87: Trend in police recorded crime in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough marked as HBA from 2018/19 to 2022/23



As shown in Figure 88, the most common crime type marked as HBA was Violence Against the Person (84%), followed by Sexual Offences (10%).

Figure 88: Police recorded crimes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough marked as HBA, by crime type, 2018/19 - 2022/23 (financial year)



A key word search was carried on offences between the financial years 2018/19 and 2022/23, using the terms “HBV”, “HBA”, “Honour”, and “Honor” to help assess the extent to which SCHBA crime are being marked. Of the 19 incidents that were returned, 3 were not SCHBA crimes. Of the remaining 16 incidents, 12 had been

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marked as an honour-based incidents (75%). The fact that a quarter of these offences had not been marked as HBA related raises concerns about the reliability with which the marker is being applied and therefore potential undercounting of prevalence. This reflects concerns raised nationally about the recording of SCHBA.

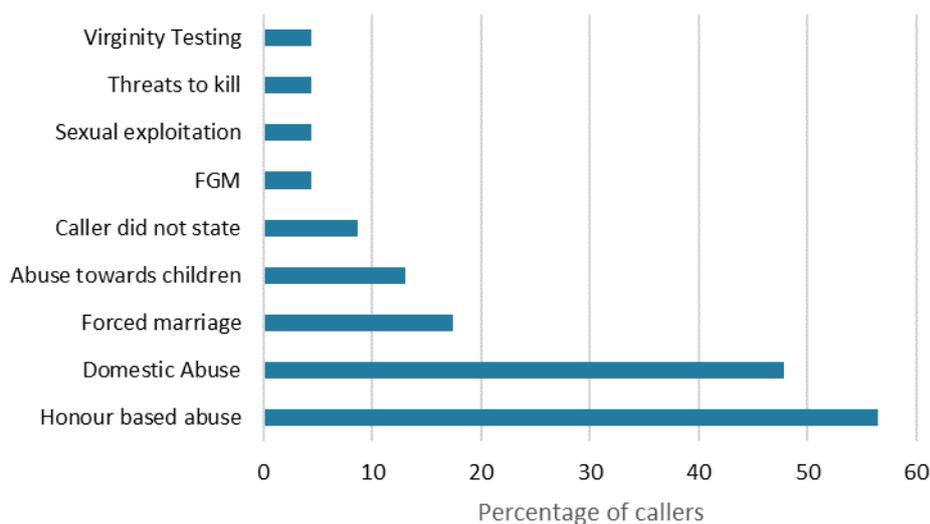
3.14.3. Karma Nirvana local data

Karma Nirvana have provided data on contacts to their national helpline from the Cambridgeshire area. This gives some indication of the local picture of so-called Honour Based Abuse (SCHBA). It should be noted however that these figures are limited to what callers to the helpline have consented to sharing and does not reflect the true scale of SCHBA in the UK.

Of the victims being supported by Karma Nirvana in 2022/23, 23 were living in Cambridgeshire. Close to three quarters (74%) of these referrals were made by professionals, mostly by voluntary services (accounting for 44% of professional referrals). Organisation-wide, police and children's services make the most referrals to Karma Nirvana after voluntary services, however, no referrals were made by Cambridgeshire police.

The most commonly cited abuse types cited were Honour Based Abuse (57%) and Domestic Abuse (48%) (see Figure 89); with a high proportion of callers citing multiple kinds of abuse.

Figure 89: Nature of abuse cited by callers to Karma Nirvana, by percentage of cases in Cambridgeshire, April 2022 - March 2023



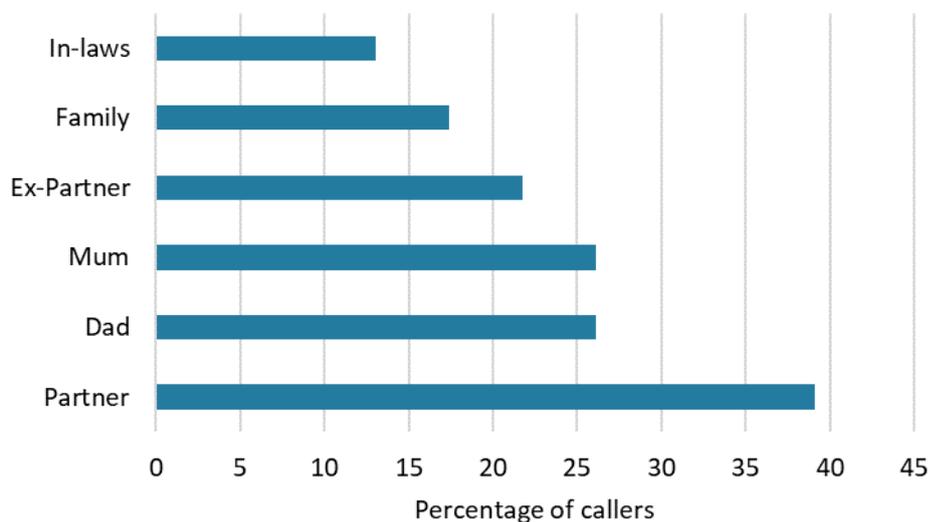
Note: Percentage totals will exceed 100% due to victims experiencing multiple types of abuse.

Source: Karma Nirvana

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Perpetrators were most likely to be the victim's partner (39%), followed by the victim's parents. Other perpetrators included the victim's ex-partner, family, and in-laws. A high percentage of callers cited multiple perpetrators.

Figure 90: Perpetrator of abuse, by percentage of Karma Nirvana cases in Cambridgeshire, April 2022 - March 2023

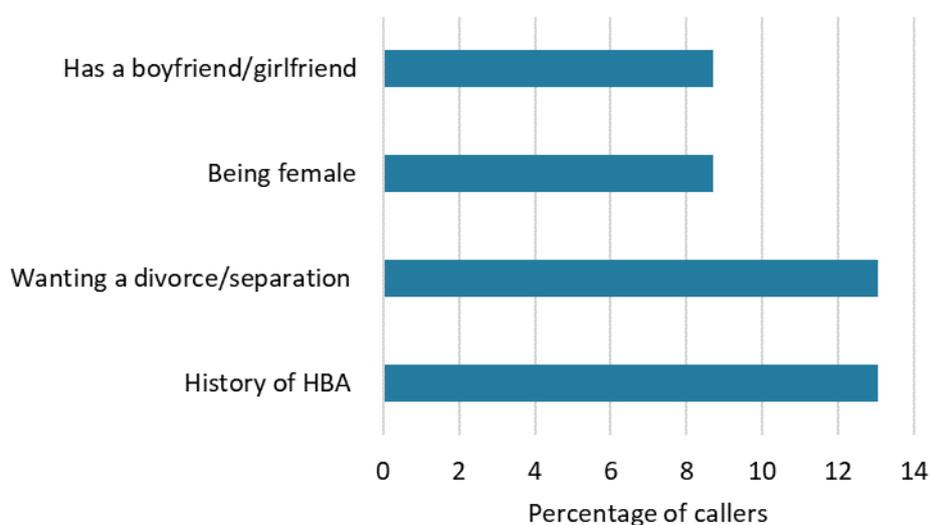


Note: Percentage totals will exceed 100% due to victims experiencing abuse from multiple perpetrators.

Source: Karma Nirvana

The most common triggers for the abuse cited by callers included wanting a divorce or separation and having a history of so-called Honour Based Abuse (see Figure 91).

Figure 91: Honour Based Abuse triggers cited by Cambridgeshire callers to Karma Nirvana, April 2022 - March 2023



4. Specialist Services for Victims and Survivors of Domestic abuse and Sexual Violence

The following section outlines the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough partnership arrangements to respond to sexual violence and domestic abuse. It contains information of the number of victims seen through the Victim and Witness Hub and the commissioned specialist services (those services specifically commissioned to deliver interventions and support to victims of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence). Whilst this information is useful there are a number of caveats to be aware of. Over time service may develop the offer, change capacity and in some cases threshold of their service. Therefore, increases in numbers supported does not necessarily correlate to increases in demand. The availability of grants and even measures to mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic are also factors that may have affected service delivery over the recent period.

In terms of completeness there are a number of data fields from service providers where substantial gaps exist such as ethnicity. These are highlighted throughout analysis in order for caution to be taken when drawing conclusions.

It should also be noted that there are a number of services available nationally that might support victims and survivors, for which data is not currently available.

4.1.1. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – The local picture

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have an existing partnership (DASV partnership) that is made up of key agencies in the county that have a role in preventing, and providing services and support to survivors of, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

These key partners form the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Board. The Board is responsible for producing and updating the Strategy and Action Plan for domestic abuse services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough including the DA Safe Accommodation Strategies for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Partnership has commissioned this needs assessment.

Cambridgeshire County Council host the posts of Partnership Manager and Partnership Support Officer as well as the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory service (IDVAS). Peterborough City Council hosts a DA Officer post. The IDVA service and DASVP works across both authority areas.

The key aim of the Partnership is to “reduce the harm, risks and costs associated with domestic abuse and sexual violence and to prevent these crimes occurring across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.”

The Partnership is responsible for:

- Commissioning refuge places, safe accommodation and mobile advocacy outreach support and target hardening (i.e. improve victim security in their home).
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVAs)

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- Awareness raising
- Training for professionals
- Co-ordinating Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)
- Co-ordinating Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

There are a number of specialist services for those who have or are experiencing domestic abuse and/or sexual violence. There is an integrated model of support services which includes support via the Victim and Witness Hub. Services include.

- Medium and high risk victims of domestic abuse who are supported by the Independent Domestic Abuse Advisers (IDVAs)
- Specialist IDVAs to support children and young people, those from A8 countries and other ethnic minorities, those with housing needs, victims of stalking and a specialist IDVA working with the out of court disposal team.
- Medium risk victims of domestic abuse who were supported by the third sector based Outreach Workers until June 2022.
- Survivors of rape and serious sexual assault (acute and historical) who are supported by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership
- Victims of historic abuse – who are supported by specialist commissioned services such as Choices.
- Countywide Support Service for victims of sexual abuse/violence (delivered by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership) – who provide an all-age and sex emotional support and an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser service to victims and survivors of acute and historical cases of sexual abuse and violence
- Cambridgeshire Outreach Service (delivered by DASS) – who provide safeguarding and support to victims of domestic abuse and a self-referral pathway for all domestic abuse victims
- 24/7 Locks provide target hardening services to victims of domestic abuse.
- Local third sector services/ groups provide support for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. For example; One Voice for Travellers; Cambridge Women's Aid; Meadows Children and Family Centre.

Figure 92: Domestic Abuse Services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

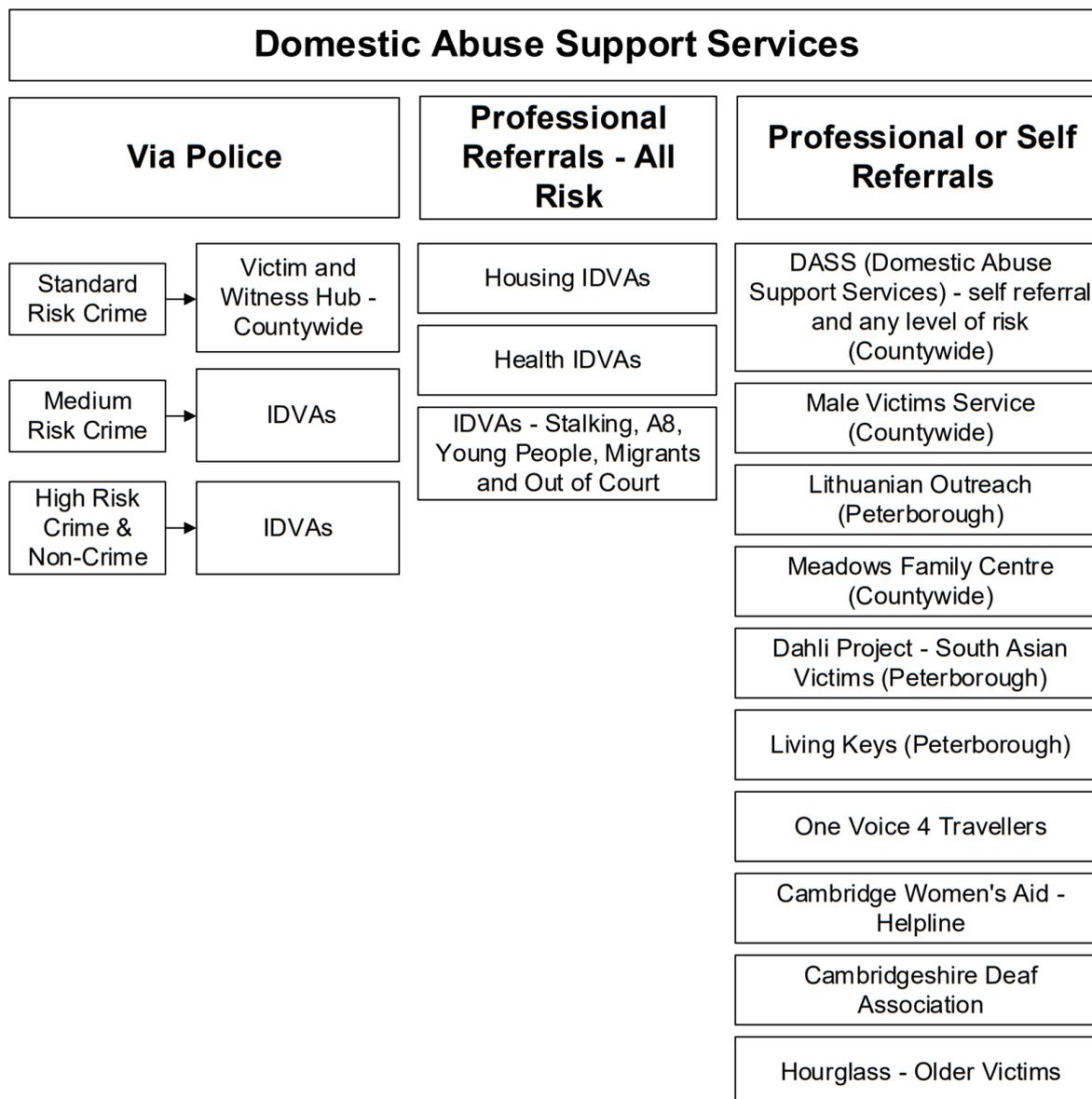
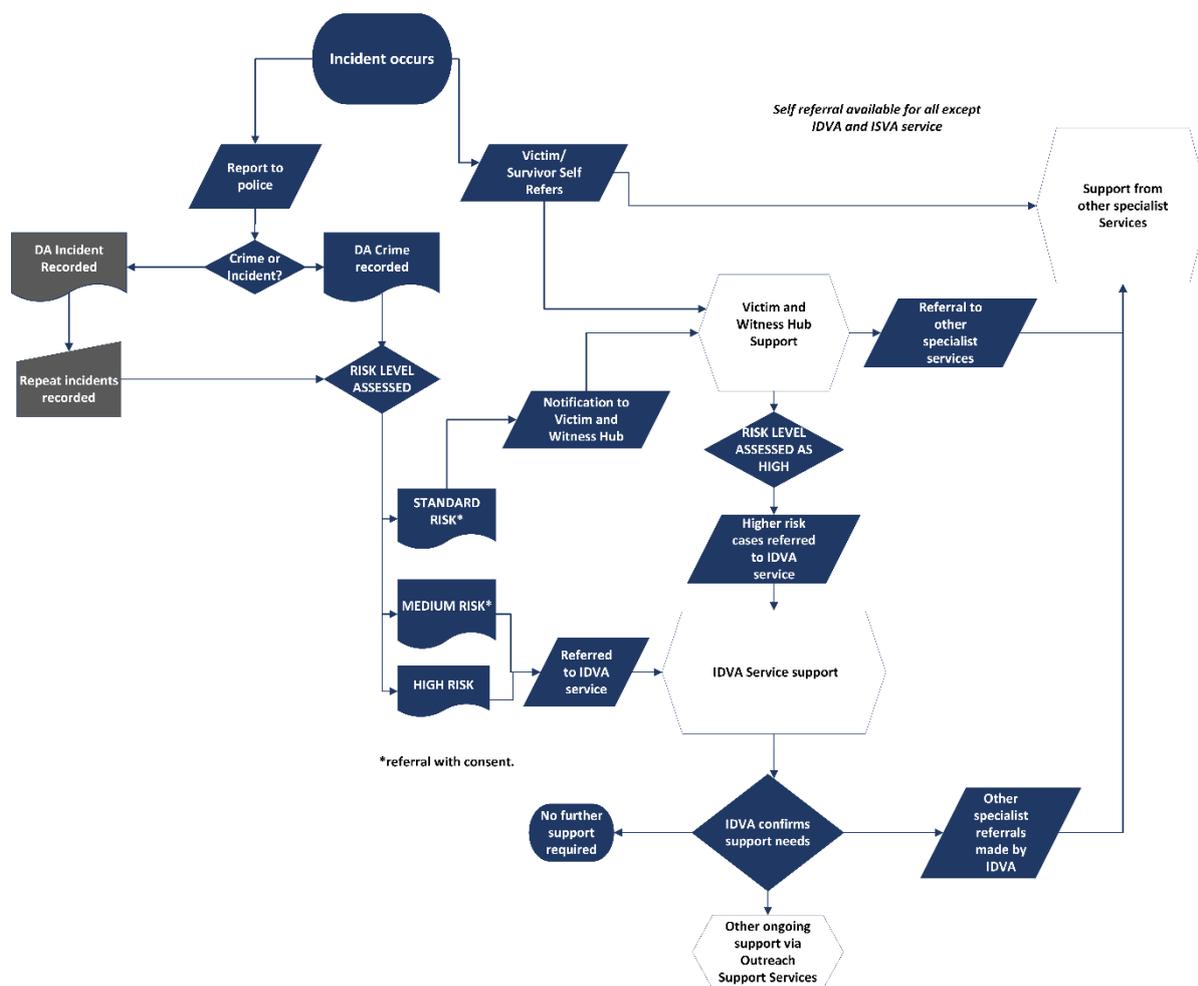


Figure 93: Flow-chart showing response and referral routes for Domestic Abuse Crimes and Incidents



4.1.2. Victim and Witness Hub

The Victim and Witness Hub is a free confidential service which provide emotional and practical support to victims or witnesses to a crime in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The service aims to help them cope and recover from the impact. It offers support to victims from the time of the offence, through any subsequent police investigation or court proceedings and beyond, as per the needs of the individual. The hub can provide referrals to specialist services and provide support for victims of domestic abuse that are assessed as standard risk.

The Victims and Witness Hub supports standard risk victims of domestic abuse. The table shows the available data for the last three financial years. However, it should be noted that the low number given for 2020/21 is due to data only being available for the second half of the year.

Table 35: Number of victims supported in a period and victims referred from previous period, 2020/21 – 2022/23

Year	Number of Victims supported in the period	Number of victims referred from previous period
2022/23	809	44
2021/22	713	65
2020/21 (October to March only)	411	31 (referred before 1 st October)

Specialist Victim Support Services

In addition to the core victim support provided through a range of services including adults and children’s social care and the Victim and Witness Hub a large number of victims are also supported through specialist services which are tailored to specific needs. Some of these services are co-located with the Victim and Witness Hub whilst others are external. Funding arrangements also vary with some services being statutory, others mainstream funding through specific organisations and others have a mixed funding model.

It should be noted whilst considering these figures that it is possible for survivors/ victims to be supported by one or more service. There may be unmet demand outside of these figures and service specific changes such as thresholds or staffing capacity will have an impact on the number of individuals supported.

There are currently a total of 40 refuge beds in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as outlined in the figure below. Further information regarding refuge accommodation can be found within the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, available online at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Strategic Documents \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://cambsdasv.org.uk).

Table 36: Refuge beds in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Refuge	Beds
Peterborough Women’s Aid	8
Cambridge Women’s Aid	11
Refuge Fenland	12
Refuge Mid-Cambs	9
Total	40

Figure 94: Sexual Violence (include child sexual abuse) services funded through Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner and the number of victims supported by each service for 2022/23

Sexual Violence (include child sexual abuse) services funded through Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner	
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Rape Crises Partnership (CAPRCP) (This includes the work delivered by ISVAs)</p> <p>Total number of survivors supported in 2022/23 Adults = 1,330 Children = 706</p>	<p>Choices</p> <p>Support for adult victims of childhood sexual abuse.</p> <p>Total number of survivors supported in 2022/23 = 51</p>

Figure 95: Domestic abuse services funded through Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner; number of victims supported by service for 2022/23

Domestic abuse services funded through Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner	
One Voice	The Meadows Children and Family Wing
Community-based support for members of the Gypsy and Traveller community experiencing domestic abuse.	Wide ranging community support for victims of domestic abuse and their families including delivery of Freedom programme
Total number of survivors supported in 2022/23 = 66	Total number of survivors supported in 2022/23 = 155 83 new victims plus an additional 72 existing victims
Domestic Abuse support delivered through Women’s Aid Peterborough	Cambridge Women’s Resources Centre (CWRC)
Early intervention domestic abuse worker based in with Women's Aid providing telephone based advice and guidance for standard and medium risk victims in Peterborough only. This service also accepts self referrals.	CWRC is a community support group that offers a range of services including the Birth as a Medium for Change (BAM4Change)-Cambridgeshire supporting pregnant women who have experienced domestic abuse, sexual abuse and victims of crime.
Total victims support in 2022/23 = 420	Total number of victims supported in 2022/23 = 113 77 new referrals and 36 existing victims
This was through several funding streams and included specialist support to Lithuanian victims. As well as short term outreach.	
Cambridgeshire Deaf Association	Hourglass
Wide ranging community support for victims of domestic abuse and their families including delivery of Freedom programme	<5 survivors supported in 2022/23
Total victims supported in 2022/23 = 12	This reflects time taken to recruit staff and service delivery started towards the end of the year
Funding from local authority and overseen by OPCC	

Note numbers for IDVA posts and medium risk are not listed here as they are shown in the section that covers the whole of the IDVA service as the funding from the OPCC in 2022/23 included only the following; ethnic minority IDVA, Stalking IDVA, three young people's IDVA and a senior IDVA.)

4.1.3. Demographics of service users 2022/23 funded by OPCC

Given the low numbers seen by some services the demographic information has been grouped into either domestic abuse or sexual violence. Whilst within the definition of domestic abuse there can be an element of sexual violence. For the purposes of reporting service demand the Ministry of Justice uses these two broad categories and for simplicity this report will do the same.

It should be noted that some of the individuals are likely to be counted in different subsection of this analysis. If they feature in the return provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and with the data supplied directly by service providers.

Figure 96: Gender breakdown where known for OPCC returns by service type (not stated <1%)

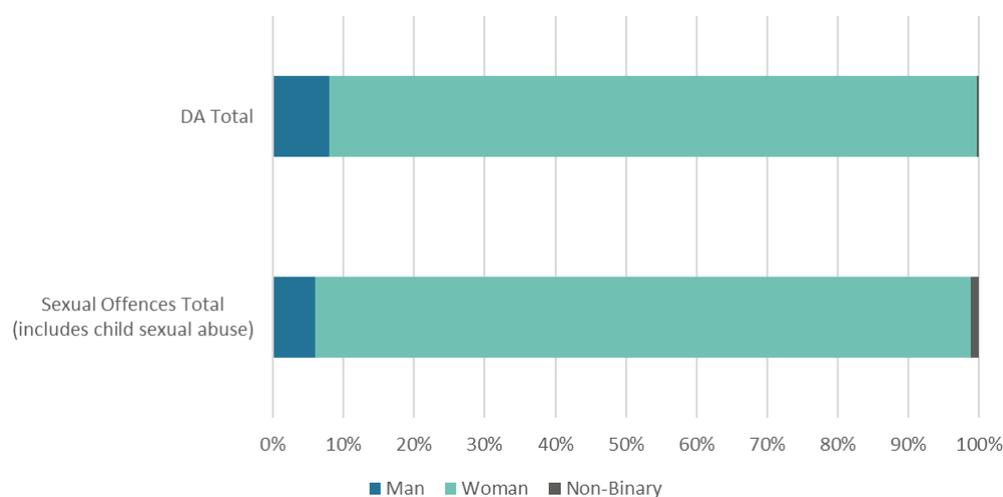


Figure 97: Age breakdown where known for OPCC returns by service type (not stated 5%)

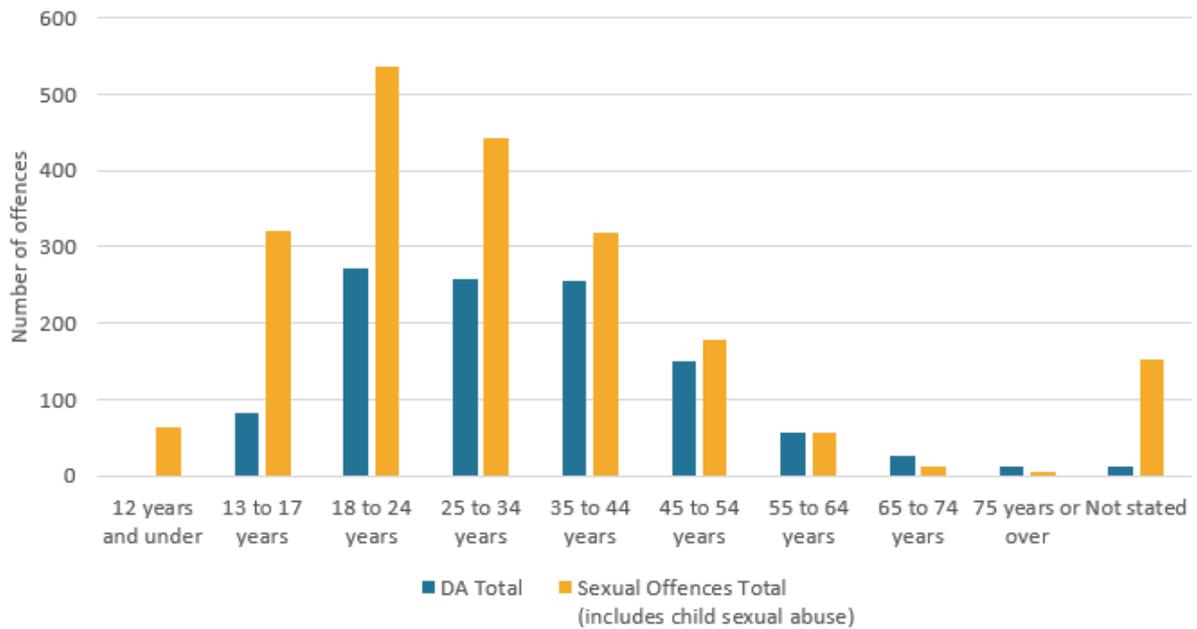


Figure 98: Sexual orientation breakdown where known for OPCC returns for DA services only (not stated DA 2%, not stated sexual offences 64%)

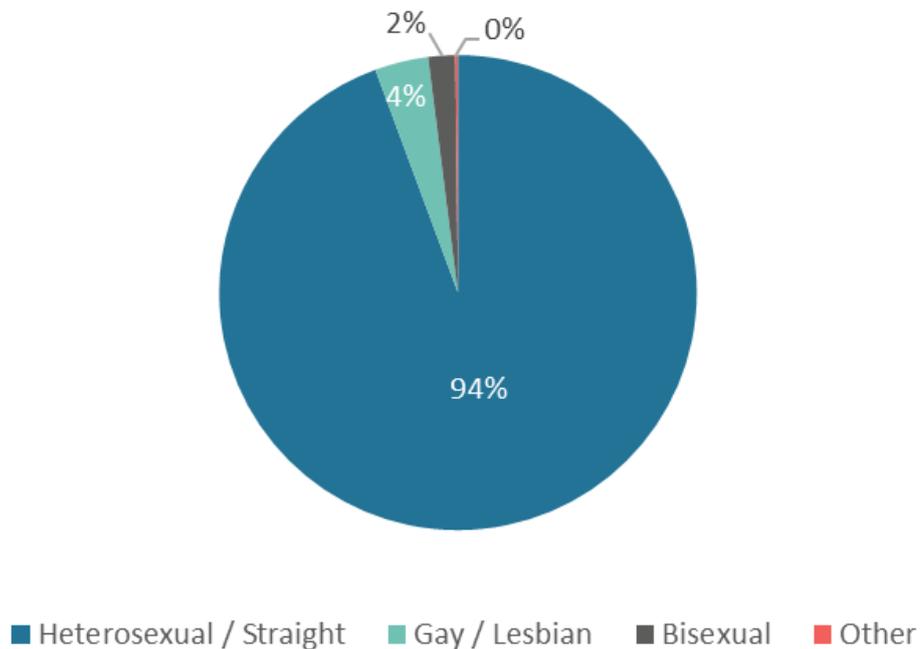


Figure 99: Ethnic breakdown where known for OPCC returns by service type (not stated 26%, not stated DA 2%, not stated sexual offences 39%)

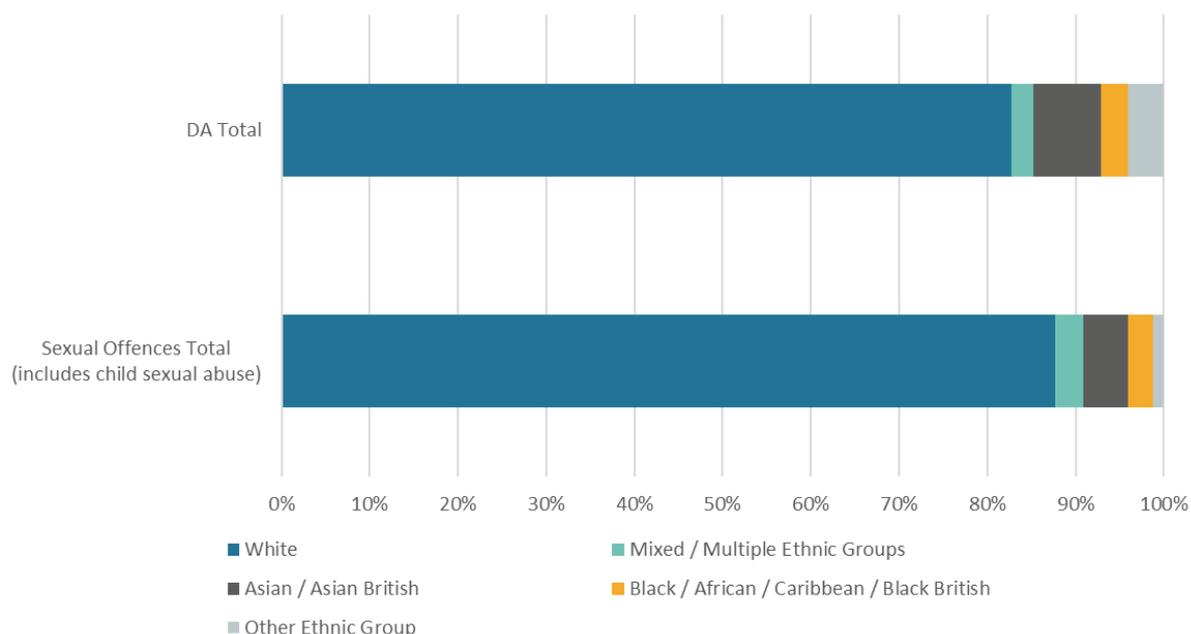


Table 37: 2021/22-2022/23 Refuge referrals accepted each quarter

Service Provider	2021/22	2022/23
Cambridge Women’s Aid	32	35
Refuge	31	24
Peterborough Women’s Aid	31	14
Total Referrals*	94	73

*Individual women counted

Operational changes from 2021/22 – 2022/23 from June 2022 onwards Medium risk victims of crime were referred to the IDVA service for support (where they gave consent). Previously these were notifications to outreach services who had no obligation to follow up on each case. This is with the exception of medium risk victims in Peterborough who were linked to OPCC funded services. In October 2022 a single outreach service was commissioned across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Table 38: 2021-22 Outreach clients supported each quarter

Service Provider	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Cambridge Women’s Aid	233	172	189	143	737
Refuge	52	37	40	38	167
Peterborough Women’s Aid	242	235	155	-	1058

Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)

The Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) team are based at the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) at Police Headquarters in Huntingdon and at the Victim's and Witness Hub in Peterborough. The IDVA team works across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. IDVA's provide an independent service offering crisis (short term) intervention and support to high-risk victims of domestic abuse and individuals assessed as medium risk where they have experienced a domestic abuse related crime. The data here is likely to reflect changes in capacity where additional IDVA posts have been added over time.

There are also a number of specialist IDVAs who take referrals at all risk levels:

- Young People's IDVAs work with 13-19 year olds who are experiencing abuse in their own intimate relationships (up to 24 if they have a diagnosed learning or physical disability or mental health issue, or where they are ex-LAC).
- A8 IDVAs work with victims and survivors from Eastern European A8 countries.
- Health IDVAs support a range of health services.
- The Housing IDVAs work with local Housing Needs Advice teams and Housing Associations and also support clients accommodated in safe dispersed accommodation across the county.
- The Ethnic Minority IDVA works with victims who identify as Black or a Minority Ethnicity.
- Stalking specialist IDVAs.

Table 39: IDVA referrals Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2020/21-2022/23

Area and referral type	Total IDVA referrals 2020/21	Total IDVA referrals 2021/22	Total IDVA referrals 2022/23
Cambridgeshire subtotal	1383	1348	1785
High risk Cambs district referrals	921	949	1202
Health Cambs	91	60	219
CYP Cambs	176	166	128
A8 Cambs	195	173	156
Housing Cambs	-	-	80
Peterborough subtotal	827	886	876
High Risk Peterborough referrals	480	486	519
Health Peterborough	44	88	98
CYP Peterborough	78	68	45
A8 Pboro	225	244	193
Housing Peterborough	-	-	21
No specific location subtotal	114	337	525
Male Victims	-	174	165
Black and other ethnic minority IDVA	-	8	164
Stalking All	114	120	60
Child to Parent Abuse (CPA) IDVA	-	29	17
Housing IDVA other	-	6	-
Cambs and Peterborough total	2324	2571	3186
Year on year change	-	11%	24%

Due to data recording gaps for key characteristics the following table is likely to reflect minimum figures. As such these figures should be treated as indicative.

Table 40: Key characteristics for IDVA cohorts by year supported

Financial Year April to March	Number of individuals declaring Disability	Number of individuals identifying as LGBTQ+
2018/19	78	12
2019/20	73	10
2020/21	67	18
2021/22	91	58
2022/23	167	41

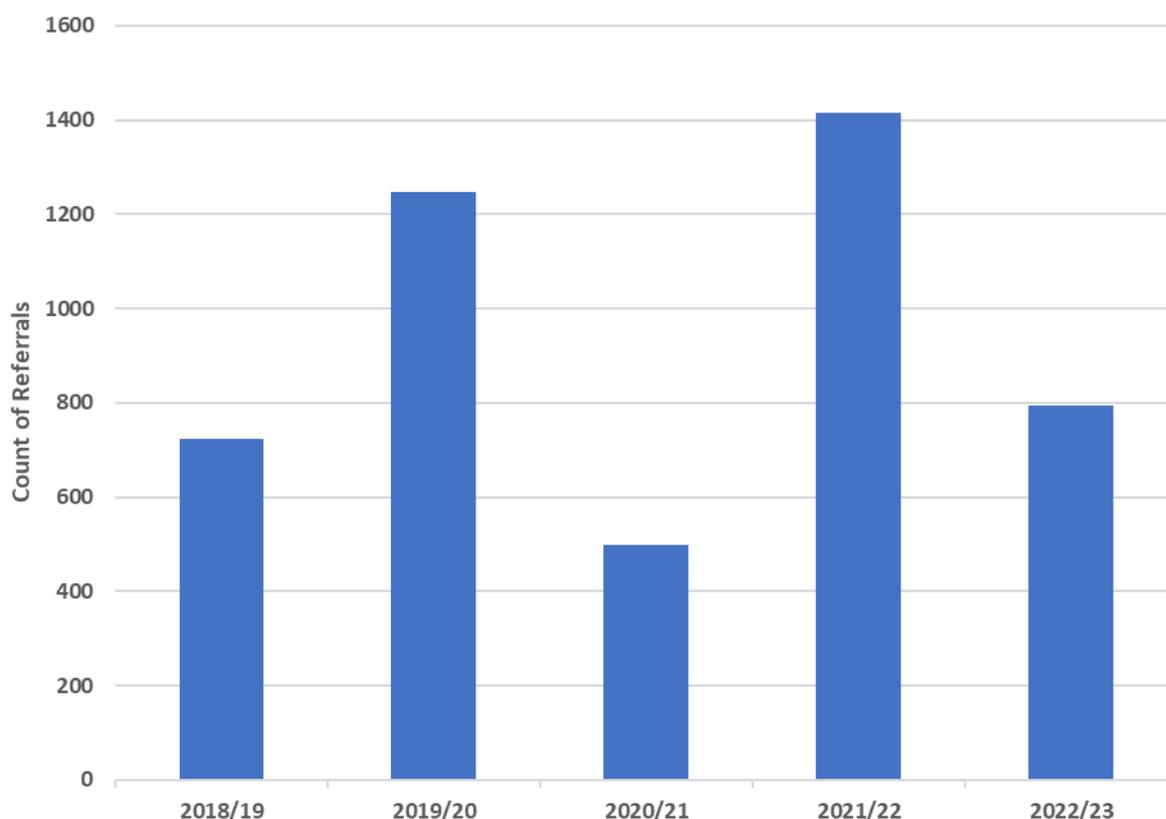
4.1.4. Peterborough Women’s Aid – additional data

As described at the beginning of this document, a call for information and data from local service providers was made. Peterborough Women’s Aid was the only service that provided more comprehensive data in response to this call, enabling the additional analysis that follows.

Notable findings from the data include;

- The lowest volume of referrals was received in 2020/21. The volume was markedly lower. This coincided with the greatest restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The most recent year 2022/23 referrals were nearly 50% lower than the previous year. This is likely to relate to operational changes because as of 1st November 2022, PWA no longer provides generic outreach services but offers targeted services.

Figure 100: Referrals to Peterborough Women’s Aid 2018/19 - 2022/23 (financial year)



Source: Peterborough Women’s Aid

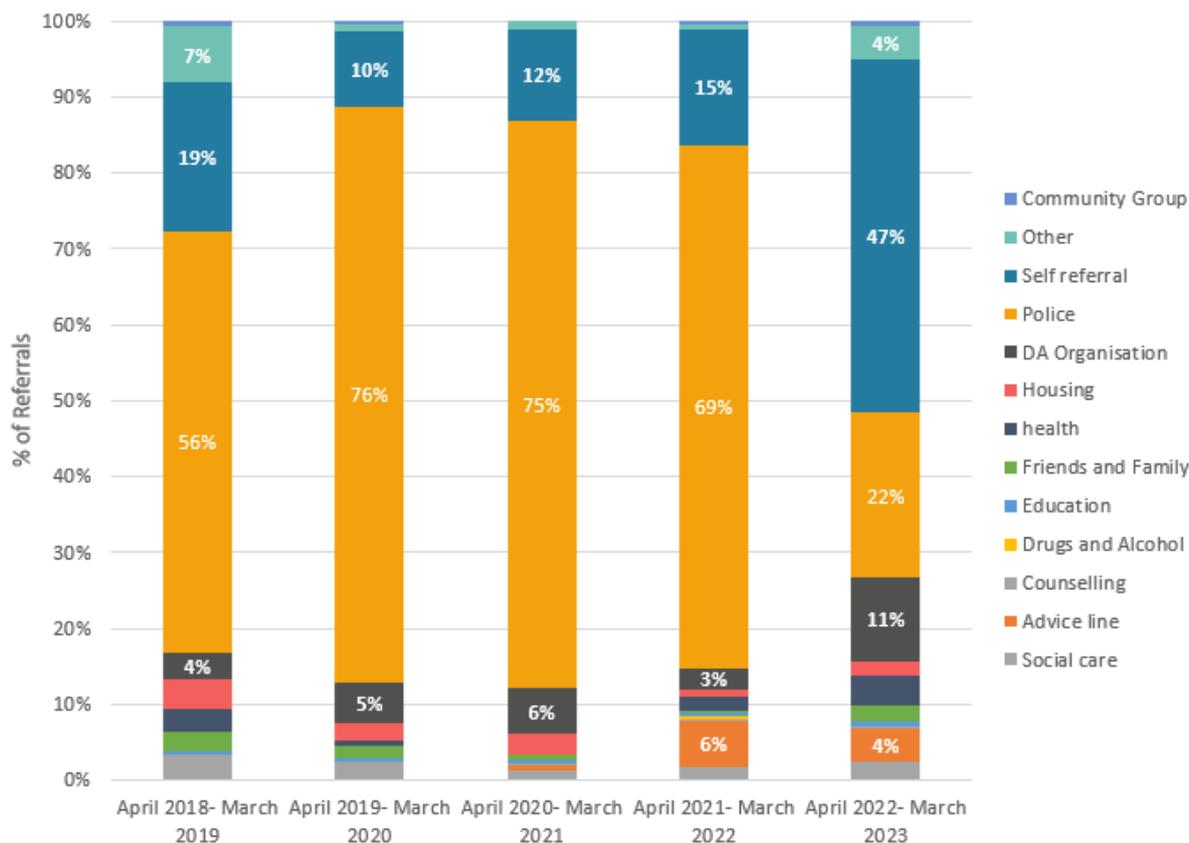
In terms of origin of referrals, over the last five years there are some notable changes. In particular;

- Police referrals accounted for under a quarter (22%) of all referrals in the most recent year, following a declining trend from 76% in 2019/20, to 69% in 2021/22. This likely reflects operational changes where Medium risk referrals went to the IDVA service from June 2022 onwards.
- The proportion of self-referrals is increasing, from 10% in 2021/22 to just under half (47%) in 2022/23.

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- DA organisations accounted for 11% of referrals in the most recent year, up from 3% in the previous year. And averaging 5% over the preceding three years.
- All others referral sources accounted for less than 5% in the most recent year.

Figure 101: Proportion of referrals by referral source in Peterborough, 2018/19 – 2022/23 (financial year)



Source: Peterborough Women’s Aid

More detailed data was provided for the three years 2018/19 – 2020/21) and analysed. Over that three-year period the average proportion of survivors that were female was 79%, 6% were male and 15% did not disclose. Where age was recorded the highest proportion of referrals fell into the 25 to 34yrs and 35 to 44yrs categories (27% and 25% respectively).

The average proportion by age group was as follows;

Table 41: Average proportion of referrals to PWA by age group, 2018/19-2020/21

Age group	Average proportion of referrals to PWA 2018/19-2020/21
12 years and under	0%
13 to 17 years	1%
18 to 24 years	7%
25 to 34 years	27%
35 to 44 years	25%
45 to 54 years	12%
55 to 64 years	5%
65 to 74 years	1%
75 years or over	1%
Not stated	22%

Source: Peterborough Women’s Aid

The average percentage breakdown of PWA referrals by ethnicity is also provided below. For those recorded, a majority were in the White ethnic group.

Table 42: Average proportion of referrals to PWA by ethnic group, 2018/19-2020/21.

Ethnic Group	Average % of referrals to PWA 2018/19-2020/21
White	70%
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups	1%
Asian / Asian British	5%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	1%
Other Ethnic Group	7%
Not stated	17%

Source: Peterborough Women’s Aid

4.1.5. Summary of Feedback from Specialist Providers

Specialist services operating in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough had the opportunity to discuss with authors of this needs assessment the key needs, gaps and changes/ challenges they are currently observing.

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The following is a summary of the points that were raised by providers that provided input:

- Concern over lack of housing to move people into once they are ready to leave refuge. This included examples of long delays in women leaving refuge accommodation.
- All of the specialist services highlighted the impact of the cost of living crisis. This has meant that people are coming to services to seek support for basic needs more frequently (food, clothing, sanitary products and basic items needed for children) alongside (and in addition to) their specific DA/SV related needs. Clients not knowing their eligibility for benefits and financial support was also seen as a compounding factor.
- Specialists gave examples of child contact arrangements being used as a means of continuing abuse in the context of Domestic Abuse. They observed clients finding the family courts processes highly challenging.
- There was concern that cultural norms around DASV in some communities make it unclear to victims that their experience is unacceptable and in fact abuse. This was seen as a further barrier to victims accessing support. It is unclear from discussions as to how cultural normalisation of DASV is being addressed locally.
- Discussions raised queries around support offered locally. Some specialist services wanted to establish what specialist support is available to children affected by DA/SV, including support for children affected by DA. There was also a call for more clarity as to what different services can offer survivors of sexual violence specifically, likely reflecting how the DA Act (2021) has raised the profile of children as victims of DA.
- There was a wider concern that the kind of support available for victims/survivors needs to better reflect the demographics of the local area. The Census figures at the beginning of this needs assessment and should provide a starting point for this. Further work can be done to develop cultural competence and recognise intersectionality. It should be noted that a variety of resources on local Census 2021 statistics are available via the dedicated pages of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Insight: [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight – Population – Census 2021 \(cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk).
- More practical concerns were raised, such as the need for women only spaces that could facilitate peer support and facilitate more sensitive conversations with victims/ survivors.

Some of the issues raised by specialist services are expanded upon further below.

Some specialist services have been supporting women who are offenders in the criminal justice system locally. It was highlighted that the women they engage with here had often been victims of DA or SV themselves. This observation locally is

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supported by national evidence, for example an assessment in 2016/17 indicated that 25% of female offenders (supervised in the community or in custody) had experienced domestic abuse (Lipscombe et al., 2023). Unfortunately, the prevalence of DA/SV experience among women in the criminal justice system is not extensively quantified. In part this is because there is currently no routine data collection to collection to reflect whether people in the criminal justice system have experienced DA/ SV. There are not local or national figures to understand this issue fully as such. For context, national prison population figures and forecasts indicated 3170 female (18+) in prison nationally as of July 2021, with a projected figure of an increase to 4300 by July 2025 (Ministry of Justice, 2021). In addition, some of the mechanisms by which offending is rooted in experiences of abuse are also relevant here. These have been described by a report from The Centre for Women's justice; for example, coercion into offending during the course of domestic abuse (Centre for Women's Justice , 2022). VAWG in relation to female offenders presents an information gap that would require further exploration in order to understand its impact locally.

Specialist services advised that survivors of sexual violence are requiring support services much longer than they did previously (with a shift from several months to several years). This has been attributed to delays in the criminal justice system with cases taking several years to progress. Section 2.6 of this document describes the delays in the criminal justice system and does support this observation. With these delays comes increased support needs for victims/ survivors over a longer period.

Sexual Violence specialists noted an increase in demand and higher intensity of support needs for victims/ survivors recently. They raised concerns that there are gaps in mental health crisis support in the wider system. The evidence base within the (ongoing) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Needs assessment does show the higher prevalence of mental health conditions among people who have experience sexual or physical violence (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight, 2015). The Mental Health Needs assessment incorporates local data from Cambridge Rape Crisis. This shows that almost a quarter of those currently (in 2023) receiving trauma-informed counselling (125 people) are struggling with self-harm and/or suicidal thoughts/attempts. Referrals for these counselling services have increased by 183% over the past 2 years.

Lastly, during discussions, specialist services queried what oversight and support is in place for community groups and charities who find themselves supporting victims of DA on a more informal basis.

Whilst there is willing across the whole voluntary sector to support victims, specialist services which are well trained are best placed to provide the right level of support and mitigate the very real threat of harms victims and survivors face.

Community groups are encouraged to access basic domestic abuse training and awareness of how to identify domestic abuse, which services those subjected to domestic abuse can be referred to, and what those services are able to offer. This training and awareness can be accessed for free from the DASV Partnership Team and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Board. Those working for

community organisations are also able to access the DASV Champions Network, with quarterly speakers.

4.2. Case Studies – Sexual Violence

Case studies provided by Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership (CAPRCP) evidenced the impact of CJS delays on victims and the complexity of support needs. These survivors were supported by ISVAs/ ChISVAs as appropriate. Summaries of these case studies are included below.

Case study 1: Adult female survivor of sexual violence

There were several Criminal Justice System (CJS) delays affecting this survivor, as well as other survivors who were affected by the same perpetrator. Due to the length of time needed for support, the ISVA assigned to victims changed and some victims of the same perpetrator did disengage. Some of the delays included cancellation of trials at the last minute.

Support from the ISVA included extensive face to face and telephone emotional support. Rape Crisis provided information support and advice regarding criminal justice processes. This included arrangement and support for court visits on 3 separate occasions in advance of each trial date. The client also accessed counselling and EMDR therapy via Rape Crisis, which was not accessible to them on the NHS or affordable privately.

Rape Crisis also made outwards referrals for a family worker and sign posted to other relevant services to support the survivor. This included the GP and Mental Health teams and specialist midwifery support due to the impacts of trauma during anti-natal and post-natal care when the client was pregnant.

In total this adult survivor spent 6 years engaged in the CJS. At the time this case study was produced (2022) they still awaited a further trial date.

Case Study 2: Child survivor of sexual abuse

The survivor had emotional support sessions with the ChISVA to address trauma responses such as nightmares and flashbacks resulting from the abuse they experienced. A referral was made to the NHS Cambridge and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) but sadly the survivor was not offered any support. They received specialist pre-trial therapy by Rape Crisis to support their emotional wellbeing. Pre-trial visits to the court were also setup so the survivor could ask questions and express worries about the court process. Rape Crisis also communicated with Witness Care and the Witness Service team to ensure the survivor's special measures requests were approved and their safety at court was supported.

Another aspect of support provided was engagement with the child's school to ensure their support needs were being met. Following a period of acute mental

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distress Rape Crisis successfully advocated for the survivor to be given alternative education arrangements to meet their educational needs after the Section 28 hearing (recording of evidence prior to trial, available to vulnerable victims and witnesses).

The ChISVA provided more holistic support including emotional and practical support to the survivor's parent, providing information about family court options available to them in the context of Domestic Abuse and guidance on trauma behaviours in children.

Following the Section 28 hearing, the survivor was able to debrief with their ChISVA. This was a vital piece of support given that they were not able to speak to their parent about the cross-examination for months as the parent was also a witness in the trial. This is an impact of Section 28 hearings for children that Rape Crisis are seeing more frequently. In total this survivor spent 2 years engaged with the CJS.

4.3. Case Studies - DA

Two case studies taken from the evaluation of the DAPP (Kerrs, 2022) are shared below. The first case study illustrates a perpetrator with multiple victims being managed via DAPP and an example of both IPV and Familial DA.

The second case study as an example of long-standing abuse and notes that the victim was not aware of risk posed to them.

DAPP Case-study 1 (Kerrs, 2022, p. 45)

The offender was referred to the DAPP, following a MARAC in respect of his mother. He had been known to Police and other CJS and DA Services since 2009. He was a serial perpetrator and over time perpetrated abuse towards 8 known women, including his mother, niece, aunt, and 5 partners / ex-partners. Between 2009 and 2021, the offender had been the identified perpetrator in 10 MARAC meetings, relating to 4 victims. During this time, the offender had been subject to numerous investigations, including assaults; threats to kill; harassment; witness intimidation; coercive and controlling behaviour; malicious communication; and breach of court orders. The IDVA Service have successfully engaged with 3 of the 4 MARAC victims, particularly his mother over a lengthy period. This has enabled the service to contribute to sharing current relevant risk-led intelligence with the DAPP. This has then enabled the DAPP to plan arrests / responses to DA incidents, including targeted work by perpetrator services. The effectiveness of this way of working has resulted in a co-ordinated response to the offender's current relationships and offending patterns, with DAPP agencies working together and communicating with each other in between meetings. This work around the offender has built effective networking relationships across statutory and voluntary services.

DAPP Case-study 2 (Kerrs, 2022, p. 47):

The perpetrator in this case was a 41-year-old male who had abused his victim over a 17-year period. They had 3 children together. He was known to have issues with alcohol, drugs and previous suicidal ideations. His partner had tried to leave the relationship several times, but was trapped. The perpetrator had an extensive history of offending, including previous restraining orders, assault and public order offences, violent crimes against his partner and breach of a non-molestation order. He had also received a 12-month prison sentence and a further restraining order. When his partner finally ended the relationship, the perpetrator continued to stalk and harass her – leading to a further non-molestation order being put in place. The perpetrator's case was brought to the DAPP by his probation officer, who was unsure as to the level of risk posed by this individual. The discussions at DAPP revolved around his overwhelming thoughts about harming his victim – resulting in him wanting to go back to prison to avoid further violence. According to the panel, his homicidal ideations had echoes of the Alice Ruggles case. Following multi-agency discussions (which identified the perpetrator as high-risk), it became apparent that the victim was not aware of the risks posed to her, so it was agreed that the police would visit her with an update from the DAPP. Further actions included a specialist stalking risk assessment (with relevant actions) being completed; investigations into possible issues of morbid jealousy and mental health concerns that needed further exploration; the probation risk assessment/management plan was updated to represent elevated risk concerns; the Stalking Project liaised with Out of Area probation team as he had moved county; a Consultant Psychologist from the Stalking Project offered further assessment (which the perpetrator agreed to); and there was improved multi-agency information sharing and cross boundary working as a result of DAPP discussions. Since the DAPP interventions, there have been no further concerns reported or offending since he left custody. He is managing better emotionally, has his own accommodation and is working towards future goals. He is also open to psychological intervention and mental health support to reduce future risk to others.

5. Focus Group summaries

In September 2023 frontline professionals were invited to contribute to this needs assessment via face to face engagement events. These were run as informal focus groups and were aimed specifically at non Domestic Abuse/ Sexual Violence specialist frontline professionals. They took place in Cambridge, Cambourne, Peterborough, March and Ely such that there were events in each of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough districts. A total of 65 professionals participated in informal discussions at these focus groups. Attendees included frontline professionals from health (including mental health); social care (adults and children's); housing and homeless support services; drug and alcohol services as well as District Councils.

There were some key themes which arose across the focus groups, as outlined below.

Specific to the work of the professionals contributing, there were some shared concerns about 'knowing who to call'. Professionals stated they were unsure as to where to refer when encountering VAWG issues with the people they support. In addition they were unclear about internal organisational policies as well as external resources for support. This included for example not knowing about internal Domestic Abuse policies already put in place specifically to support employees.

Some professionals raised the practical challenges to safe disclosure from victims of VAWG they encounter in their day to day work. For example those who carry out home visits cannot guarantee conversations with the people they support are private due to other people and technologies being present. (e.g. smart speakers and CCTV). This is posing a potential barrier to safe disclosures on those visits.

A common theme was that service users were sometimes unaware that what they were experiencing is Domestic Abuse. There is a need for professionals to have a good understand of domestic abuse and therefore be equipped to identify it ask questions in the right way.

Financial factors impacting victims of VAWG and their ability to access support such that the cost of living crisis and changes to the benefits system were also a current concern for professionals.

Among the issues raised at the focus groups were those that have more systemwide implications. The challenges of achieving systemwide consistency in how all staff respond to DA and SV has highlighted. There was also some concern around possible unintentional consequences of safeguarding referrals i.e. a referral actually alerting perpetrators to the disclosure due to standard processes. The focus groups raised the question as to whether all professionals recognising this risk and know how to manage that risk. Alongside this was the need to understand differing consent requirements when navigating referral pathways in the system.

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Concern was raised that a lack of “global” management of cases means that the system can break down between providers and service users may be required to restate their situation at every step in the process. This may also introduce a risk of duplication of provision or potential gaps where information sharing agreements aren’t already in place. Professionals also noted that when a case has moved from one stage to the next, keeping previously involved colleagues updated may not be a priority due to time constraints.

Specific issues in relation to the following groups were identified via these focus groups:

- Refugees.
- International students.
- People who have limited English language knowledge.
- People with no recourse to public funds.

Of course the above groups are not mutually exclusive. Between them are the common threads of a need for cultural competency among service providers, traversing highly complex circumstances in each case, language barriers and concerns around immigration status. The latter was specifically raised by participants in terms of forced return to a country of origin being used as a threat in coercive behaviour.

The needs of people living with disabilities and people aged over 65 years of age were also highlighted; with the question raised as to whether accessing appropriate services may be more challenging for these groups.

There were three common perceptions observed by professionals in the focus groups that could be factored into future work:

- The perception (by victims) that children would be removed if services became involved was flagged as a barrier to them disclosing to professionals about VAWG.
- The perception that there is no help or support available unless the person wants to leave an abusive relationship.
- The perception that domestic abuse support is contingent on the victim relocating away from their usual place of residence.

Some of the focus groups participants raised how they were wanting to be clearer when differentiating between parental conflict and domestic abuse in the families they work with. Further still there was the concern that family court processes (i.e. child access/ contact arrangements) may become a means of continuation of domestic abuse for some people that they support. There was some discussion around the term ‘parental alienation’ and the negative impact of describing complex

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situations with this term can have as well. These complex topics around families may be something to explore with professionals in future work.

Notable in its absence from the focus group discussions was familial domestic abuse and issues of intergenerational exploitation, specifically of vulnerable relatives. There may be scope to increase awareness of this among professionals.

Potential gaps and further avenues for exploration identified via these focus groups included:

- Influences on young people as to what is healthy and normal in a relationship. This could be influences from within their own family situation to wider influence from social media.
- A need for wider education and awareness as to what constitutes economic abuse.
- More complex and specific personal safety issues for VAWG victims who are also experiencing street homelessness

6. District Based Summaries

This section provides district level summaries of police data for reference.

6.1. Districts overview

Figure 102: 2021 Population breakdown by district

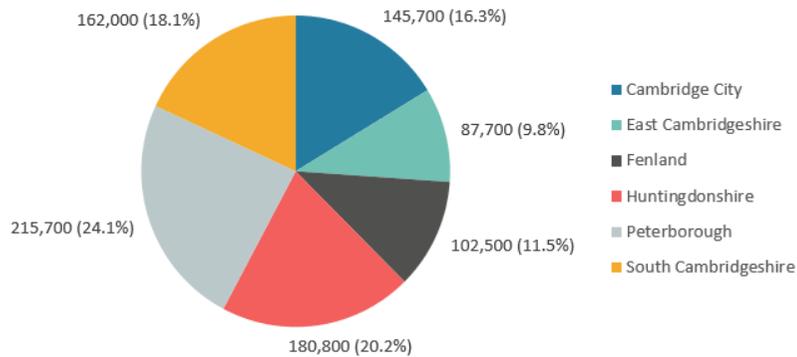


Figure 103: Count of police recorded sexual offences by district, April 2022-March 2023

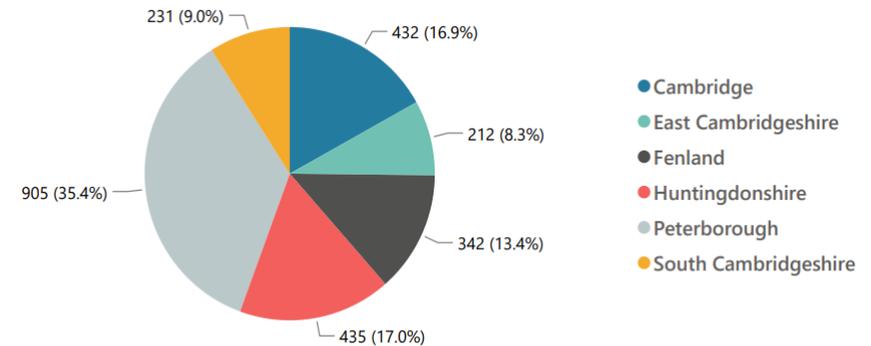
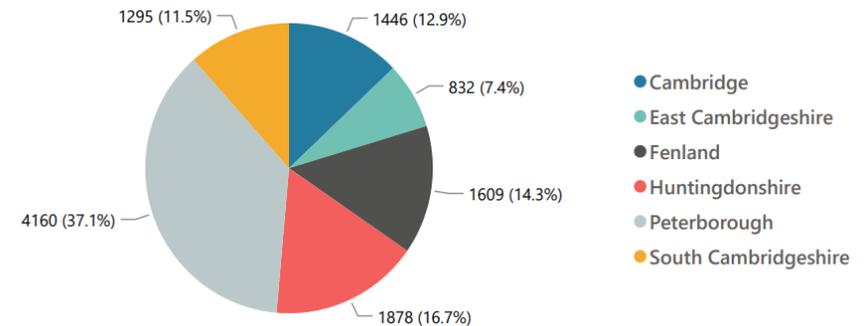


Figure 104: Count of police recorded DA related offences by district, April 2022-March 2023



6.2. Cambridge City

- Applying CSEW prevalence estimates to the local population indicates a potential 6,200 people aged 16+ who were victims of DA and 2,900 who were victims of sexual assault in Cambridge City in 2021/22.
- Annual count of police recorded 'Rape' sub-type sexual offences have remained stable between 2017/18 and 2018/19 while the number of 'Other Sexual Offences' have increased in 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years.
- Police recorded DA related crimes in Cambridge increased between 2019/20 and 2021/22 while decreasing in 2022/23 financial year.
- Police recorded DA incidents in Cambridge have gradually decreased each financial year between 2019/20 and 2022/23.
- Police recorded DA offences crime rate was highest in the northeast Cambridge around Abbey, East Chesterton and King Hedges.
- Police recorded sexual offences crime rate was highest in central Cambridge around Market ward.

Figure 105: Annual count of police recorded sexual offences in Cambridge City, by offence sub-type (financial year)

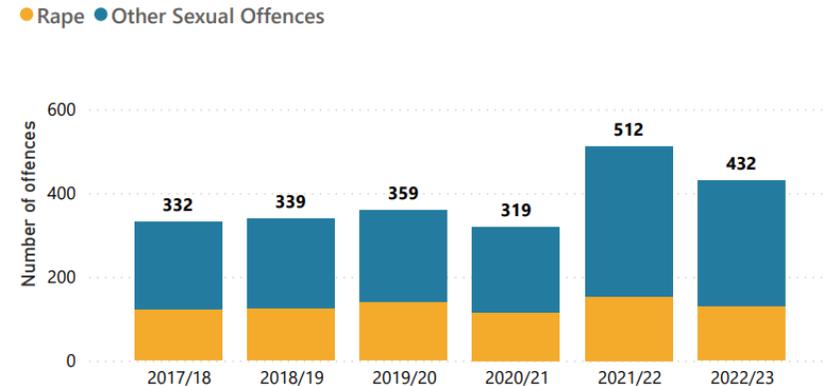
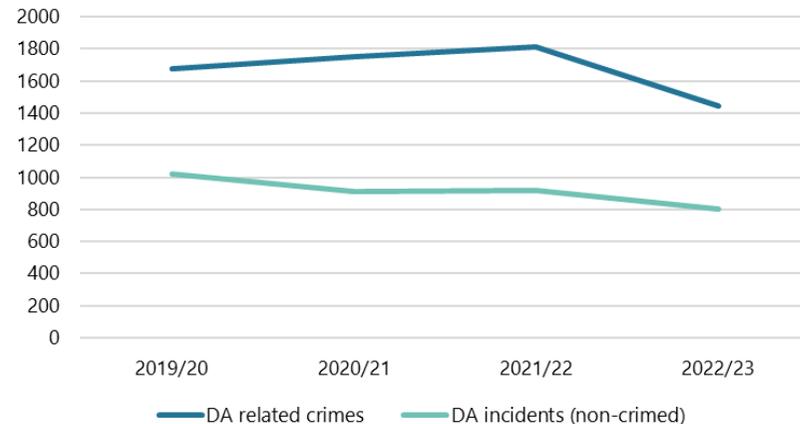


Figure 106: Police recorded DA related crimes and DA incidents (non-crimes) in Cambridge, 2019/20 - 2022/23 (financial year)



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Figure 107: Thematic map of police recorded sexual offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in Cambridge City by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)

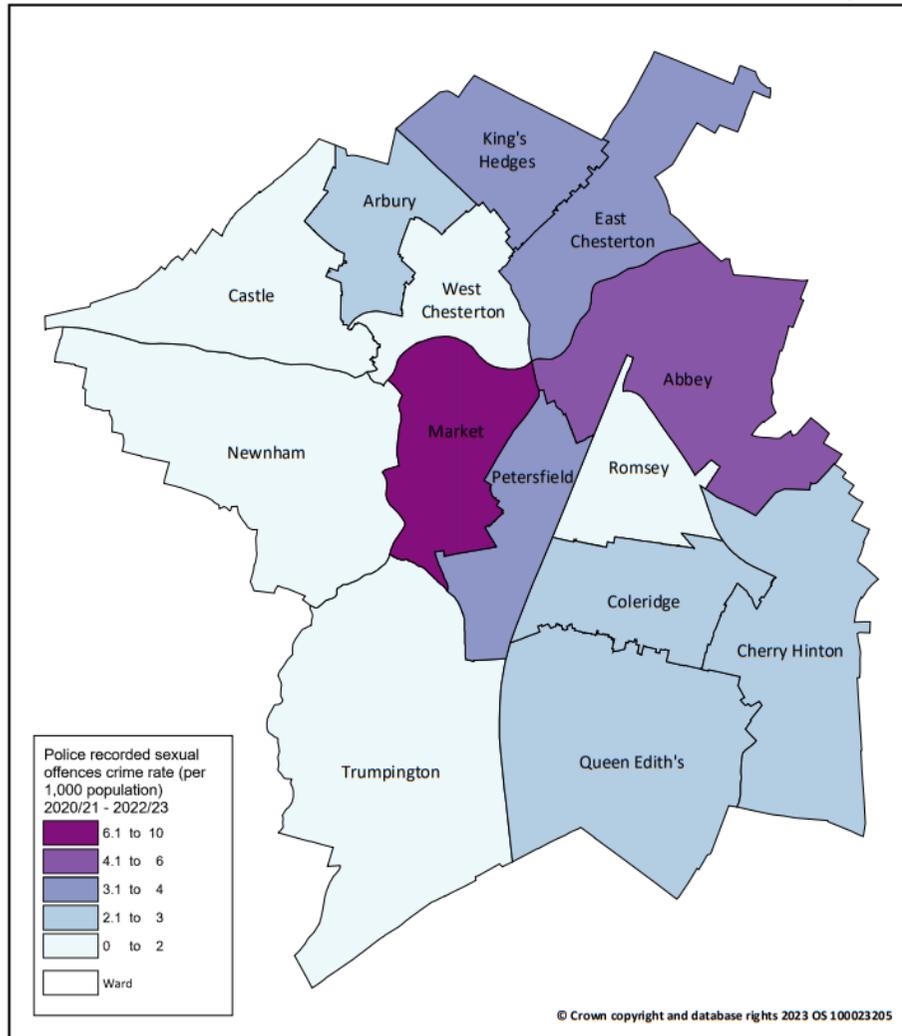
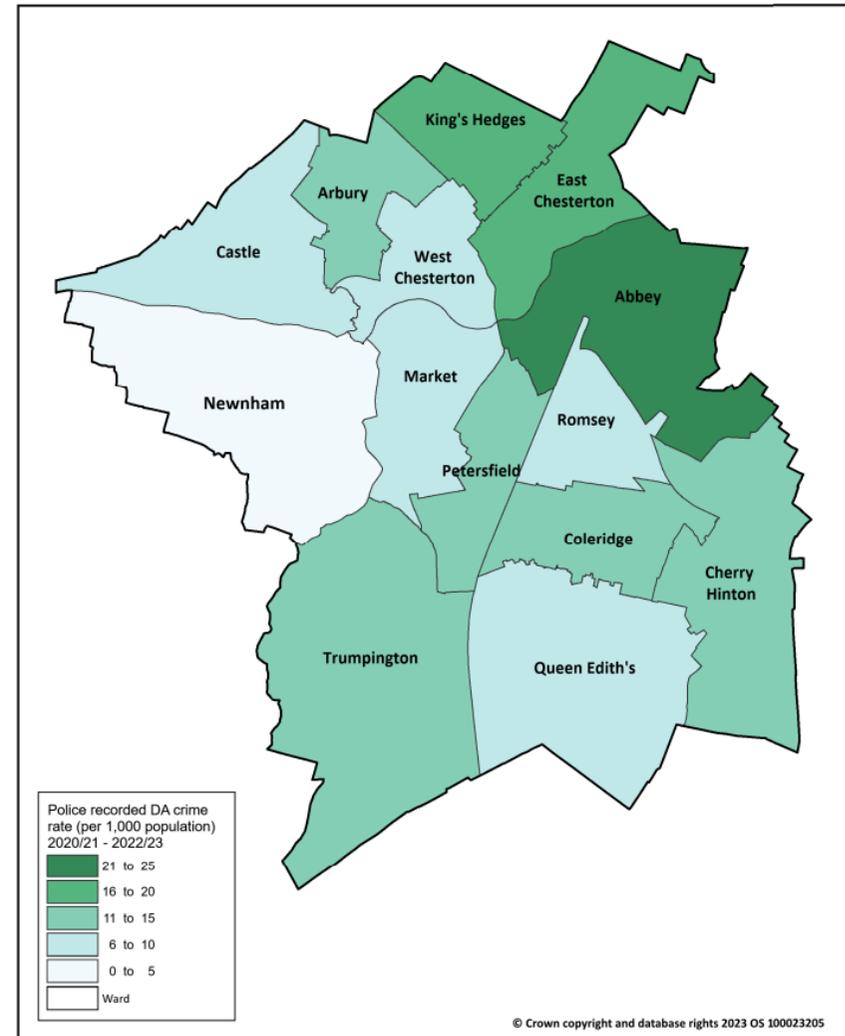


Figure 108: Thematic map of police recorded DA offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in Cambridge City by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)



6.3. East Cambridgeshire

- Applying CSEW prevalence estimates to the local population indicates a potential 3,600 people aged 16+ who were victims of DA and 1,600 who were victims of sexual assault in East Cambridgeshire in 2021/22.
- Annual count of police recorded ‘Rape’ and ‘Other Sexual Offences’ sub-types have steadily increased between 2017/18 and 2022/23 financial year.
- Police recorded DA related crimes in East Cambridgeshire have increased annually between 2019/20 and 2022/23 financial years.
- Police recorded DA incidents in East Cambridgeshire have remained steady each financial year between 2019/20 and 2022/23.
- Police recorded DA offences crime rate was highest in Central and northern East Cambridgeshire around Soham and Littleport.
- Police recorded Sexual offences crime rate was highest in central and northern East Cambridgeshire around Ely and Littleport.

Figure 109: Annual count of police recorded sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire, by offence sub-type (financial year)

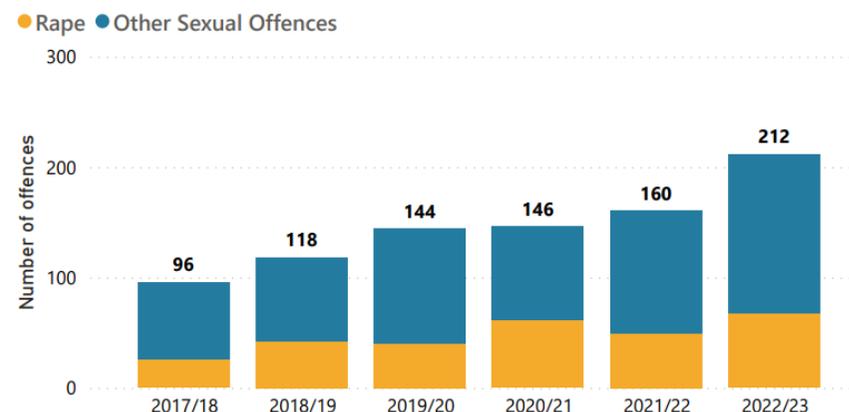
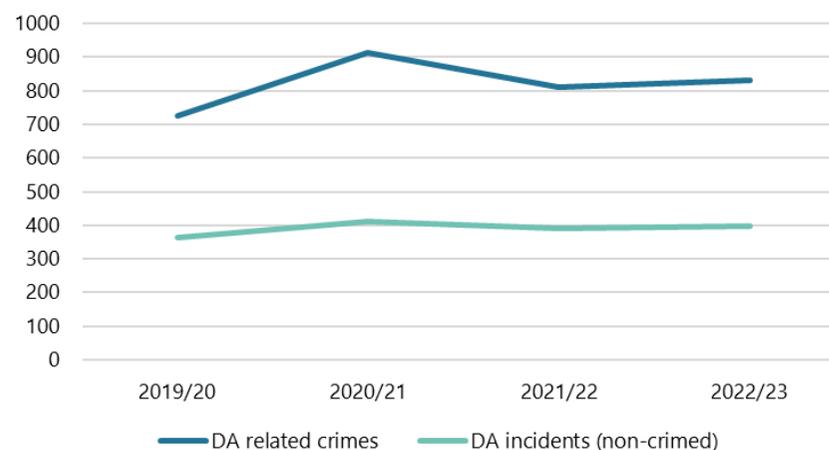


Figure 110: Police recorded DA related crimes and DA incidents (non-crimes) in East Cambridgeshire, 2019/20 - 2022/23 (financial year)



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Figure 111: Thematic map of police recorded sexual offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in East Cambridgeshire by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)

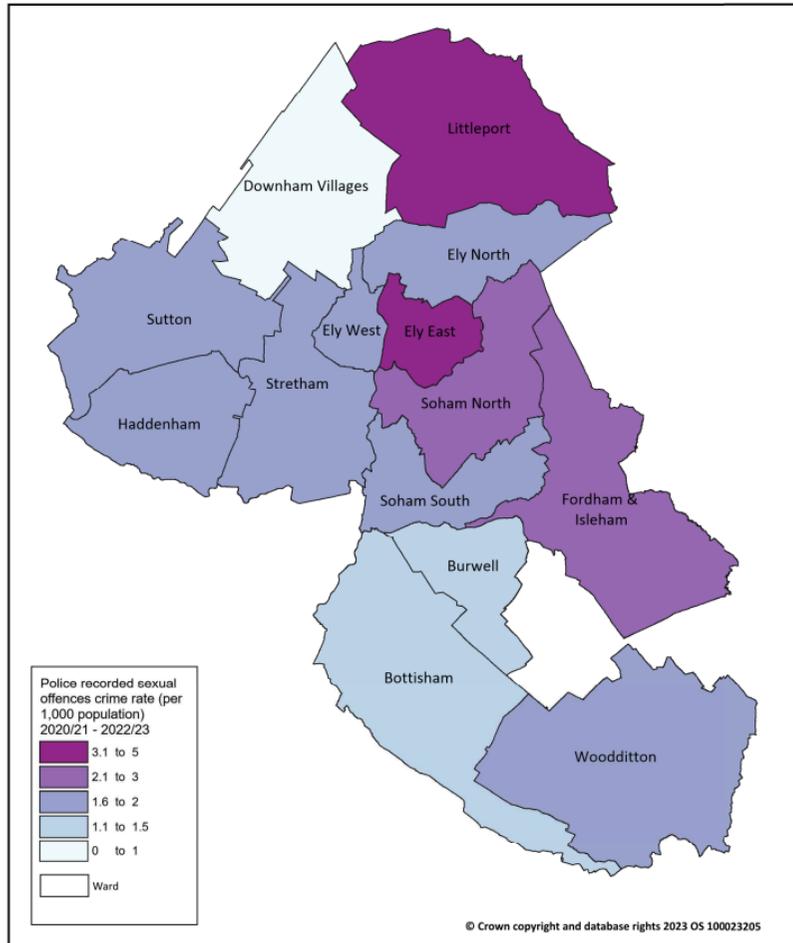
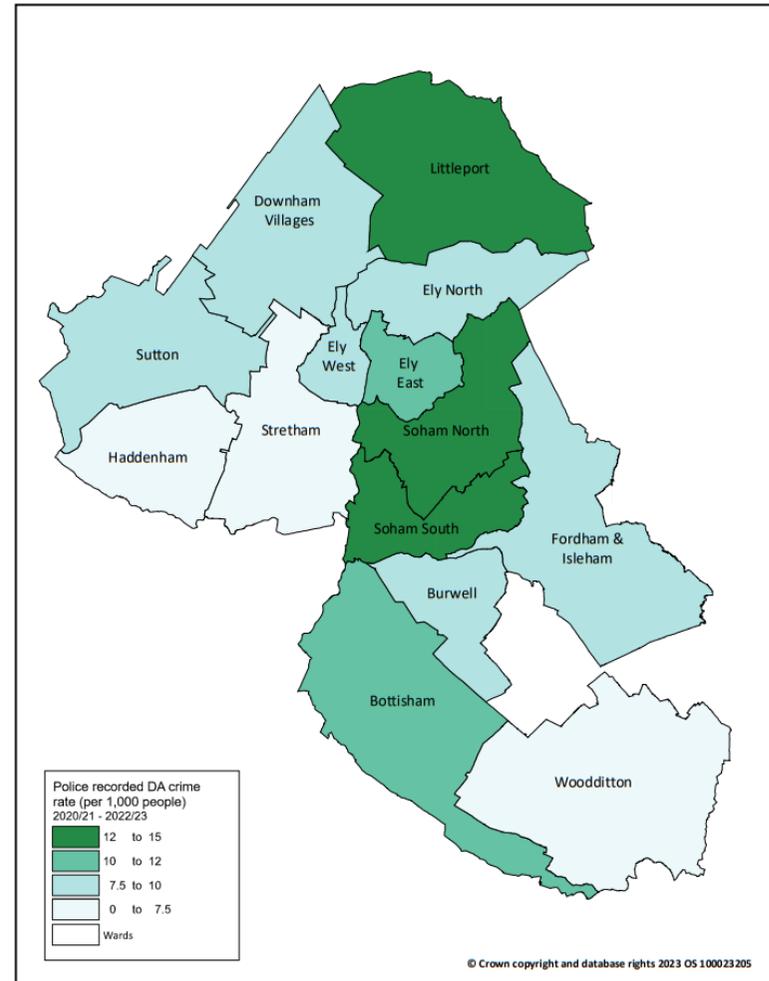


Figure 112: Thematic map of police recorded DA offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in East Cambridgeshire by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)



6.4. Fenland

- Applying CSEW prevalence estimates to the local population indicates a potential 4,200 people aged 16+ who were victims of DA and 2,000 who were victims of sexual assault in Fenland in 2021/22.
- Annual count of police recorded 'Rape' sub-type has remained steady while 'Other Sexual Offences' sub-types have increased between 2017/18 and 2022/23 financial year.
- Police recorded DA related crimes in Fenland have increased between 2019/20 and 2022/23 financial years.
- Police recorded DA incidents(non-crimes) in Fenland have steadily decreased each financial year between 2019/20 and 2022/23.
- Police recorded DA offences crime rate was highest in the north of Fenland around Wisbech.
- Police recorded Sexual offences crime rate was highest in the north of Fenland around Wisbech.

Figure 113: Annual count of police recorded sexual offences in Fenland, by offence sub-type (financial year)

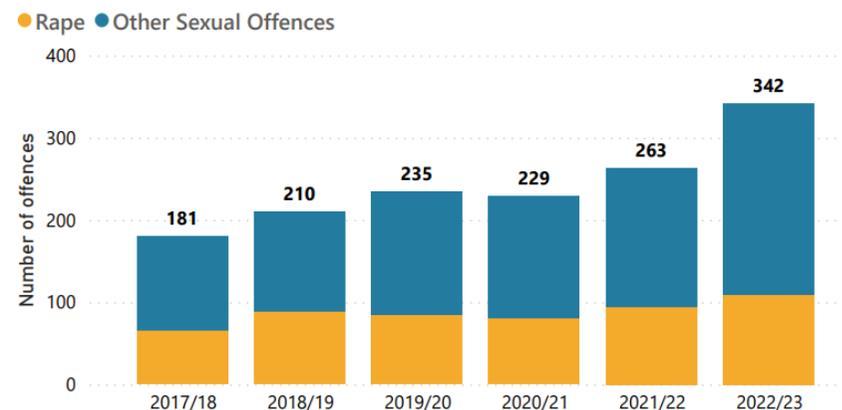
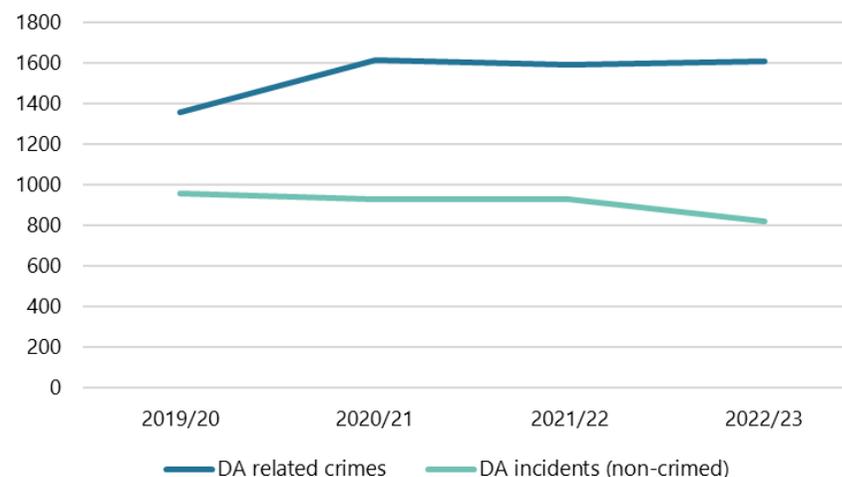


Figure 114: Police recorded DA related crimes and DA incidents (non-crimes) in Fenland, 2019/20 - 2022/23 (financial year)



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Figure 115: Thematic map of police recorded sexual offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in Fenland by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)

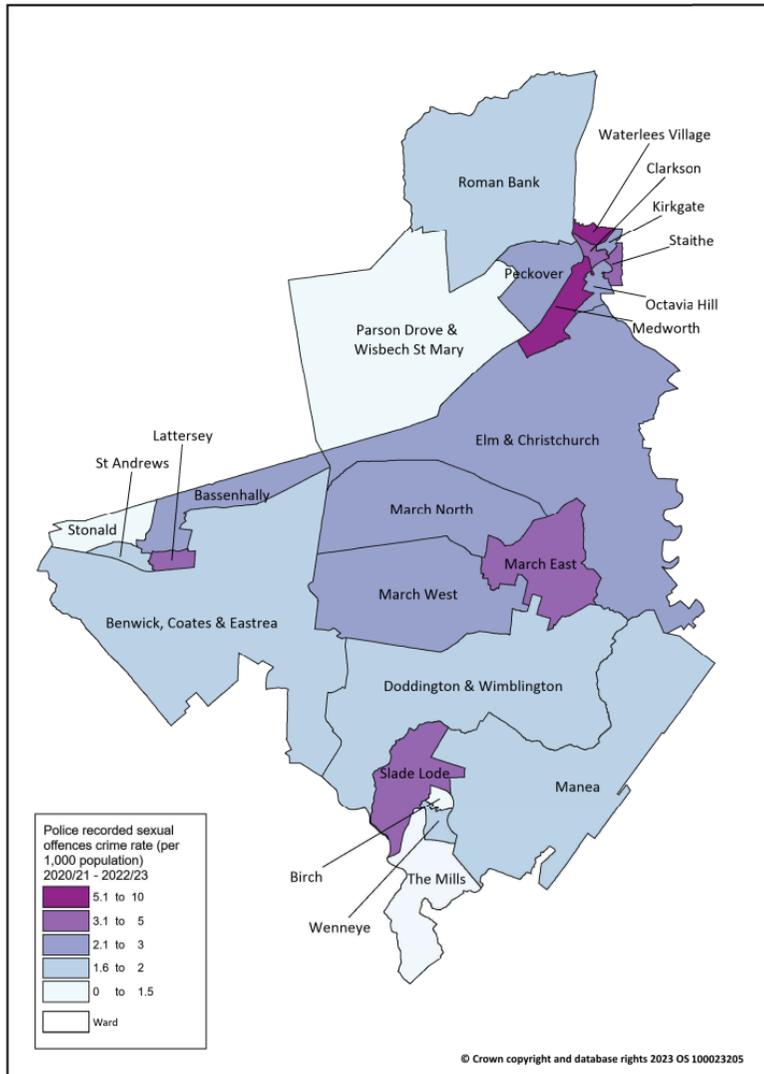
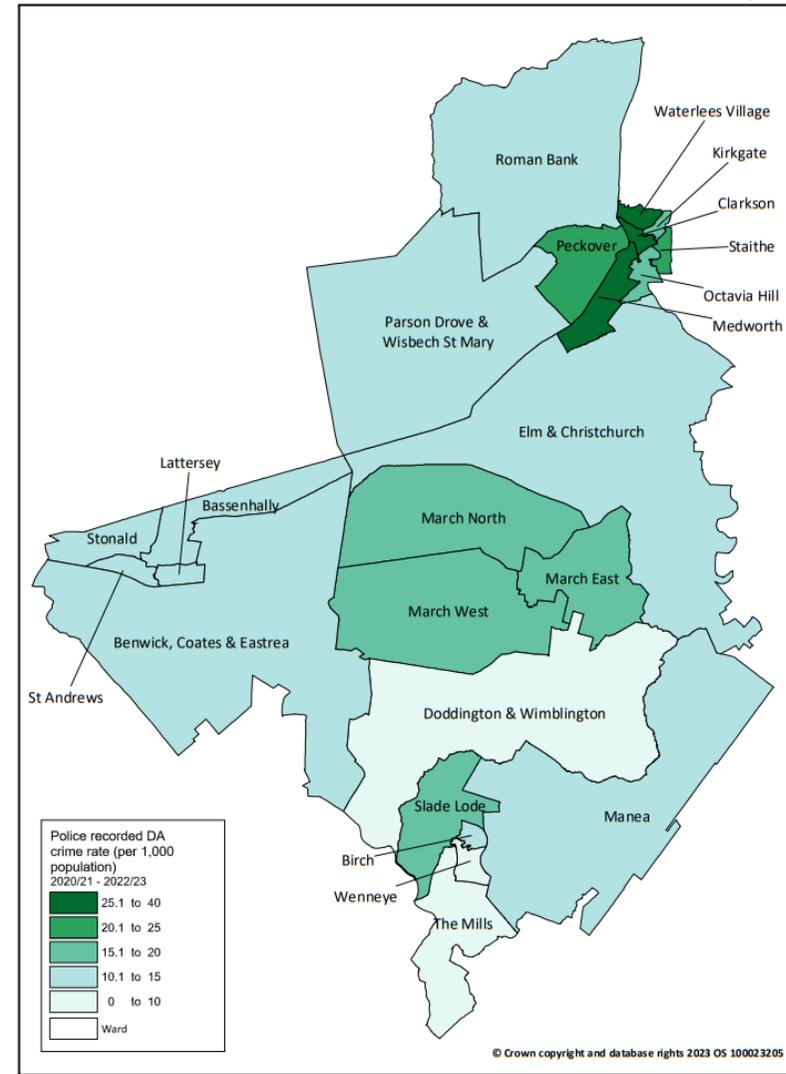


Figure 116: Thematic map of police recorded DA offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in Fenland by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)



6.5. Huntingdonshire

- Applying CSEW prevalence estimates to the local population indicates a potential 7,400 people aged 16+ who were victims of DA and 3,400 who were victims of sexual assault in Huntingdonshire in 2021/22.
- Annual count of police recorded ‘Rape’ and ‘Other Sexual Offences’ sub-types saw a large increase of 194 offences between 2017/18 and 2018/19 but have since remained steady between 2018/19 and 2022/23 financial years.
- Police recorded DA related crimes in Huntingdonshire have remained steady between 2019/20 and 2022/23 but did see a small increase in 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.
- Police recorded DA incidents(non-crimes) in Huntingdonshire have remained steady between 2019/20 and 2022/23 but did see a small increase in 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.
- Police recorded DA offences crime rate was highest in central and southwest Huntingdonshire around Huntingdon and St. Neots.
- Police recorded Sexual offences crime rate was highest in central Huntingdonshire around Huntingdon.
- Huntingdonshire (alongside Peterborough) had the highest count of police recorded ‘engage/attempt to engage in sexual communication with a child’ offences (25% of offences between 2018/19 – 2022/23).

Figure 117: Annual count of police recorded sexual offences in Huntingdonshire, by offence sub-type (financial year)

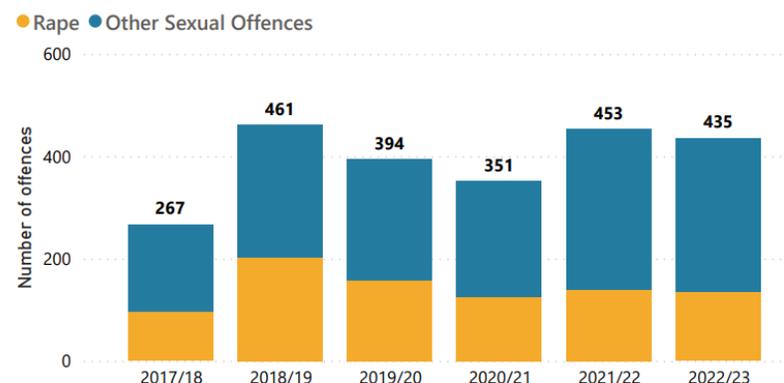
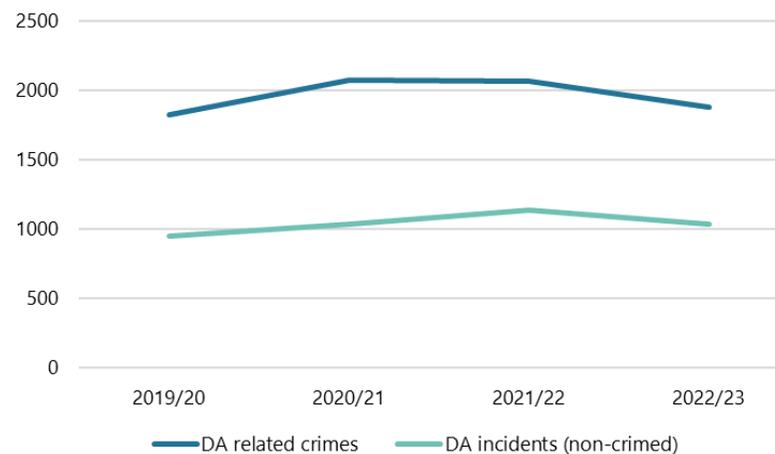


Figure 118: Police recorded DA related crimes and DA incidents (non-crimes) in Huntingdonshire, 2019/20 - 2022/23 (financial year)



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Figure 119: Thematic map of police recorded sexual offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in Huntingdonshire by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)

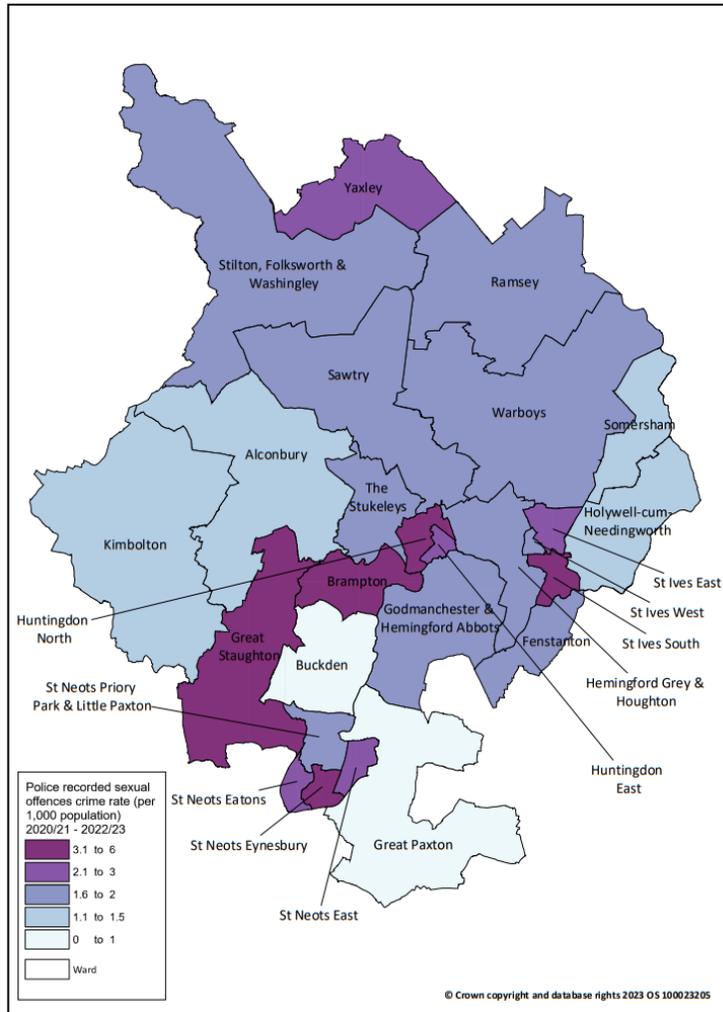
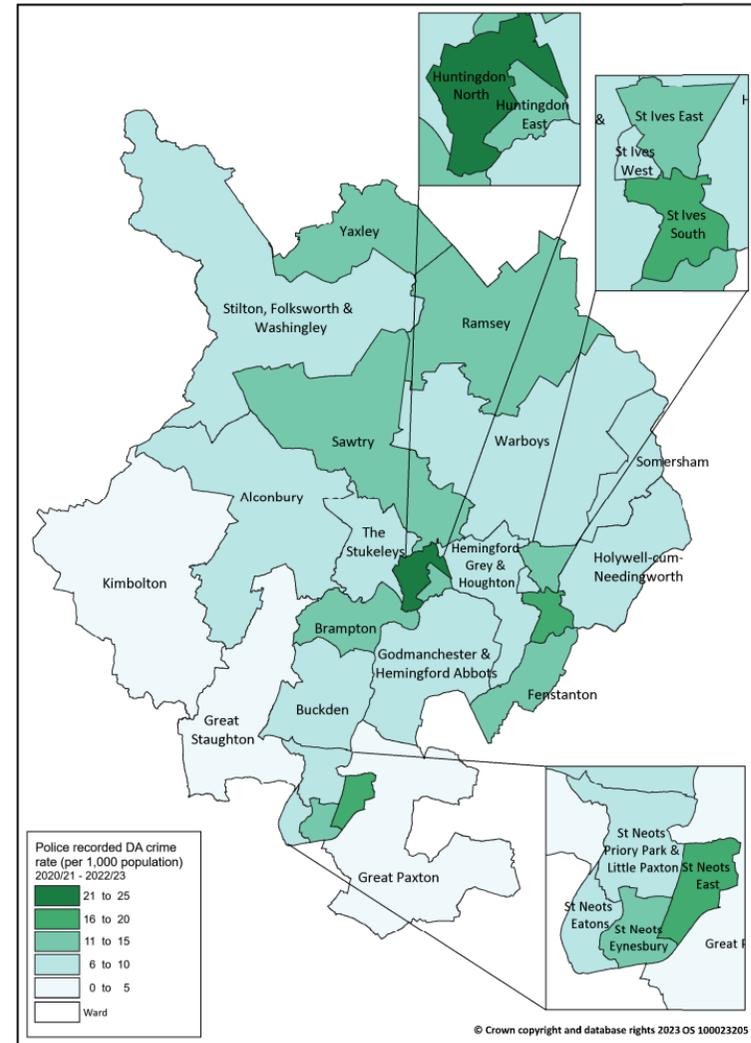


Figure 120: Thematic map of police recorded DA offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in Huntingdonshire by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)



6.6. Peterborough

- Applying CSEW prevalence estimates to the local population indicates a potential 8,400 people aged 16+ who were victims of DA and 3,900 who were victims of sexual assault in Peterborough in 2021/22.
- Annual count of police recorded ‘Rape’ and ‘Other Sexual Offences’ sub-types have increased between 2017/18 and 2022/23 financial year.
- Police recorded DA related crimes in Peterborough have increased between 2019/20 and 2022/23 financial years.
- Police recorded DA incidents(non-crimes) in Peterborough have steadily decreased each financial year between 2019/20 and 2022/23.
- Police recorded DA offences crime rate was highest in central Peterborough City.
- Police recorded Sexual offences crime rate was highest in north and central Peterborough City.
- Peterborough alongside Huntingdonshire had the highest count of police recorded ‘engage/attempt to engage in sexual communication with a child’ offence in the County. Each district accounted for a quarter of offences recorded in the five-year time period between April 2018 and March 2023.
- Peterborough has consistently seen the highest number of ‘coercive control’ offences in the last 4 financial years ending 2022/23.

Figure 121: Annual count of police recorded sexual offences in Peterborough, by offence sub-type (financial year)

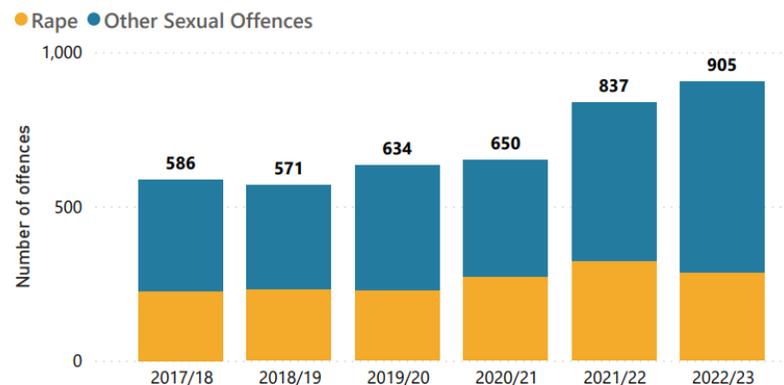
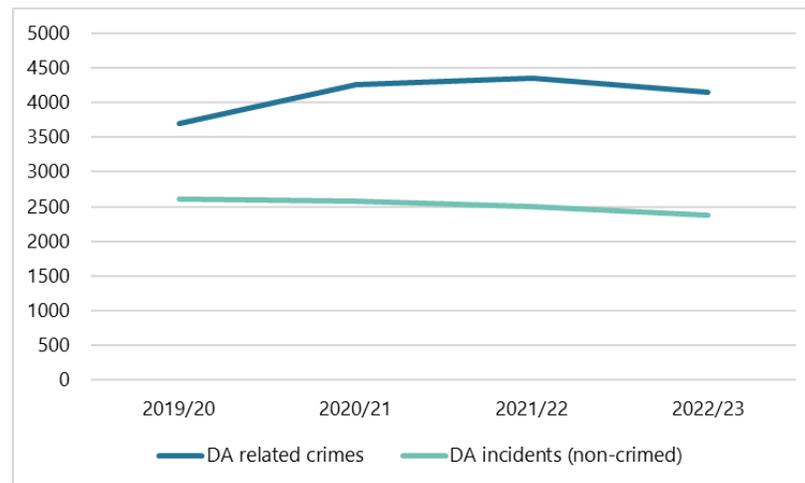


Figure 122: Police recorded DA related crimes and DA incidents (non-crimes) in Peterborough, 2019/20 - 2022/23 (financial year)



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Figure 123: Thematic map of police recorded sexual offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in Peterborough by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)

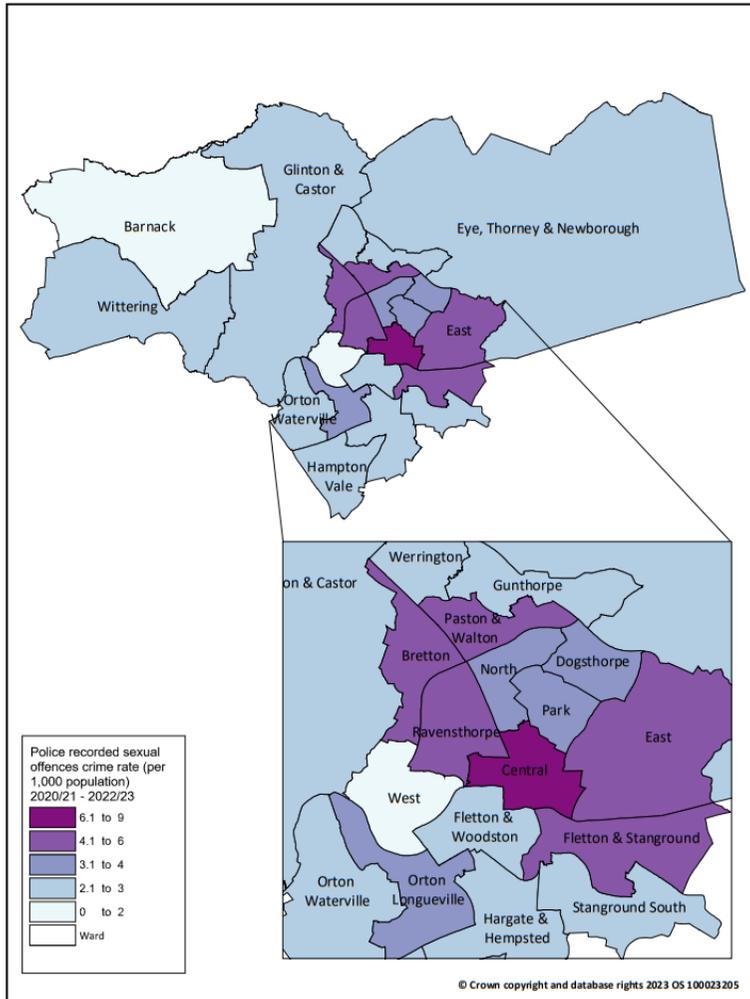
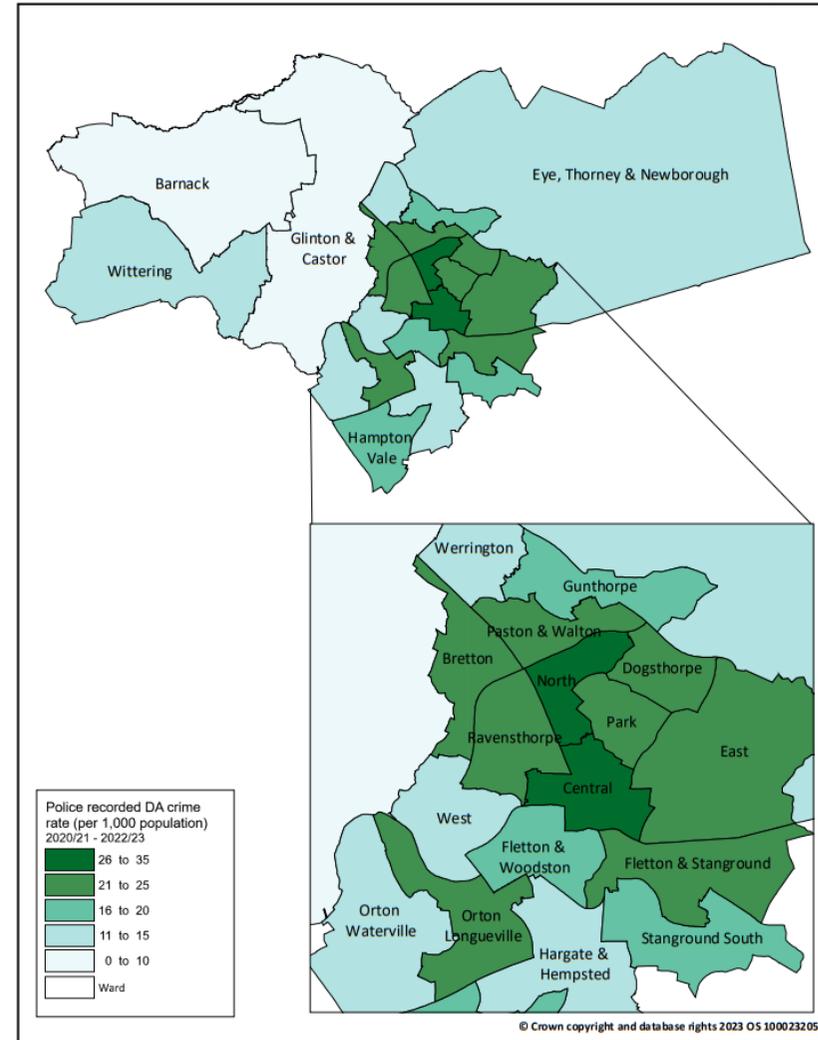


Figure 124: Thematic map of police recorded DA offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in Peterborough by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)



6.7. South Cambridgeshire

- Applying CSEW prevalence estimates to the local population indicates a potential 6,500 people aged 16+ who were victims of DA and 3,000 who were victims of sexual assault in Cambridge City in 2021/22.
- Annual count of police recorded 'Rape' and 'Other Sexual Offences' sub-types remained steady between 2017/18 and 2020/21 financial year before seeing a large increase in 2021/22. This has since dropped down to similar levels seen 2020/21 financial year.
- Police recorded DA related crimes in South Cambridgeshire have slightly increased between 2019/20 and 2022/23 financial years.
- Police recorded DA incidents(non-crimes) in South Cambridgeshire have steadily increased each financial year between 2019/20 and 2022/23.
- Police recorded DA offences crime rate was highest in the south of South Cambridgeshire around Melbourn and Bassingbourn.
- Police recorded Sexual offences crime rate was highest in the north of South Cambridgeshire around Over & Willingham, Longstanton and Histon & Impington.

Figure 125: Annual count of police recorded sexual offences in South Cambridgeshire, by offence sub-type (financial year)

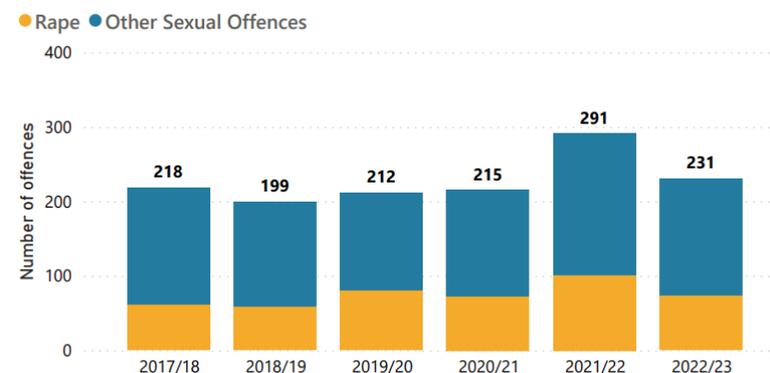


Figure 126: Police recorded DA related crimes and DA incidents (non-crimes) in South Cambridgeshire, 2019/20 - 2022/23 (financial year)

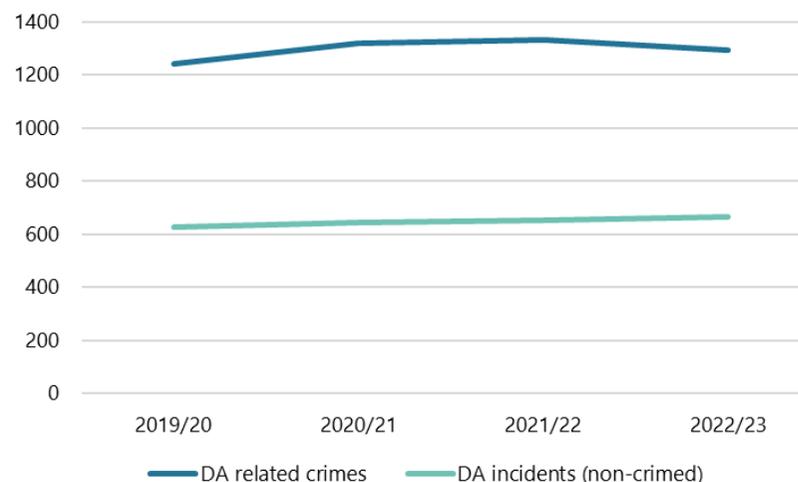


Figure 127: Thematic map of police recorded sexual offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in South Cambridgeshire by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)

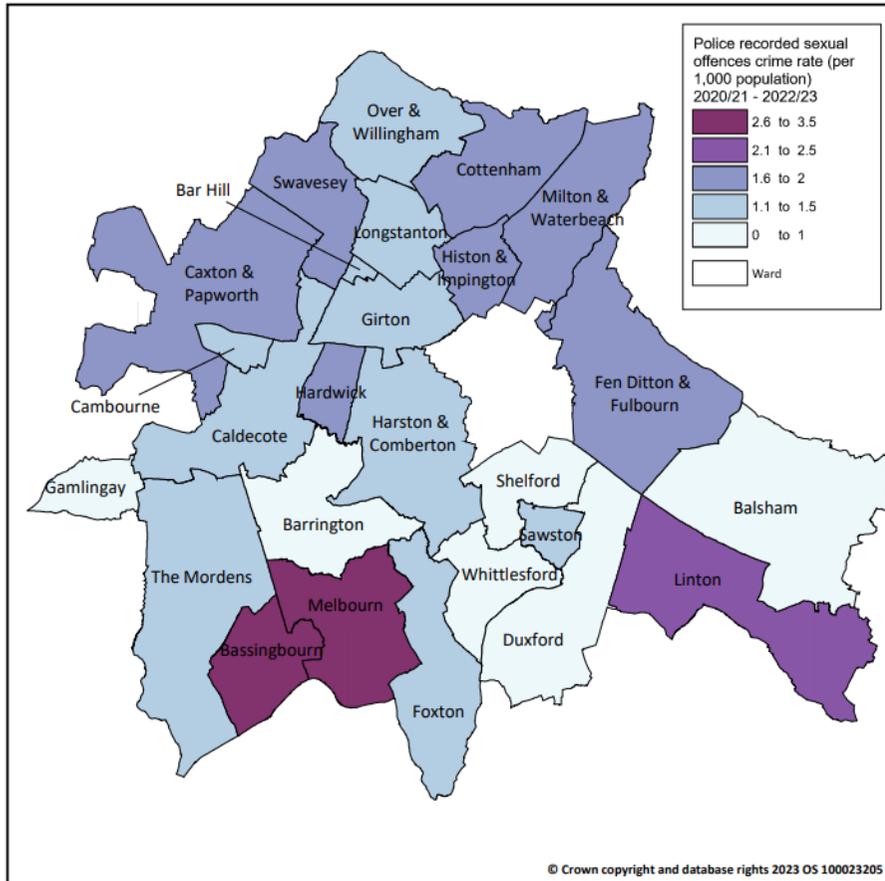
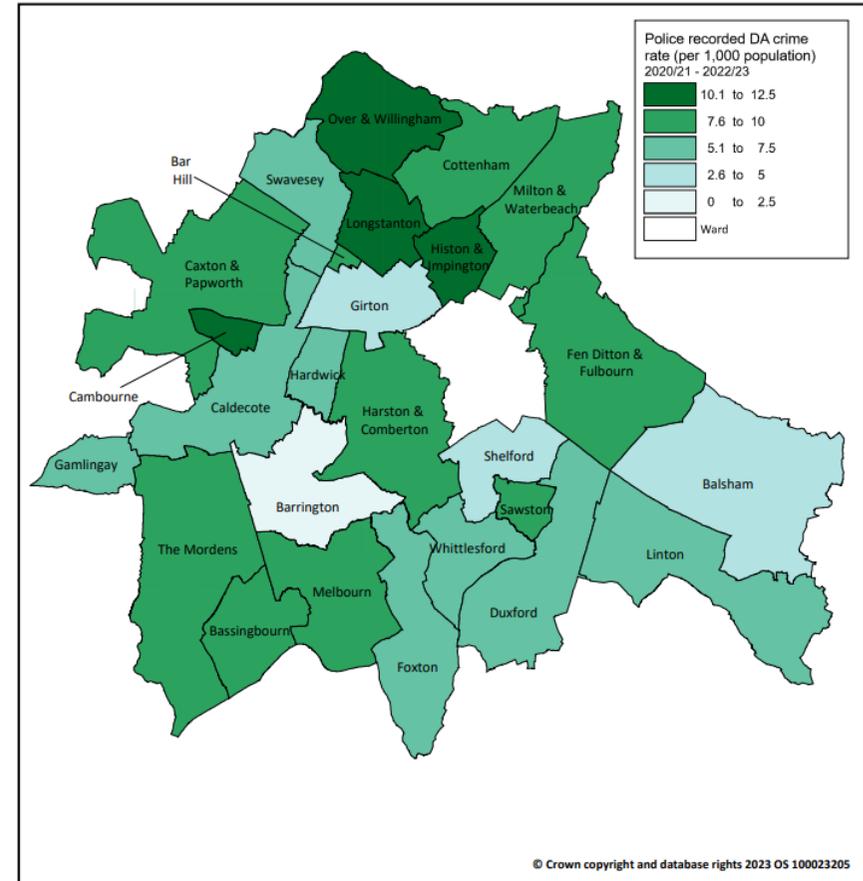


Figure 128: Thematic map of police recorded DA offences crime rate (per 1,000 population) in South Cambridgeshire by ward, April 2020 - March 2023 (financial year)



7. Glossary

Term / Acronym	Definition
Assault by penetration	Assault by penetration is the penetration of the vagina or anus with an object or other body part without consent. This was introduced as a legal offence in 2003.
CAPRCP	Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership
ChiSVA	Children & young people's and family independent sexual violence advocates
CJB (Criminal Justice Board)	CJBs are the forum in which local criminal justice partners come together to work in the common interest to improve the criminal justice system in their local area.
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CPS	Crown prosecution service
CSDS	Community services data set
CSEW	Crime Survey for England and Wales
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CUH Trust	Cambridgeshire University Hospital
DA (Domestic Abuse)	"Domestic abuse related crimes are defined as any incidence of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 16 and over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality." (ONS, 2022c)
DAPN	Domestic Abuse Protection Notice
DAPO	Domestic Abuse Protection Order
DAPP	Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel
DASH Assessment	Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence Assessment
DASS	The Domestic Abuse Support Service
DASV/DASVP	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence/ Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have an existing partnership (DASV partnership) that is made up of key agencies in the county that have a role in preventing, and providing services and

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	support to survivors of, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
Domestic Abuse Crime	Domestic Abuse Crime is not limited to specific offences. Any police recorded crime can be flagged as Domestic Abuse related and as such would be counted as a 'Domestic Abuse Crime'.
Domestic Abuse Incident	"A (police recorded) report of a domestic incident, which occurs in either a public or private place." Recording such incidents enables data to capture those incidents where the circumstances do not amount to a notifiable crime i.e., not all domestic abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded." (Home Office, 2011, p. 19)
DVDS (Clare's Law)	Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme. Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) is a police policy giving people the right to know if their current or ex-partner has any previous history of violence or abuse.
DVPN	Domestic Violence Protection Notices
DVPO	Domestic Violence Protection Order
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HBV	Honour based or so-called honour based violence
HES	Hospital Episode Statistics
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisory
HMICFRS	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advocate
MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements)	<p>Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are a set of statutory arrangements to manage the risk posed by the most serious sexual and violent offenders.</p> <p>MAPPA bring together the Police, Probation and Prison Services into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority for each MAPPA Area. These agencies have a statutory duty to ensure the effective risk assessment and management of identified offenders and</p>

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	to share information for MAPPA purposes. (Source: Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board (safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk))
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
NWAFT	North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust
ONS	Office for National Statistics
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PCC	Peterborough City Council
PSHE	Personal Social Health Education Service
Rape Offence	Police recorded sexual offences are categorised as either 'rape' or 'other sexual offences' in line with Home Office counting rules. Rape is the penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth by a penis without consent. This is the legal category of rape introduced in 2003 and includes offences against adults and children.
RFG Framework	Recency, Frequency, Gravity
SADA Service	Survivors against Domestic Abuse Service
SARAC	Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference
Section 28 hearing	Recording of evidence prior to trial, available to vulnerable victims and witnesses. See: Section 28 for vulnerable victims and witnesses in Crown Courts - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) .
Sexual Assault (CSEW definition)	Crime and justice methodology - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
Sexual Offence	Police recorded sexual offences are categorised as either 'rape' or 'other sexual offences' in line with Home Office counting rules. The group of "other sexual offences" recorded by the police covers sexual assault and unlawful sexual activity, which can involve consenting adults or children.
SCHBA	So called honour based abuse

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Sugar Arrangements	“A sugar arrangement is where one individual enters into what seems to be a mutually beneficial relationship with another, exchanging companionship and/or intimacy with economic security (including fixed monthly payments) or benefit in kind (such as a place to live). Commonly, this will involve a younger woman (a “sugar baby”) making an arrangement with an older man (a “sugar daddy”). However, different configurations of gender, including same gender relationships, also occur.” Source: pp32; Nature and Prevalence of Prostitution and Sex Work (Hester, Mulvihill, Matolcsi, Lanau Sanchez and Walker, 2019)
SV	Sexual Violence
Target Hardening	Target hardening: target hardening is a term used to describe improving the security of a property to reduce the risk of crime. For example help to support the victims of domestic abuse to improve security in their home and increase their safety - this includes the changing of locks, fitting window locks, video doorbells and providing safety advice.
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

8. Technical Notes

Figure 11:

- Data was not collected for the year ending 2021 due to the pandemic.
- From October 2021, the upper age limit was removed. Figures for 16 to 59 year olds only are presented in this table to allow comparisons to be made over a longer time period.
- Data for the year ending March 2022 are not National Statistics. They are based on six months of data collection from the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales between October 2021 and March 2022. Caution should be taken when using these data due to the impact of the reduced data collection period and lower response rates on the quality of the estimates.
- Chapter 5 of the User Guide provides definitions of sexual assault (Elkin, 2023)
- Please see ONS (Table F15, F17 and F18) for full list of footnotes (ONS, 2022b).

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Figure 12:

- Chapter 5 of the User Guide provides definitions of sexual assault (Elkin, 2023)
- Data for the year ending March 2022 are not National Statistics. They are based on six months of data collection from the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales between October 2021 and March 2022. Caution should be taken when using these data due to the impact of the reduced data collection period and lower response rates on the quality of the estimates.
- From October 2021, the upper age limit for the self-completion module was removed.

Figure 13:

- Chapter 5 of the User Guide provides definitions of sexual assault (Elkin, 2023).
- Data for the year ending March 2022 are not National Statistics. They are based on six months of data collection from the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales between October 2021 and March 2022. Caution should be taken when using these data due to the impact of the reduced data collection period and lower response rates on the quality of the estimates.
- From October 2021, the upper age limit for the self-completion module was removed.
- CSEW estimates in the above categories for men were suppressed due to disclosure constraints.
- Data for men were suppressed by ONS due to disclosure constraints.
- See ONS (Table 1) for full list of footnotes (ONS, 2023c).

Figure 14:

- Chapter 5 of the User Guide provides definitions of sexual assault (Elkin, 2023).
- See ONS (Table 3b and 4b) for full list of footnotes (ONS, 2023d)

Figure 45:

- Data for the year ending March 2022 are not National Statistics. They are based on six months of data collection from the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales between October 2021 and March 2022. Caution should be taken when using these data due to the impact of the reduced data collection period and lower response rates on the quality of the estimates.
- Chapter 5 of the User Guide provides definitions of sexual assault (Elkin, 2023).
- The sum of the overarching domestic abuse categories is not the sum of the sub-categories as some victims may be included in multiple categories as they can experience more than one type of abuse.

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- Please see ONS (Table F15) for full list of footnotes (ONS, 2022b).

Figure 46:

- Data was not collected for the year ending 2021 due to the pandemic.
- From October 2021, the upper age limit was removed. Figures for 16 to 59 year olds only are presented in this table to allow comparisons to be made over a longer time period.
- Data for the year ending March 2022 are not National Statistics. They are based on six months of data collection from the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales between October 2021 and March 2022. Caution should be taken when using these data due to the impact of the reduced data collection period and lower response rates on the quality of the estimates.
- Chapter 5 of the User Guide provides definitions of sexual assault (Elkin, 2023).
- Please see ONS (Tables F15, F17, F18, and F19) for full list of footnotes (ONS, 2022b).

Figure 85:

- This is based on a 3 year combined dataset including year ending March 2019 to year ending March 2021.
- A suspect in a homicide case is defined as either: a person who has been arrested in respect of an offence initially classified as homicide and charged with homicide, including those who were subsequently convicted or a person who is suspected by the police of having committed the offence but is known to have died or committed suicide prior to arrest or being charged.
- The all adults figure includes 1 victim with unknown sex.
- Partner/ex-partner includes the sub-categories 'spouse, cohabiting partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, ex-spouse/ex-cohabiting partner/ex-boyfriend/girlfriend and adulterous relationship'. Other family includes siblings, other relatives.
- Friend/acquaintance, stranger, relationship not know and other have been excluded as not applicable to domestic homicide.

9. Appendix A

The Home Office definition from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Legislation.gov.uk, 2021), which is used for the recording of crimes is as follows:

“Section 1: Definition of “domestic abuse”

- 1) This section defines “domestic abuse” for the purposes of this Act.
- 2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—

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- a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
 - b) the behaviour is abusive.
- 3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—
- a) physical or sexual abuse;
 - b) violent or threatening behaviour;
 - c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
 - d) economic abuse (see subsection (4));
 - e) psychological, emotional or other abuse; and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.
- 4) “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to—
- a) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
 - b) obtain goods or services.
- 5) For the purposes of this Act A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).
- 6) References in this Act to being abusive towards another person are to be read in accordance with this section.
- 7) For the meaning of “personally connected”, see section 2.”
(Legislation.gov.uk, 2021, p. 1)

“Section 2: Definition of “personally connected”

- 1) For the purposes of this Act, two people are “personally connected” to each other if any of the following applies—
 - a) they are, or have been, married to each other;
 - b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
 - c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
 - d) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
 - e) they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
 - f) they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child (see subsection (2));
 - g) they are relatives.
- 2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(f) a person has a parental relationship in relation to a child if—

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- a) the person is a parent of the child, or
 - b) the person has parental responsibility for the child.
- 3) In this section—
- “child” means a person under the age of 18 years;
 - “civil partnership agreement” has the meaning given by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004;
 - “parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989 (see section 3 of that Act);
 - “relative” has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.” (Legislation.gov.uk, 2021, p. 2)

“Section 3: Children as victims of domestic abuse

- 1) This section applies where behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is domestic abuse.
- 2) Any reference in this Act to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who—
 - a) sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse, and
 - b) is related to A or B.
- 3) A child is related to a person for the purposes of subsection (2) if—
 - a) the person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child, or
 - b) the child and the person are relatives.
- 4) In this section—
 - “child” means a person under the age of 18 years;
 - “parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989 (see section 3 of that Act);
 - “relative” has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.” (Legislation.gov.uk, 2021, p. 3)

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