

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)

Crime and Safety Scrutiny

- Recorded Domestic Abuse offences have increased by 124 offences in the 12 months to the 26th of September 2016 (+4.4%, London: +6.1%). In the same period, Violence with Injury offences which were Domestic Violence have increased by 26 offences (+2.8%, London: +4.1%).
- The police are conducting an end to end review of DA offences which will be completed in October 2016. It is a priority area for the police.
- The proportion of sanctioned detections has decreased for Domestic Abuse in Enfield (from 33.4% to 31.3%) and for Violence with Injury Domestic Abuse (from 43.1% to 38.3%). The sanction detection rate for rape increased (from 11.6% to 17.2%).
- In August 2016, victims of Domestic Violence who had been a victim of a crime during the previous 12 months represented 18.24% of all Domestic Violence victims (London: 16.29%). On average, Domestic Violence victims had experienced 2.27 previous incidents (London: 2.75).

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls further information

The pillars of the approach set out in the Government's refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016 - 2020 are – prevention, provision of services, partnership working and pursuing perpetrators.

The previous Mayoral strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls 2015-17 committed to reducing the prevalence of violence against women and girls and working with partners to:

- Focus on prevention and create a culture based on equal rights and respect
- Hold perpetrators of VAWG to account
- Ensure that women and girls have access to protection, justice and support to rebuild their lives

The priorities for the new Mayor of London will include tackling violence against women and girls which comes at a time when violent crimes against women and girls throughout England and Wales have reached a record high, according to new statistics.

An annual report, released by the Crown Prosecution Service, showed that nationally domestic abuse, rape and sexual offences accounted for 18.6 per cent of the organisation's workload; an increase of nearly 9 per cent in six years.

In the past year, nationally 4,643 people were convicted of rape; stalking prosecutions rose by 7.1 per cent; and child sex abuse prosecutions rose by 15.4 per cent.

These figures represent a rise in the numbers of women who will now engage with the criminal justice system, as our figures also note below (support to victims engaged with CJS), however there are many more victims that are not engaged with the CJS or that need support systems in place to encourage reporting.

The Domestic Abuse in London 2015-16 report produced by MOPAC highlights that an additional 8 domestic homicides occurred during 2015-16 however there were very few or no offences of severity related to the victims. This would suggest that cases identified as standard or medium risk, from a range of agencies, would need greater focus. This could be resourced via additional case workers, which is an area of commissioning that we are striving for from 2017 or as soon as possible.

At a time when the focus is on holding perpetrators to account there is little funding available to Partnerships to realise this outside of the London Crime Prevention Fund. To tackle root causes of abuse and ensure Partnerships can robustly action and measure this, consideration needs to be given to how we can effectively manage abusers and repeat offenders. It is anticipated that the new PCC will be looking to link more closely offenders who commit violent offences within a Domestic setting with the measures available to tackle offending behaviour more widely such as measures used for those who commit volume crime, whilst recognising that they need a specialist approach.

In previous years, with a number of funding strands, we have seen that there can be a disconnect between actual demand and funding to tackle VAWG and that this has not always appeared to reflect this. Enfield has many of the same issues as inner London boroughs but will not always see funding allocations matching demands. It is believed that the allocation of the London Crime Prevention Fund from April 2017, from the new Mayor of London will be announced in the next month.