

# **LEICESTER DOMESTIC ABUSE NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2021**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This needs assessment summarises data collated from a range of local partner agencies and focusses on three years' data, where available, from April 2018 to March 2021. Two previous needs assessments have been produced, in 2017 and 2019, and trends apparent over the last five years are noted where relevant.

The report has been prepared by the Domestic and Sexual Violence Team within Community Safety, Leicester City Council, with assistance from Public Health, Leicester City Council and other colleagues and partners across the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board.

This is a partnership document and reflects current understanding of what the data is telling us and what this means for the strategy and local priorities over the next three years.

## 1. Leicester City

- 1.1 The mid-2020 population estimate for Leicester City is 354,036, of which 50% are female and 50% male. Leicester's population is relatively young compared with England, with 20% of the population aged 20- 29 years old (13% in England) and 12% of the population aged over 65 (18% in England). Based on the 2011 census, just over half of Leicester's population classify themselves as belonging to a Black, Asian, or other minoritised<sup>1</sup> ethnic group.
- 1.2 Leicester is the 32<sup>nd</sup> most deprived local authority in England. Over two-thirds of the population live in the most deprived areas.
- 1.3 In Leicester there is a diverse range of agencies working to tackle domestic abuse and committed to prevention and improving responses. The local 'responding to domestic abuse' partnership network has approximately 90 members. Members include those working in Voluntary and Community Services (VCS) organisations working with specific communities, VCS domestic abuse specific organisations, social housing providers and statutory agencies. All have contributed to create a comprehensive service offer around domestic abuse<sup>2</sup>. The specialist domestic and sexual violence helpline and website provider, in place across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland, is the central access point to simplify what could be an overwhelming number of options.
- 1.4 Leicester City Council has centralised funds for specialist domestic abuse services, on 3-6year contracts, since 2012. These services have included specialist provision for children, young people and families, support and information services across the range of risk (of homicide), and including some 'by and for' provision, safe accommodation services and interventions with perpetrators (and their partners or ex-partners) who, without court direction, wish to change their behaviour. These foundations of specialist provision reflect the government's 'statement of expectations'<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Minoritisation – socio-cultural processes which position certain groups as minorities (HALT: Homicide, Abuse, Learning, Together)

<sup>2</sup> [Response to Domestic Abuse \(R2DA\) Partner Service Offer 2021-22](#)

<sup>3</sup> Home Office December 2016

## 2. Local Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Provision

- 2.1. Between 2015 and 2022 nineteen units of refuge accommodation, commissioned by the local authority, were provided by Women's Aid Leicestershire Limited<sup>4</sup>, including specific options for those not suitable for that refuge provision and for those perpetrators committed to changing their behaviour.
- 2.2. In 2021-22 Panahghar provided 15 units of specialist 'black and minority ethnic' refuge accommodation units, commissioned by Leicester City Council, and a further six second stage self-contained flats and five emergency respite rooms (the latter funded by DLUHC as part of a pilot programme).
- 2.3. Both WALL and Panahghar provide additional refuge and dispersed accommodation, through their own funds and housing benefit income. In addition, Action Homeless provide a seven-unit refuge, through their own funds and housing benefit income.
- 2.4. More recently additional non-local authority commissioned domestic abuse accommodation has been provided by Zinhiya Trust<sup>5</sup>.

## 3. Prevalence of Domestic Abuse

- 3.1. In England and Wales, the police recorded 758,941 domestic abuse-related crimes in England and Wales for the 12-month period to year ending March 2020 (excluding Greater Manchester Police). This was an increase of 9% from the previous year and continues an ongoing trend that may reflect improved recording by the police alongside increased reporting by victims<sup>6</sup>.
- 3.2. Based on the prevalence of domestic abuse as established through the crime survey for England and Wales, and mid-year population estimates for Leicester, a level of domestic abuse related need for Leicester can be estimated.

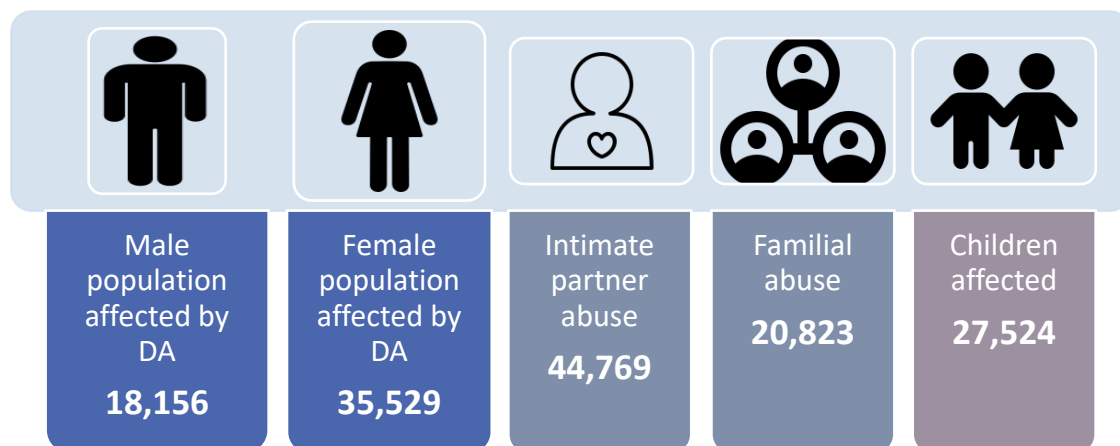
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<sup>4</sup> On behalf of UAVA, which was a co-operative consortium active 2015-2022

<sup>5</sup> [Overview of Data Tables](#): Table 5

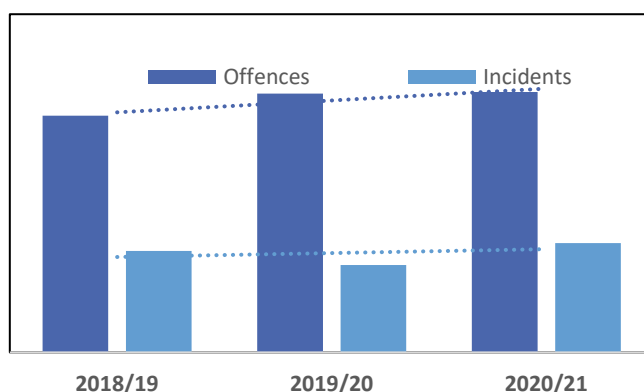
<sup>6</sup> [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) accessed 3/9/21

## Leicester population estimates for those affected by Domestic Abuse since the age of 16<sup>7</sup>



- 3.3. Across England and Wales, data shows that women aged 16-19 years were more likely to experience domestic abuse in the last year than all other age groups<sup>8</sup>. Police recorded domestic abuse offences for Leicester, where the victim was aged 16–17, has shown a year-on-year increase.
- 3.4. At **police** force level, Leicestershire recorded 14,896 domestic abuse related crimes in the year ending March 2020. This was equivalent to 14 crimes for every 1,000 people in the population.
- 3.5. In line with national trends, **domestic abuse offences in Leicester are increasing over time.**

### Leicestershire Police Domestic Abuse Offences and Incidents



<sup>7</sup> CSEW (2020), Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England, and Wales: year ending March 2020 “27.6% of women and 13.8% of men had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16”.

<sup>8</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

**Number and rate of domestic abuse related offences recorded by the police, year ending March 2020 by ONS peer comparators<sup>9</sup>**

Local Authority	Domestic abuse offences	Population (Census 2011)	Rate per 1,000 population
Nottingham	6,694	305,680	21.9
<b>Leicester</b>	<b>7,619</b>	<b>329,839</b>	<b>23.1</b>
Luton	5,608	203,201	27.6
Birmingham	31,869	1,073,045	29.7
Coventry	9,413	316,960	29.7
Bradford	19,696	522,452	37.7

- 3.6. Domestic abuse accounts for approximately 35% of all **violent crime** each year in Leicester.
- 3.7. The Centre for Economic Performance<sup>10</sup> found that when looking at crime data, abuse by **current partners and family members** increased by 8.1% and 17.1% respectively while **ex-partner abuse** declined by 11.4% during lockdown periods connected to the Covid-19 pandemic. This seems to be reflected in local police data during the first national lockdown in March 2020.
- 3.8. During 2020/21, there were 455 **adult social care** enquires recorded and of these 19 had a domestic abuse element (4%).
- 3.9. **Leicester City Council Housing** recorded an increase of over 200% in housing tenancies where domestic abuse was identified as a factor during 2020/21, compared to the previous year (87 supported in 2020/21, compared to 27 the previous year). This increase may be related to the Covid-19 pandemic. It might also reflect improved staff awareness following domestic abuse training and improvements in recording.
- 3.10. In the same year there was a 22% increase in Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA)-led presentations to **Homelessness** Services. Overall presentations to the service increased by 9% in the same period, meaning DVA-led presentations were 13% over trend. DVA presentations in 2020/2021 accounted for 5.8% of all presentations to the service compared to 5.2% in 19/20, a 12% increase.

<sup>9</sup> 'Leicester's statistical neighbours'

<sup>10</sup> [Changing patterns of domestic abuse during Covid-19 lockdown; Centre for Economic Performance; November 2020](#)

## 4. Children & Young People

- 4.1. 2019/20 saw the largest increase in the number of children referred to the commissioned specialist domestic and sexual abuse **Children & Young People's Family Service**. Over the last three years, an average of 438 children were referred for specialist domestic abuse support each year.
- 4.2. Although small numbers of children are currently reflected in the Children's Insights Data system (which is a requirement of local authority commissioned domestic abuse services where there is consent), the recorded average length of abuse for a child increased; in 2020/21, it was 9.2 years<sup>11</sup>. This is an increase from the previous year which was 6.5 years<sup>12</sup> (2019/20).
- 4.3. Data for the Children & Young People's Family Service in Leicester shows that young people are experiencing higher levels of anxiety, low moods, and self-esteem compared to the national Insights data.
- 4.4. 1,843 **Early Help** Assessments were closed in Leicester City Council Early Help during 2020-21. Of those 1,843, 853 (46%) had a domestic abuse related need recorded.
- 4.5. An average of 553 calls were made each month through **Operation Encompass**. There might be double counting of some children in this figure as it relates to the number of calls made regarding children and not the number of individual children. On average, 17% of children identified through Operation Encompass were not already known, at the time of that notification following police call out, to Early Help or Children's Social Care.
- 4.6. **Supporting Families** and Police data shows the area of Knighton, has an upward trend in reports over the last three years, although it is the lowest reporting area for Leicester.
- 4.7. The last three years show an increase in the number of **children's social care** contacts started. There are numerous factors behind this, including a

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<sup>11</sup> This is an average across 11 children where an Insights intake form was completed, and this question was answered.

<sup>12</sup> Average across 35 children

deliberate focus on being easy to contact for advice and support. A significant amount of work has gone into improving children’s social care (CSC) data relating to domestic abuse in recent years, including making some reporting fields mandatory. Domestic abuse was a **presenting concern in 32-44% of CSC cases** over the last three years. During 2020/21, 23% of CSC completed contacts recorded a domestic abuse factor (5,453).

## 5. Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Data

- 5.1. Compared to the national figure (+8%), the year-on-year change in cases heard at MARAC (those victims at highest risk of homicide or serious injury), is very different for Leicestershire Police Force area, which has shown a **35% decrease** compared with the previous year (Table 4, Appendices).

Police Force	MARAC % change in cases 2019-2020
Leicestershire	-35%
Nottinghamshire	+14%
Warwickshire	-196%
West Midlands	+1206%
Bedfordshire	-63%
West Yorkshire	-176%

- 5.2. Looking at the MARAC data from SafeLives from our ONS peers (at Police Force level), there is a large variety in trend for MARAC case numbers between 2019 and 2020, as outlined in the table above.
- 5.3. The ethnicity and disability of victims recorded by MARAC is below expected levels based on census and SafeLives calculations. This could be a recording issue, or it could indicate hidden risk.
- 5.4. All MARAC cases result in a referral of the victim-survivor to a trained Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA). IDVA data, listed in the following section, shows a higher proportion of both victims with a disability, and victims who are Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), but there remains a gap with expected levels that is not seen at ‘outreach’ (standard and medium risk) level.



- 5.5. Compared with the Insights national dataset, victims in Leicester are more likely to report higher levels of abuse across all types, with the difference most visible in physical abuse and jealousy and controlling abuse.

## 6. Domestic Homicide

- 6.1. Seventeen Domestic Homicide Reviews opened in Leicester April 2011 to March 2021, nine of which occurred within the last three years (April 2018 – March 2021)<sup>13</sup>.
- 6.2. In 50% of the Leicester DHRs there was a record that someone knew about the abuse; the victim had disclosed abuse or fear of abuse/death to either a personal acquaintance or an agency. For familial violence there was less disclosure, with only one out of four disclosing – in that case the disclosure was to the police and health.

## 7. Pathways to Support

- 7.1. Many local victim-survivors who accessed local specialist domestic abuse services stated that they found out about support through a friend or family member: "Spoke to a friend, then went to Women's Aid", "Knew of service as a friend used to work there", "From a sister who had a friend with similar problems", "Through my daughter who found out about UAVA", "I knew of UAVA as a family member used to work for them and a friend had used their services".
- 7.2. Other pathways to support included referrals from social services, non-statutory family support services, healthcare services, and children's schools.
- 7.3. Delays in accessing support through different pathways contributed to the positivity or negativity of service users' experience: "The wait time was very long", "Had to wait 4-5 weeks".



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<sup>13</sup> [Leicester City Council Web Page for Domestic Homicide Reviews](#)

- 7.4. The main source of referral to the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Support and Information Service, between 2018 and 2021, was self-referral, followed by referrals from the police. 83% (380) of victims had reported to or called the police and 26% (366) had accessed A&E over a one-year period (2020/2021). Referrals from health were the lowest source of referral. Many health services will signpost rather than refer to specialist domestic abuse provision. NICE domestic abuse quality standard QS116 (2016) statement 2 directs that health and social care practitioners 'should offer a **referral** to specialist services'.<sup>14</sup>
- 7.5. Insights data on victim-survivors that reported to the police in the 12 months before coming into support service, shows some differences by ethnicity. The percentage for Asian Indian victim survivors reporting to the police was lower (21%) than referrals into the service as a whole (37%), this was also evident for White Other victim-survivors, with 5% reporting to the police compared with 13% accessing the support service and Black African victim-survivors (3% reporting to the police compared with 8% accessing services).

## 8. Local Victim Demographics

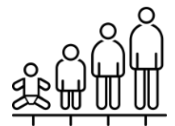
- 8.1. For Leicester DHRs most victims were female (71%). 70% of these were intimate partner homicides. This is in line with national figures.
- 8.2. 5% of referrals to the Leicester Domestic and Sexual Abuse Support and Information Service were from male victim-survivors (82 referrals) during 2020/21. This proportion is consistent each year.
- 8.3. Police figures remain consistent over the years at around 26% of reports of domestic abuse offence reports being made by males. Many do not go on to access specialist local domestic abuse services.
- 8.4. Those victims accessing commissioned support services reflects the local census in terms of those which are from black or minoritised ethnic communities. Underneath that surface area, referrals to both IDVA and



<sup>14</sup> [Quality statement 2: Response to domestic violence and abuse | Domestic violence and abuse | Quality standards | NICE](#)

Outreach support services show lower referrals from those from an Asian Indian background, compared to the census population.<sup>15</sup> This gap is not so evident in other populations which come under 'BME'.

- 8.5. Panahghar reached a far higher population proportion of British Asian Indian and British Asian Pakistani victims, as could be expected being a specialist 'by and for' services that does not support White British victims. The additionality across other BME categories was not so apparent in Panahghar data.
- 8.6. When broken down further into Asian or Asian British ethnic groups, there are generally lower referrals from Asian Indian victim-survivors compared with the other ethnic groups. This is more evident for referrals to the IDVA service.
- 8.7. Black and minoritised ethnic victims might be at risk of experiencing longer lengths of abuse compared to the White British population. The average lengths of abuse for BME victims was, on average, 1.5yrs longer than the White British population. Female victims from BME backgrounds were more likely to be affected by multiple perpetrators.
- 8.8. Both commissioned service and police data on domestic abuse victims shows gaps in identification for those aged over 54 years of age and an over-representation in populations terms of the younger age bands.
- 8.9. There are higher reports of domestic abuse offences to the police from the 25–44-year age group, and reports from those over 55 years is significantly lower compared with all other age groups.
- 8.10. Data for Leicester IDVA and Outreach services for 2020/21 showed that approximately **43% of the population** being referred to the services identified as having a **disability**. Mental health impairment and physical disability account for a third of all disabilities disclosed.
- 8.11. The most common type of violence to be experienced on a repeated basis is domestic abuse. In the year ending March 2018, a higher proportion of



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<sup>15</sup> 2011 Census

victims of domestic abuse measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales were repeat victims (34%) compared with stranger violence (15%).

- 8.12. Police data identified 2,170 **repeat victims** in Leicester during 2020/21, accounting for 28% of all victims of domestic abuse offences.
- 8.13. 2020-21 has seen increases in the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse, and some victims have suffered very high numbers of repeat incidents. 92 victims experienced six or more repeat incidents within a 12-month period.
- 8.14. The sex demographic for repeat victim's is similar to the reporting population, but there is a higher proportion of BME victims (at 41%) than in the general police domestic abuse victim data. Those aged 25-34 years accounted for the largest age group amongst the repeat victim population (42%). This is higher than the census population for this age group in Leicester (16%).
- 8.15. Repeated access or reporting could be a positive sign of confidence in agency responses, but it might also be a sign of ineffectual responses not leading to a reduction in abuse.
- 8.16. IDVA data showed that in 2020/21, 90 (**21%**) victim-survivors **did not engage** with the IDVA service (declined service, unable to contact or unsuitable referral). The demographics of these victim-survivors show that a higher percentage were BME victims (48%).

## 9. Victim Needs

- 9.1 **Housing need** amongst domestic abuse victims in Leicester is showing a year-on-year increase and is higher than the national Insights dataset (which is 44%). Housing need for adults with children increased and of those aged 16-17 years of age, 33% had a housing need (UAVA Insights Data, 2020/21).
- 9.2 The specialist commissioned Safe Home Service found that **mental health** related need remained amongst the most common reported need for victims of domestic abuse. Across services mental health related need was higher than the national Insights dataset (57% compared to 44%) and showed an increase during 2020/21. For those with a mental health need, there was a **75% increase** from 2018/19 to 2020/21 in record of victims having disclosed suicidal thoughts.
- 9.3 For those accessing Panahghar as part of the Hope Project, the most prevalent need for referrals to this organisation was those who had **no recourse to public funds or immigration issues** (64%). There is a higher number of victim-survivors accessing services with **no recourse to public funds** (27%) in the city compared to the national Insights dataset (13%). This has consistently been higher than the national dataset over the last three years, with an average of 29% of service users having no recourse to funds, although the numbers of individual victims identified has remained stable
- 9.4 Some local victim-survivors who shared their experiences said they had been unable to access the **financial support** they needed:
- "I tried to get help with housing because although I'm working, due to financial abuse I didn't have any money not even £10 savings. Until today I'm in debt. No one could help me with these".*
- "It's a shame to not be able to get help with housing when you are a victim of abuse (emotional, financial) and domestic violence, just because you are working! Abuse means controlled by the perpetrator who would let you have any penny, so working victims like me are as vulnerable as those who are [un]employed. I'm struggling with debts (more than £6000) since July 2020 because the council can't accept my application for housing".*

- 9.5. The level of reported **alcohol need** remained consistent year on year and is lower than the national Insights dataset (which is at 8%). It is possibly under-recognised by practitioners. Insights data shows that the number of repeat cases for victim-survivors with an alcohol need was almost double that of those who did not have an alcohol need (48% compared with 25%).
- 9.6. The most common additional needs experienced by victim-survivors with an alcohol need were mental health (62%) and housing (61%). In a bespoke report that SafeLives produced for Leicester around alcohol need, they found that those with an alcohol need were three times more likely to have experienced suicidal thoughts or behaviour, and twice as likely to be self-harming compared to those without an alcohol need.
- 9.7. There were higher numbers for **pregnant women** who have previously or are currently experiencing domestic abuse identified by hospital services than those accessing or referred to specialist domestic abuse services. During 2020/21, there were 27 service users (Insights population) that identified as pregnant whilst accessing the City Support and Information services (7% of all primary service users). On average the providers supported 7 pregnant service users in each quarter. A slightly larger proportion of pregnant service users accessed the Safe Homes Service (9%) and a similar proportion accessed the Children and Young Persons Family Service (7%).
- 9.8. The profile and length of abuse were different for clients who were pregnant at intake (33 clients). Pregnant clients were more likely to experience **high severity** physical abuse than non-pregnant clients (53% compared to 43%). The length of time clients had experienced abuse before accessing support was shorter for pregnant clients; 24% pregnant clients had experienced abuse for less than a year compared to 9% clients who were not pregnant.
- 9.9. The impact of domestic abuse on victim-survivors' children and the importance of support in relation to parenting and family circumstances were recurrent themes among service users' feedback.
- 9.10. During 2020/21, there were 73 offences/incidents recorded by Leicestershire Police that related to **forced marriage and Honour Based Abuse**. This number is consistent with the previous year. These numbers are not reflected in the local commissioned domestic abuse services. In the last year,

forced marriage was identified as a risk in seven Insights (UAVA) cases in Leicester; this is approximately 2% of all cases, and this proportion is consistent over the last three years. 18 victim-survivors were identified as at risk of honour-based violence, representing approximately 5% of the total Insights population – this has increased slightly from the previous year (3%). It is likely to reflect an under-identification of the issues in an area as diverse as Leicester. Children’s social care identified seven cases of forced marriage during 2020/21.

- 9.11. An **interpreter** was recorded as required in **11%** of Leicester Support and Information cases during 2020/21. The languages an interpreter was required most frequently were Gujarati, Polish, Punjabi, and Hindi.
- 9.12. Zinthiya Trust<sup>16</sup> was commissioned to undertake some engagement work around reporting and domestic abuse prevalence amongst British Asian Indian women in Leicester. Of the 65 respondents to the survey they compiled, **52% spoke no English**. The majority of the women spoke either Gujarati or Hindi. A lack of language skills amongst domestic abuse support workers and service users was identified by the authors as a major barrier to women reporting and engaging with support services.
- 9.13. When asked what would make a difference and improve reporting, **cultural awareness** and being able to communicate in a language that the victim-survivor was most confident in using were cited most frequently.

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<sup>16</sup> DVSA under-reporting of abuse by British Asian Indian women in Leicester; Survey findings report; Zinthiya Ganeshpanchan; June 2021

## 10. Outcomes and Barriers

- 10.1 Many local victim-survivors shared their positive experiences of refuge accommodation and the support they were able to access there:

*"I received a lot of support during my time at the refuge. I gained independence, felt valued, felt safe and respected. I was very happy I was offered a space at the refuge",*

*"I recently moved in women refuge after fleeing domestic violence ... After being here a short time, I have been given the willingness to speak out and respected and treated as an individual and got the right support I needed",*

*"I like having my own flat, but it is reassuring to know that there are staff here if I need them",*

*"Artists came into the refuge and provided us with craft activities. This really helped to divert my mind".*

- 10.1 The commissioned WALL refuge<sup>17</sup> accommodated, on average, 47 victims/families a year.
- 10.2 The total number of service users successfully placed in safe accommodation has shown a year-on-year increase. There has been significant work between city council homelessness services and commissioned safe accommodation services over the last 12 months to support move-on and effective use of emergency temporary domestic abuse accommodation.
- 10.3. During 2020/21, a total of **110** victim-survivors were recorded as **not accommodated within 48 hours** from referral. In just over a quarter of cases (26%), people were not accommodated due to their 'high support needs'; indicating that the safe accommodation providers could not meet these needs safely within their accommodation. Other reasons included were no current domestic abuse (18%), no suitable accommodation (12%) and no recourse to public funds (7%).

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<sup>17</sup> Safe Homes Service



- 10.4. Over the course of 2020-21 there were 1,718 instances of **empty domestic abuse safe accommodation** units in the commissioned services. 79% of these were void due to cleaning and/or maintenance, and the remainder were vacant. Over the course of the year this loosely represents around 19% of overall availability being inaccessible due to cleaning/maintenance.
- 10.5. After support from specialist services, **50% of victims reported having experienced no abuse of any type since intake**<sup>18</sup>, which is higher than the Insights national dataset (43%).
- 10.6. Two open questions were asked by domestic abuse staff on each exit from the support and information service: one around what has made the biggest difference to the victim-survivor's safety and well-being and why, and the other asking for what the victim feels could improve the safety and well-being of other people at risk of domestic abuse. The majority of victim-survivors felt that domestic abuse services that they had accessed had made the biggest difference to their safety and well-being, with the support from the IDVA and **having someone to talk to** making the biggest impact. Help with accommodation also made a difference, along with legal support.
- *"IDVA – having someone to talk to that is taking it seriously"*
  - *"Having emotional support and being able to apply to move"*
  - *"Moving to refuge has made a great difference"*
  - *"Having extra security on my doors and windows"*
- 10.7. When asked what the victim-survivor felt could improve the safety and wellbeing of those at risk of domestic abuse, it was felt that **more awareness** of the services was needed, and knowledge of **what support is available**. Better **"clarity around housing"** and **access to refuge** were also mentioned several times.
- 10.3 As part of contract management processes two engagement sessions were held between 2018 and 2021 and in both of the sessions **being 'heard' and believed** was highlighted by victim-survivors:
- *"It took me three years to be believed",*

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<sup>18</sup> Insights Report for United Against Violence and Abuse; 12 months to January 2020

- *“My experience was validated”,*
- *“Provided me with what I needed – to be listened to”,*
- *“We were heard during the Freedom Programme”,*
- *“I only made contact via the helpline yesterday and immediately felt relief that finally someone was listening to me”.*

10.4 Victim-survivors reported that repeating their experiences to multiple service providers was distressing for them, and they would like to see this reduced:

*“Improvements would be not having to relive the experience every time you speak to someone new and have to fill out DASH every time. This is extremely upsetting and traumatic”,*

*“In the past I have relayed my experiences to different services/charities and THEN been referred to someone else, where I was expected to relay my traumatic experiences AGAIN. After doing this, my mental health was in a state where I could not effectively engage in these services as I was in the midst of severe PTSD symptoms, SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE I had to RELAY MY TRAUMA TO MULTIPLE PARTIES BEFORE RECEIVING SUPPORT”.*

10.5 Those who had received services acknowledged the limitations but commented that the existing provision sometimes fell short of what they expected:

*“I had to leave a message as it was a point in the day when services were closed. I know it may not be practical to have a 24-hr service, but it can be quite disheartening when feeling in crisis”,*

*“The system could be a little clunky and slow at times due to waiting lists and being passed to various services. The delays were a bit upsetting when I was struggling so much”,*

*“Please ring back when you say you will”.*

## 11. Overview of Data Tables

**Table 1: Children and young people identified**

Service	Measure	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Leicester City DSV Children and Young People's Family Service (VCS)	Children referred	452	623	478
Leicester City DSV Children and Young People's Family Service (VCS)	Families referred	404	478	399
Leicester City DSV Children and Young People's Family Service (VCS)	Cases where victim is pregnant	5	5	5
Leicester City DSV Children and Young People's Family Service (VCS)	Cases where victim has had a baby in the last 12 months	5	1	0
Leicester DVS Support and Information Service - Primary victims aged 13-18yrs (VCS)	Cases opened	18	12	18
Leicester DVS Support and Information Service - Secondary Victim (0-18yrs) (VCS)	Cases opened	740	837	746
Leicester DVS Support and Information Service - Primary victims (VCS)	Cases where victim is pregnant	16	24	29
Leicester DVS Support and Information Service - Primary Victim (VCS)	Cases where victim has had a baby in the last 12 months	16	7	16
Safe Homes Services (VCS)	Cases where victim is pregnant	36	57	59
Safe Homes Services (VCS)	Cases where victim has had a baby in the last 12 months	56	69	34
Partner Support Service (VCS)	Cases where victim is pregnant	12	9	19
Partner Support Service (VCS)	Cases where victim has had a baby in the last 12 months	24	20	45
Leicester City Council Children's Social Care	Assessments Child Factor	270	243	178
Leicester City Council Early Help	Domestic Abuse Cases closed	507	609	853
Leicester City Council Early Help	Cases with a domestic abuse need	481	368	280

UHL Maternity Data	Pregnant women where an incident of domestic abuse has been reported	-	-	54
	Pregnant women known currently to be experiencing domestic abuse	-	-	223
	Pregnant women who have previously reported domestic abuse	-	-	275
Youth Justice Service	Witnessed domestic abuse	63	73	50
Leicestershire Police	Domestic Abuse Reported Offences 16/17-year-old victims	134	146	169

**Table 2: Overview of Leicester Domestic Abuse Data Years 2018-2021**

Organisation/Service	Measure	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Police recorded DA offences	Offences	6,998	7,651	7,700
Police DA incidents	Incidents	2,998	2,583	3,230
City Council Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Unit	Complex/severe incidents of ASB where domestic abuse is a factor	40	21	26
United Against Violence & Abuse (UAVA) Helpline Calls known to be from Leicester	Calls	3,933	3,879	2,107
UAVA Total Referrals (Leicester)	Referrals	1,219	1,757	1,613
UAVA IDVA Referrals (Leicester)	Referrals	698	628	483
UAVA Outreach Referrals (Leicester)	Referrals	518	630	684
Women's Aid Leicestershire Limited (WALL) Hospital IDVA	Referrals	83	204	179
WALL Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC)	Referrals	2	44	104
UAVA Safe Homes Service	Referrals	748	784	789
UAVA Sanctuary	Referrals			12
WALL Non-commissioned Refuge	Referrals	30	125	67
WALL Dispersed Properties	Referrals	0	0	38
LCC Triage Presentations	Domestic abuse	250	259	315
LCC Homelessness Applications	Applications with domestic abuse	146	201	248
LCC Housing Tenancy	Domestic abuse reports	22	27	87
Action Homeless Bridge House Refuge	People accommodated	25	19	17

Table 3: MARAC data 12 months to March 2021 rounded to 0 decimal point<sup>19</sup>

Indicator	SafeLives recommended level	National Figure	Leicestershire Police Force	Leicester actual against recommended/national
Number of cases discussed	530	113,538	890	485
Cases per 10,000 population	40	44	21	14
Children in household	-	141,024	1078	591
Year on year change in cases	-	8%	-34%	-35%
Repeat cases	28-40%	33%	44%	43%
Police referrals	60-75%	65%	73%	72%
Referrals from other agencies	25-40%	35%	27%	28%
BME victim		17%	19%	28%
LGBT victim	2.5-5.8%	1%	2%	2%
Disability recorded against victim	19%+	8%	5%	5%
Male victims	5-10%	6%	3%	3%
Victims aged 16-17	-	1320	27	19
17 or below harming others	-	1076	17	9
Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA)	5.5	1209	9.5	5
Admin support to MARAC	1.4	314	0.5	0.25

<sup>19</sup> [Marac data 2020-2021 England and Wales | Safelives](#)

Table 4: IDVA and Outreach referrals by ethnicity 2018-2021<sup>20</sup>

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Indian	205	259	236
Pakistani	30	30	29
Bangladeshi	12	17	15
Chinese	1	5	1
Any other Asian background	91	62	61
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>342</b>
African	33	45	39
Caribbean	9	12	24
Any other Black, African or Caribbean background	28	16	20
<b>Black or Black British</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>83</b>
White & Black Caribbean	27	29	24
White & Black African	2	6	2
White & Asian	9	13	13
Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background	14	18	23
<b>Mixed Race</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>62</b>
Arab	10	11	11
Any other ethnic group	14	18	20
<b>Arab or Any other ethnic group</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>
Irish	9	9	8
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0	0
Any other White background	77	66	83
<b>Total BME</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>609</b>
<b>Total White British</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>515</b>

<sup>20</sup> UAVA Oasis data 2018-2021

Table 5: Local Safe Accommodation Provision

DA Accommodation Support Provider	UAVA (WALL)	WALL	WALL	WALL	247 Locks	Panahghar			Action Homeless	Zinthiya Trust
Service Name	Brookes House	Leicester Refuge	Juno House	Dispersed		BME Refuge	Respite Rooms	Second Stage	Bridge House	Zinthiya Trust
Specialism (if applicable)			Young women			BME				
Commissioner/Funding	LCC/Budget	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	PCC	LCC/Budget	LCC/DLUHC	LCC/DLUHC	Unknown	Unknown
Number of units	19	11	8	3	-	15	5	6	7	20
Type of units	Self-contained and dispersed				-	Shared and self-contained				
Number of wheelchair accessible units	5	0	0	0	-	7	1	0	1	4
Largest family size	4	4	2	5	-	5	3	3	4	3
Upper age limit for male children	14-16	12	12	None	-	14 (shared), 16 (self-contained)	16	14	11	9
Take victims with NRPF	Yes	No blanket policy	No blanket policy	No blanket policy	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Support for male victims	No	No	No	Yes	-	No	No	No	No	No
Pets accepted	No	No	No	Yes (2 units)	-	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Overnight on-site security staff	Yes	No	Yes	No	-	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Quality Standards (DA specific)	WAFE & SafeLives High/Medium Risk Services	WAFE	WAFE	WAFE	WAFE	Imkaan	Imkaan	Imkaan	-	-



## 12. 2021 Leicester Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment - Recommendations

1	Public health commissioners of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme, known locally as Healthy Together, to schedule a spotlight and evaluation report on domestic abuse in their contract management cycle and put measures in place to receive routine data on the identification and response to domestic abuse.
2	UHL to share domestic abuse data from midwifery services, for city residents, on a regular basis.
3	Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership to consider a schedule of case level audits to assess identification and response to domestic abuse across agencies.
4	Early Help within Leicester City Council to explore what next in terms of Operation Encompass contacts and improving the understanding of the impact and outcomes for the children at the centre of the operation encompass call.
5	The Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board to routinely monitor MARAC and repeat victim data (police and commissioned services as baseline) for ethnicity, disability and age differences against their full domestic abuse victim data.
6	The Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board to review the delivery plan following the review report from SafeLives on MARAC and makes amendments as necessary to its delivery plan.
7	The Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board to establish a clear approach to workforce development around domestic abuse that can be monitored for effectiveness and respond to emerging need.
8	The Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board to ascertain the level of prevalence known at community level and awareness of local services and deliver a programme of community awareness initiatives tailored to those findings.
9	The Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board to review risk assessment processes applied by partner agencies in instances of domestic abuse, referral processes and impact for reassurance purposes.
10	The Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board to consider the placement of safe accommodation services and targeting of communication materials to take account of differences in reporting trends across the City and encourage trust and engagement

	with specialist domestic abuse provision.
11	University Hospitals Leicester, Leicester CCG and Leicestershire Partnership Trust to review data systems with a view to capturing data to provide reassurance on the identification, disclosure and response to domestic abuse.
12	Leicester Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to review the accessibility of safe accommodation provision across the nature of the disability and the experience of those who identified as disabled.
13	Leicester City Council to require mandatory data collection against key Children's Insights indicators for every case opened by the commissioned provider and encourage other providers working with children to use the Insights monitoring system to better capture impact of domestic abuse on children locally.
14	Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board to consider the council data on forced marriage risk and honour-based abuse (collating that known to ASC and CSC) against the police figures to reassure that referral routes are being used appropriately in relation to safeguarding issues.
15	CSC and ASC routinely report contacts and referrals relating to forced marriage risk or honour-based abuse into the Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board to monitor both identification and appropriate responses.
16	'Supporting families' service to review and improve collection of data available on ethnicity, disability and location so this data set can offer more insight into impact on outcomes and also identification.
17	Leicester CSC to consider how best to record the ongoing prevalence of domestic abuse throughout any involvement. This is to ensure a better understanding of outcomes for children and families and what intervention/services make a positive difference.
18	Leicester City Council DSV Team to consider improvements that could be made to individual level data held by providers on council referred victim-survivors to assist in understanding outcomes and barriers.
19	Leicester City Council Housing considers the distinct needs of 16 and 17year old victims of domestic abuse in future housing strategy development.