

## Executive summary

- 1.1 This document is a refresh of the 2017 Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Needs Assessment for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. It does not go in to the same level of detail as that original document. This report considers partner data on domestic and sexual violence and abuse from 2017-18. At the time of writing the strategy for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland is still in development. The new governance structure for domestic and sexual violence and abuse will determine the schedule of future needs assessments and routine performance monitoring in line with that strategy.
- 1.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council currently jointly commission an information and support service for domestic and sexual violence and abuse, open to people across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. This provider also delivers another three domestic and sexual violence and abuse contracts specific to Leicester. Data from this provider, alongside police data, remains the largest source of local information routinely collated and shared across the partnership.
- 1.3 Few partners submitted demographic data that would allow for analysis of outcome variables or further comparison with the joint commission provider (UAVA), or the police data set.
- 1.4 Estimates (considered conservative due to capping) based on the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2018 would indicate that the number of people affected by domestic abuse in our area is 185,277. The total number of people affected by sexual violence is estimated at 106,730. It is estimated that over 244,566 children and young people could be affected by domestic violence and abuse across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland.
- 1.5 Reported crime for both domestic abuse and sexual offences is increasing at significant rates year on year, in line with national trends and totals over 13,000 offences over the year. Domestic abuse offences increased 29% on the previous year and sexual offences 26%.
- 1.6 The level of reporting to police per 10,000 population differs significantly across the sub-region. In Leicester there are 161.8 reports and in Rutland 33.9. Leicestershire has reporting rates of 81.5 per 10,000 population.

- 1.7 Within this generally high level of harm and volume, some perpetrators are known to be responsible for multiple victims; in 2018 the police identified 973 serial domestic abuse perpetrators (two or more unrelated victims) across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. 358 domestic abuse offenders had offended two or more times, accounting for a total of 931 offences. The Police also identified 2,079 repeat victims, accounting for 20% of all victims of domestic violence offences. One or two victims in Leicester had 16 instances of repeat victimisation known by the Police in a single 12-month period.
- 1.8 95% of perpetrators known to the police were male, and this aligns with UAVA data. Victim data is consistent over time but does differ across the agencies; with police data reflecting just over 20% male victims and UAVA 4-6%.
- 1.9 The identification of people thought to be at risk of forced marriage has increased overall in the last 3 years. Identification of so called 'Honour-based violence' however has been decreasing year on year. As so called 'honour-based violence' is a higher risk factor for those identifying as black or minority ethnic, this is of particular concern in Leicester.
- 1.10 There were 218 recorded 16 and 17-year-old victims of domestic abuse (Police figure) in 2017-18. 82 children aged 13-18 were identified by UAVA in the same time-period, as primary victims. A further 2627 children were identified as secondary victims, due to their parent being a victim of domestic or sexual violence or abuse. 16-18 years olds reported greater lengths of abuse compared to the 19-24-year-old in UAVA data, which could signify another priority area if we are to seek to prevent further harm and engage at an earlier opportunity.
- 1.11 The average length of abuse suffered by victims under 45 during 2017-18 was approximately 4.1 years compared with 10.4 years for victims aged 45 and over. Over 45 years of age reporting and access to agencies starts to drop off; even more acutely for those over 55 years of age. Age represents the biggest gap in reporting against census and prevalence research, however this is consistent and common across national data reports.
- 1.12 The refuge network is national, as victims are often no longer safe to stay in their own area if they are considering fleeing their home. Provision across the sub-region does not currently meet the levels recommended by the Council of Europe, although

the area benefits from multiple refuges that are not directly commissioned by the local authorities and some refuge provision funded through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The data from 2017-18 shows again that the proportion of victims identifying as disabled is highest in the refuge client group.

- 1.13 Housing need is amongst the most common need presented by victim-survivors across all UAVA services. Mental health was the other most common need presented by victim-survivors.
- 1.14 Data from children and families accessing the Leicester specific UAVA service reported higher (than other similar projects across the UK) levels of sleep difficulties, depression, self-harm and anxiety.
- 1.15 201 victim-survivors accessing UAVA had no recourse to public funds. This is a considerable increase on previous years.
- 1.16 Operation Encompass in Leicester, which is a schools' notification scheme following a police call out for domestic abuse, found that on average 20% of children in a household where there had been a domestic abuse attendance were not known to early help or children's social care services. UAVA data reports that 22% of all service users had known involvement with social care. The most significant change from 2016-17 data was in the reporting of victims having accessed their GP. This fell significantly (and more than the national data set) in 2017-18.
- 1.17 In 78% of cases there was a successful domestic violence prosecution during 2017/18. This is a decrease in the number of convictions compared to the previous year of 81% conviction rate, but higher than the National rate of 76%. In 83% of cases there was a successful sexual offence conviction. This is a higher conviction rate when compared to the previous year (77%) and is in line with the East Midlands conviction rate of 84%. The National rate is 80%.
- 1.18 Problematic use of alcohol, and to a lesser extent drugs, whilst not commonly reported in service data, seems to have a significant impact on outcomes; including whether people were likely to feel safer, record a reduction in abuse and record an improvement in their health and wellbeing. UAVA victim-survivors from Leicester were less likely, in 2018-19, to report positive outcomes in feeling safer, improving their quality of life and in having increased confidence compared to Rutland and Leicestershire; 78-92%, 79-92% and 87-96% respectively.

- 1.19 Through the process of undertaking this refresh it became apparent that the police data on domestic abuse incidents used in the previous needs assessment (2017) and initially supplied for this document, were inaccurate. Revised data has been supplied and features in this document. This has been reassuring as previously there were concerns that domestic incidents had drastically reduced, and this is not the case.

## **Leicester**

- 1.20 Leicester has a higher reporting rate per 10,000 female adult population than either Leicestershire or Rutland. There remains significant variance across the City that is not easily attributable to deprivation indexes. Despite the increases in police recorded crime for both sexual and domestic violence and/or abuse, some agencies have also reported reductions in their figures. Domestic violence accounts for just over a third of all violent crime in Leicester.
- 1.21 During 2017/18, 69 people could not be accommodated by the refuge service following a referral. In nearly half of cases, people were not accommodated due to there being no suitable accommodation. Other reasons included victims who wanted to stay in Leicester but were not considered safe to stay in Leicester, and victims whose needs could not be accommodated in the available accommodation (due to staffing levels, room sizes or other needs).
- 1.22 129 referrals were made to the Jenkins Centre for non-court mandated domestic violence and abuse perpetrator interventions. During this time 86 partners/ex-partners were identified and approached by the service, and 87% engaged in support. Many of these partners had not accessed direct support for themselves prior to this engagement.
- 1.23 Under reporting is considered a risk factor for black and minority ethnic victim-survivors. This does not seem immediately apparent in the Leicester data across all services. However, reporting might be an issue specifically to those identifying as Asian British Indian, or this could be a classification issue (as those identifying as 'other' within this sub-category is higher than the 2011 census).
- 1.24 The number of Leicester cases heard at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is nearly twice that of Leicestershire and a high proportion of UAVA referrals are of victims who are at high risk of homicide or serious injury.

- 1.25 Mental health, financial issues and domestic abuse as a child were the most common risk factors present in relation to the perpetrators of domestic homicides in Leicester. Unstable housing was highlighted in the previous report as an issue present for either victim or perpetrator in each domestic homicide review conducted to date in Leicester. Mental health and housing are consistently high needs for UAVA clients year on year for Leicester.
- 1.26 The two most significant increases in need for those affected by domestic violence were around no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and requiring an interpreter. The number of victims identified as having NRPF increased across the whole of the sub-region and presents unique challenges when it comes to securing safety.
- 1.27 Nearly half (45%) of UAVA Leicester clients had needs around finance, benefits and debt, which is a slightly higher proportion than the national dataset (35%).

### **Leicestershire**

- 1.28 Demand per 10,000 population for the Information and Support Service across Leicestershire shows that Harborough has the lowest level of access to the jointly commissioned domestic and sexual violence service provided by United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA). Blaby and Oadby & Wigston have higher repeat referrals per 10,000 adult female population. 41% of all violent crime across Leicestershire accounts for domestic violence offences.
- 1.29 For high risk cases referred to MARAC there is a gap in BME cases for the County, which is not seen at the same levels in UAVA access figures. The largest gap for the County MARAC is disability, as it is in Leicester, however this is thought to be connected to recording issues.

### **Rutland**

- 1.30 Sexual offences had the highest increase compared to both the previous years. MARAC cases are decreasing year on year for Rutland which is a very different picture to that of Leicester and Leicestershire. Reported need around mental health is

higher in Rutland than in Leicester and Leicestershire, and higher than the national dataset.

- 1.31 The average length of abuse for disabled victims in Rutland is much higher than the City and County averages. Although there are quite low numbers compared to the other areas (five adults with a disability), the number of years that these individuals experienced abuse before accessing help was very high.