

Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

27 July 2023

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment

Cllr Eleanor Wills – Executive Member – Population Health & Wellbeing

Debbie Watson – Director of Population Health

Lisa Morris – Strategic Domestic Abuse Manager – Population Health

AGENDA:

1. Recap
2. Introduction
3. Data overview
4. Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021
5. Perpetrator Needs Assessment 2022
6. Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2026

RECAP:

- Last attended in January 2021
- Impact of Covid – increases in high risk domestic abuse and need for additional IDVA capacity
- Domestic Abuse Bill was due to be enacted bringing with it a new definition of domestic abuse and statutory requirements for LA's, specifically relating to provision of safe accommodation for those fleeing an abusive situation
- Requirement to undertake a needs assessment of domestic abuse locally, including a review of provision and gaps

Introduction



Definition of Domestic Abuse

Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—
(a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
(b) the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following:

- physical or sexual abuse;
- violent or threatening behaviour;
- controlling or coercive behaviour;
- economic abuse
- psychological, emotional or other abuse;

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

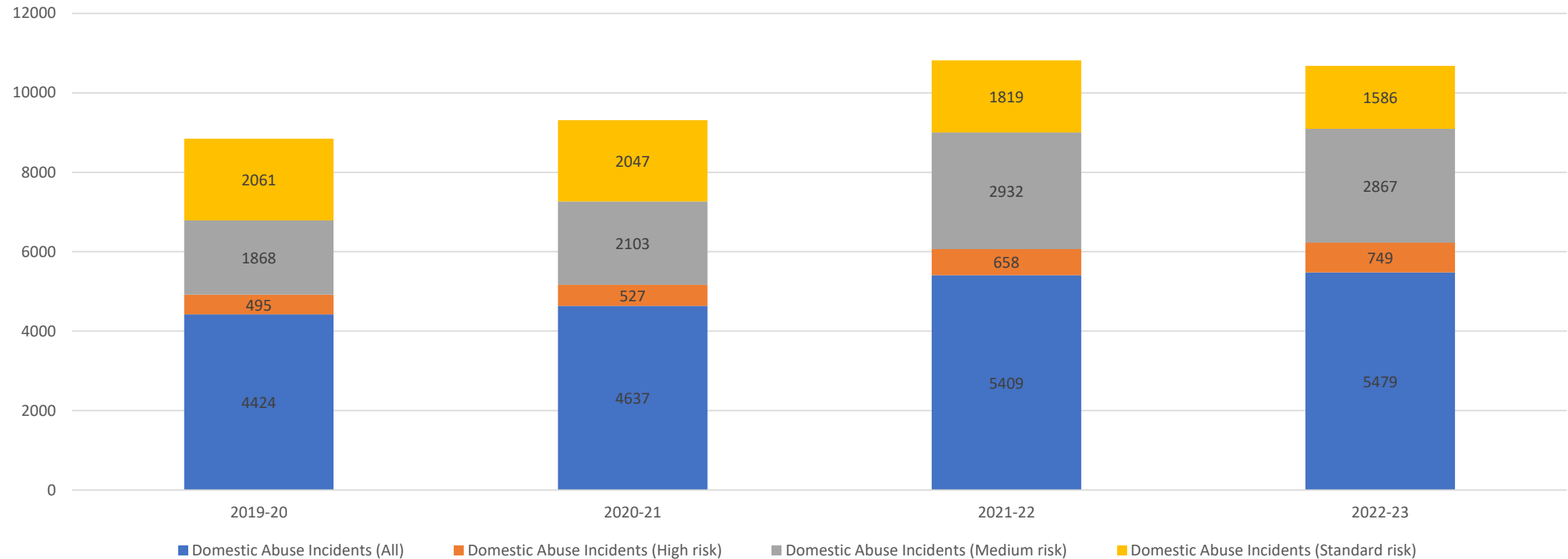
The new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires Local Authorities to:

- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which it will consult as it performs certain specified functions.
- Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, including those who come from outside the area.
- Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment.
- Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions).
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
- Report back to central government.

Data Overview



Domestic abuse incidents report to GMP



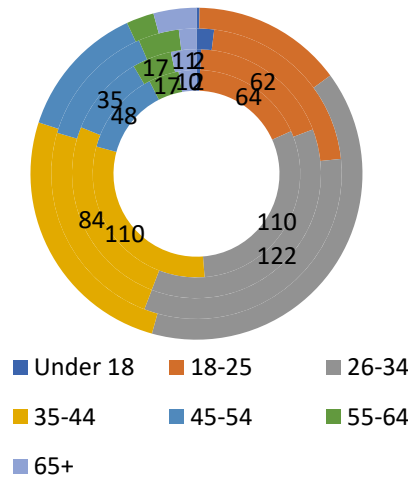
- Domestic abuse continues to be a growing issue in Tameside, with risk levels increasing
- Number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police have increased from 4424 in 2019/20 to 5479 in 2022/23 (23.8%).
- On average 6 households present as homeless as a result of domestic abuse each week in Tameside

Domestic Abuse support – a snapshot (2022/23)

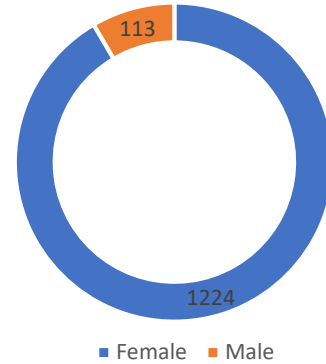
Referrals – 1337 new referrals

Refuge – 63 new referrals

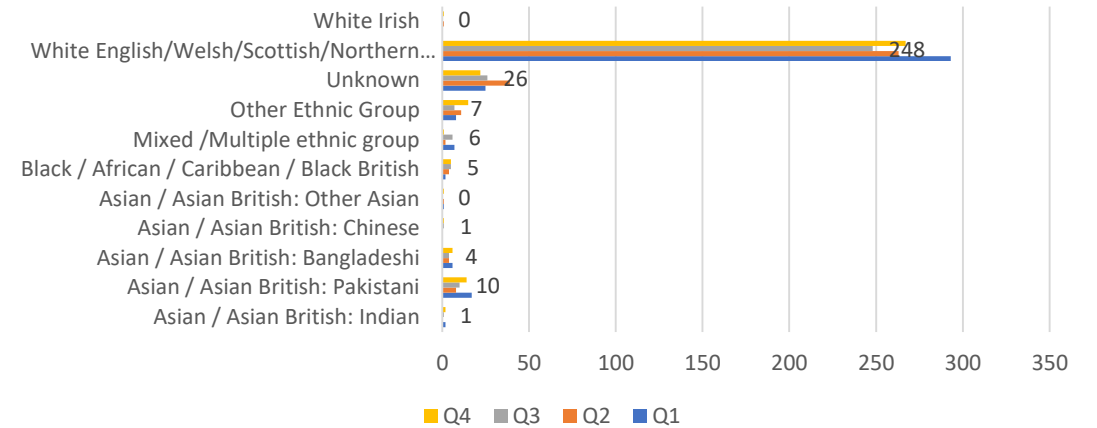
Age



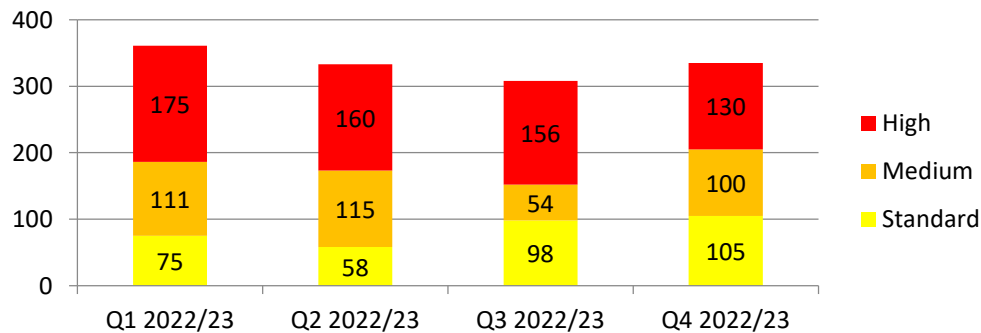
Gender



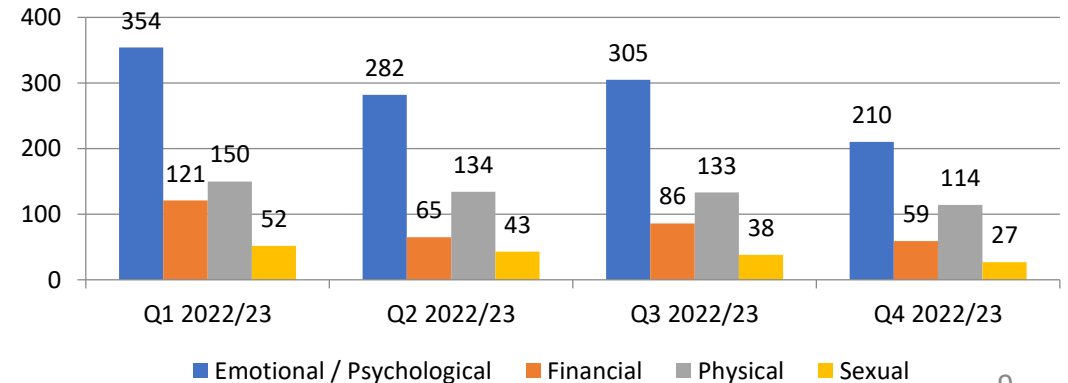
Ethnicity



Referrals by Risk Levels



Types of Abuse



Rates per ward 2022

Ward	Number of domestic abuse incidents in 2022	Rate per 1000 population*
Ashton Hurst	304	26.3
Ashton St Michaels	437	34.6
Ashton St Peters	615	43.9
Ashton Waterloo	315	27.1
Audenshaw	276	22.1
Denton North East	339	30.5
Denton South	328	29.9
Denton West	135	12.1
Droylsden East	302	24.5
Droylsden West	241	21.7
Dukinfield	505	39.4
Dukinfield Stalybridge	262	24.1
Hyde Godley	396	31.6
Hyde Newton	454	30.6
Hyde Werneth	228	19.6
Longdendale	319	32.0
Mossley	223	19.4
Stalybridge North	418	32.5
Stalybridge South	201	17.9
Total	6298	27.7

GM rates 2022-23

	Bolton	Bury	Manchester	Oldham	Rochdale	Salford	Stockport	Tameside	Trafford	Wigan	GM
Total	6460	3817	13733	6319	5244	6386	4962	5663	3256	7270	63127
Average rate per 1,000 population	21.82	19.69	24.98	26.10	23.40	23.59	16.80	24.49	13.82	22.05	22.01

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021



Key learning themes

- Tameside has a high level of reported domestic abuse. The reported rate is higher than both Tameside's closest statistical neighbours and eight points higher than the England average
- Evidence suggests a large number of incidents of domestic abuse go unrecognised where survivors might be accessing mental health support, accident and emergency and adult social care
- Professionals in Tameside are strong multi-agency workers, although there are opportunities for a stronger approach to suicide prevention, including analysis of victim/survivor needs and identification of perpetrator suicide
- Professionals repeatedly acknowledged the financial harms of domestic abuse, forced debt and high economic need
- Survivors felt there was a shortage of housing and appropriate housing advice
- Survivors reported high rates of emotional abuse and coercive control
- Survivors reported often to police and criminal justice agencies which is indicative of situations reaching crisis point and a lack of early intervention

Recommendations

1. Need for a consistent approach to data collection (particularly in relation to protected characteristics), outcomes frameworks and monitoring of impact across agencies
2. Workforce development opportunities for professionals across the Partnership include:
 1. Understanding economic abuse
 2. Domestic abuse training for housing and homelessness staff, GPs and practice staff, A&E staff, mental health professionals, midwifery services, adult and children's social care
 3. Identifying and engaging with perpetrators
3. Use of temporary accommodation for domestic abuse victims should be reviewed and changes in allocation prioritised in line with new statutory requirements
4. Gender specific communications and access points for male victims should be created
5. Routine questions from key services including GP, CAB, A&E, mental health
6. Domestic abuse should become part of the suicide prevention strategy and action plan
7. Flexibility in mental health provision for survivors of domestic abuse
8. Support for police to have a more victim-focused approach
9. Clarity on pathways to support for all professionals

Perpetrator Needs Assessment 2022



Key learning themes

At the start of the needs assessment, it was evident that **there is currently no dedicated service or intervention for perpetrators of domestic abuse**, unless they are convicted and mandated to attend Building Better Relationships through probation or individuals pay to attend the regional Talk Listen Change programme. This is a significant gap, and our recommendations focus substantially on how Tameside could consider addressing this.

Learning Theme 1: Governance for the domestic abuse strategy in Tameside is coordinated within Public Health which enables a violence reduction approach.

Learning Theme 2: There are significant gaps in data across Tameside around perpetrators which must be improved.

Learning Theme 3: Perpetrators in Tameside appear to have a complexity of need which may make engagement in behaviour change challenging.

Learning Theme 4: Perpetrators are not being held to account through the criminal justice system.

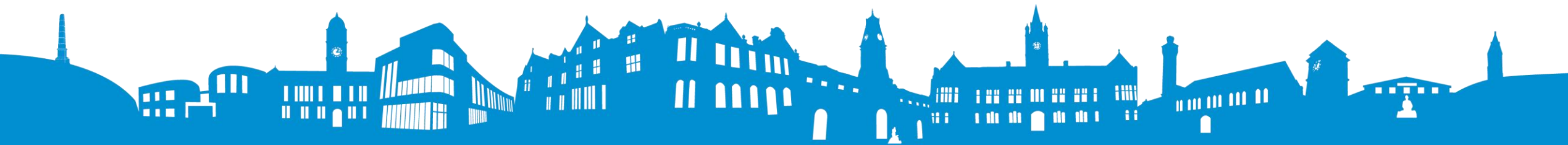
Learning Theme 5: Housing options are limited for perpetrators which could cause risk of harm to victims.

Learning Theme 6: There is a considerable gap in the confidence, knowledge and skill across the frontline workforce in knowing how to respond to perpetrators

Recommendations

1. Response to perpetrators should be embedded within a wider Public Health approach which takes a whole system view
2. Conduct an audit of perpetrator data held by all services with a recommendation to improve quality and create a perpetrator dashboard
3. Conduct a training needs assessment or review existing training around domestic abuse and complex needs to identify opportunities to create a new training offer around perpetrators
4. Substance use, mental health and homelessness services should audit their assessment processes to ensure they're robust in identifying, sharing information and working with perpetrators
5. Develop a whole person DA perpetrator risk assessment toolkit and promote across all agencies
6. Explore the use of positive requirements and injunctions to mandate perpetrators to access interventions
7. Housing and homelessness services should develop a protocol for housing perpetrators of domestic abuse, which should align to the Whole Housing Approach and include both enforcement and support
8. Following the development of a training offer the outcomes and impact should be regularly reviewed

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2026



Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2026

Make Domestic Abuse everybody's business

Create Safe Spaces for Disclosure

Meet the needs of victims through local services

Help victim-survivors stay safe at home

Secure better outcomes for children impacted by domestic abuse

Identify problem behaviours early

Hold perpetrators accountable

Culture & Governance	Operational
Domestic Abuse Steering Group	Perpetrator task and finish group
Trust Group – Lived experience	Domestic Abuse Data Dashboard
White Ribbon Accreditation	MARAC Review
Moving towards a Co-ordinated Community Response Model	Workforce Development & Communications Strategy
Recommissioning of Domestic Abuse Support Services	Wider work on Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)