

# DOMESTIC ABUSE

## *Spotlight*

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**NOTES:** This is the list used to prepare the Slidedeck, the points were highlighted by Onye. So far all of the points have been covered in the slides.

### Proposed Scope for Domestic Abuse spotlight

- Impact of the pandemic on Domestic Violence (DV) levels (locally & nationally), including demographics
- Cultural barriers faced with victims, and provisions in place to counteract these
- The housing approach to DV during the pandemic and workplan going forward.
- Impact of the pandemic on safeguarding interventions such as Children & Adult Social Care referrals and DV flags
- Prevention, Treatment and Victim Support (and impact of Covid on these, if any)
- The Council's revised VAWG strategy, what it implements, and relevant Council provision
- Disparities in funding streams for Domestic Abuse, and how these can be streamlined into one single funding source.
- The additional request Onye sent re CS partnership arrangements. Check email sent

**COUNCILLOR SIRAJUL ISLAM**

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# NATIONAL POLICY LANDSCAPE

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## New Domestic Abuse Bill

- The Domestic Abuse (DA) Bill will come into effect in April 2021.
- The Bill will ensure DA victims get priority need status to access housing.
- There has been extensive MOPAC consultation with service providers in England and LBTH.
- Tower Hamlets has already incorporated some of the recommendations as a good practice borough.
- Home Secretary launched Public Awareness Campaign - #YouAreNotAlone.

## MOPAC and London Councils

- Tackling Domestic Abuse is a priority in the Mayor's Policing and Crime Plan. Various funding streams are available and LBTH has benefited from them.

## Housing

- Non-statutory guidance has been published for Registered Providers of Social Housing (RPSH) stating that essential moves to support those fleeing domestic abuse should continue to be a priority during the pandemic.
- Where there is excess need in borough for accommodation, rooms can be booked through a national programme.

# LOCAL POLICY LANDSCAPE

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## The Council's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2019 - 2024

- 2019-2024 VAWG Strategy signed off at Cabinet.
- Strategic oversight from Community safety Partnership
- Three priorities include to:
  - *ensure support and protection for victims*
  - *work with perpetrators*
  - *work with communities to raise awareness and challenge misogyny*
- Extensive Delivery Plan developed and driven through the multi-agency VAWG Steering Group.

## Projects & Initiatives

- Multiple **projects** and **commissioning**: FGM Project, DHR's, SDAC, DAHA, IRIS, WISER Project, Beyond the Streets - support for women involved in prostitution
- **Increased caseworkers** –additional funding secured to include IDVAs within Housing, DWP, GPs, court, police station
- **Sanctuary** security installations
- **MARAC** Coordination of most high risk cases – adopted good practice virtual model and review recently completed
- **Campaigns**, (Domestic Abuse No Excuse Campaign, White Ribbon Campaign, Ask Angela Campaign, Ask Ani, Safe Spaces Scheme, You Are Not Alone)
- In house DV **duty line** for professionals which is unique to TH

# CULTURALLY SENSITIVE PROVISION

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- LBTH ranked 16th most ethnically diverse in the UK
- Two thirds of our residents belonging to minority ethnic groups
- The last Census revealed 60-70% of non-English speakers were women
- English and Bengali are the two most used languages
- Intersectionality: a unique experience of abuse when gender intersects with other inequalities (e.g., sexuality, ethnicity, immigration status, disability)
- VAWG Strategy Service User Consultation (2018) showed the following barriers:
  - *lack of awareness*
  - *fear of breaking up family*
  - *victims accessing services was mistrust/fear of agencies*
  - *language barrier*

## Specific culturally sensitive provision

- BAME specific projects and provision including BAME Refuge, FGM Project.
- Bengali speaking staff within key services.
- Targeted promotion of DV services in Bengali and Somali.
- Multi-lingual training and resources available.
- VAWG training addresses cultural barriers.
- 16 Days of Activism Campaign focussed on 'A Country a Day' to raise awareness of survivor experiences from different cultures.

# FUNDING

## Total value of funding



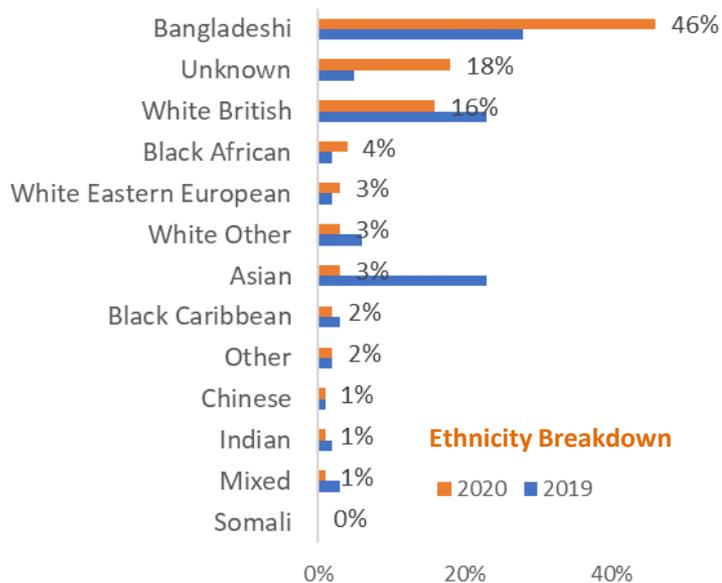
## Headlines

- 2020 benchmark against 19 London boroughs shows LBTH ranked 14th in total budget spend on domestic abuse advocacy per annum
- Boroughs with the lowest level advocacy provision have the highest domestic homicides (Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Hillingdon)
- LBTH is joint 13th (with Redbridge) out of 17 boroughs for total number of domestic abuse advocates
- Government funding allocations are mostly for charities

# IMPACT OF PANDEMIC

Area / Service	DA Trend
Police recorded offences (London)	Up
Police recorded offences (LBTH)	Up
<i>Demand on commissioned service providers</i>	Up
<i>Housing referrals with DA</i>	Up
<i>Children Social Care referrals with DA</i>	Up
<i>Adults Social Care referrals with DA</i>	Down

- Increase in domestic abuse globally, nationally and locally.
- Police recorded offences shows domestic abuse in 2020 is above the 5-year average.
- 21% increase in referrals for IDVA services.
- Housing with domestic abuse shows an increase of 48% (64) in 2020 compared to 2019
- Children Social Care domestic abuse referrals went up by 21% (281) in 2020 compared to 2019.
- Adult Social Care domestic abuse referrals went down by 15% (29).



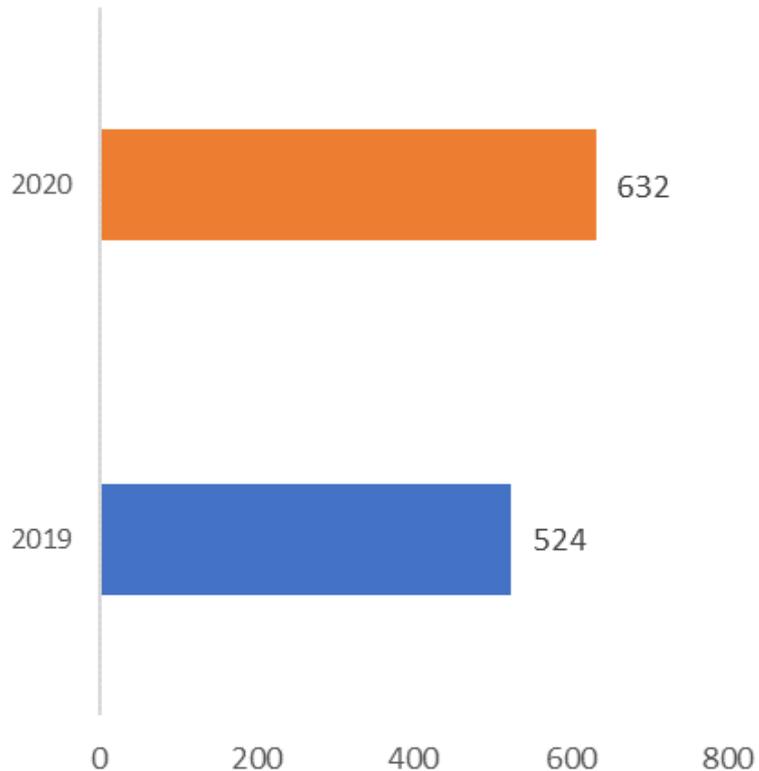
## Ethnicity Breakdown of referrals

- Bangladeshi group with the highest referrals
- Slightly higher than borough demographics which could be due to cultural and language barriers compounding domestic abuse

# IDVA PROVISION

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## Number of victims referred for IDVA support 2019 and 2020



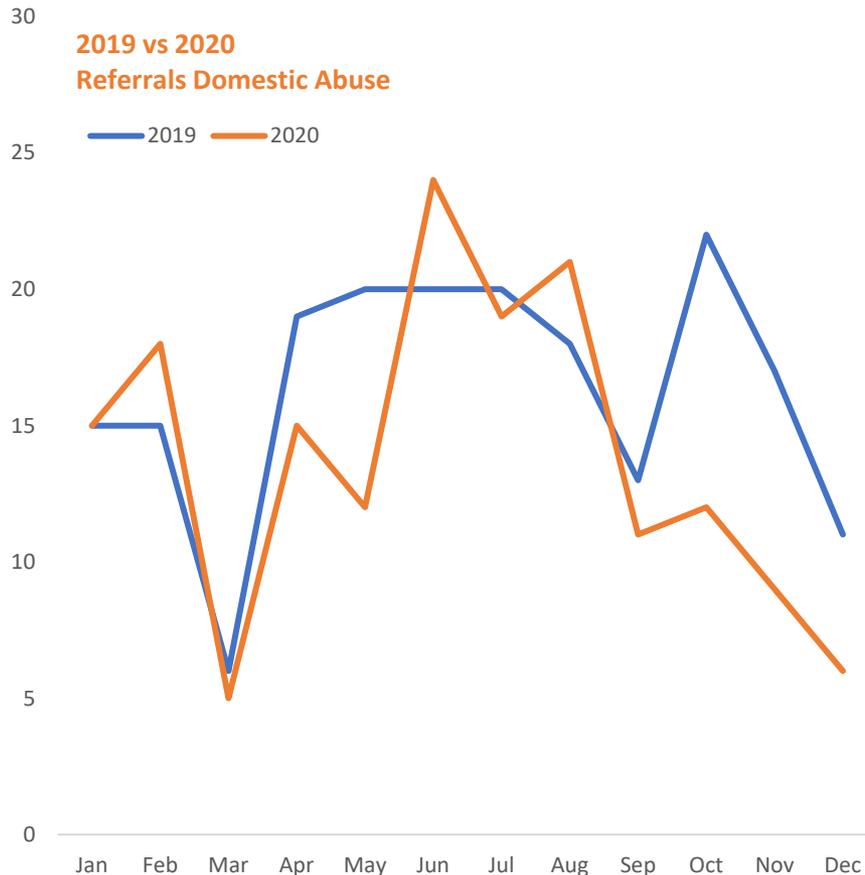
## Impact

- 21% Increase in demand seen and at capacity
- Increased funding secured to meet demand

## What we are doing?

- Newly commissioned provider - Solace Womens Aid.
- Increased provision to cater for demand, includes DWP IDVA, Housing IDVA and Housing Caseworker.
- TOTAL: 13.5 caseworkers due to funding for 6 additional workers
- TOTAL number of LBTH victims supported through IDVA's and range of other local provision:
  - 1st Jan – 31st Dec 2019 = 1085
  - 1st Jan - 31st Dec 2020 = 1549

# ADULT SOCIAL CARE



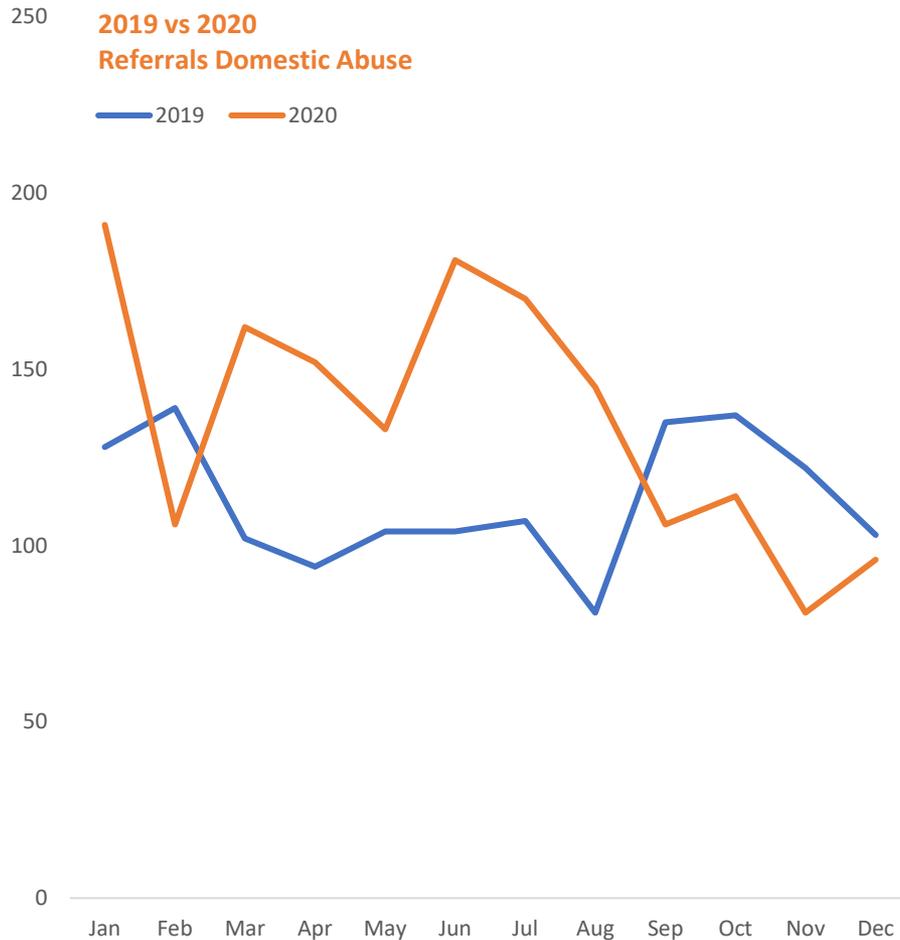
## Impact

- The data shows a 15% drop in DA referrals (29 cases)
- Total referrals for 2019 was 196
- Total referrals for 2020 was 167

## Adult Safeguarding – what we are doing?

- Due to pandemic, Increased remote/virtual working
- Guidance issued to staff about virtual working to ensure continued safeguarding
- Staff training on abuse to ensure continued good practice
- Continued awareness raising of DV in ASC

# CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE



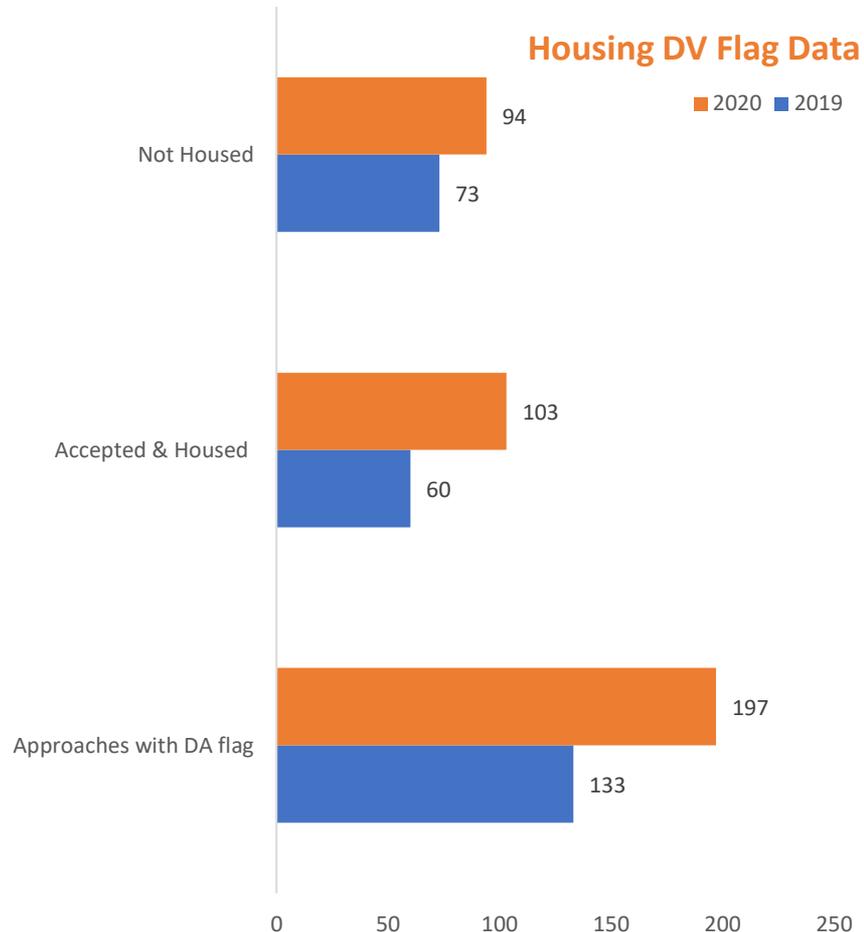
## Impact

- 21% increase in DA referrals (281 cases)
- Total referrals for 2019 was 1356
- Total referrals for 2020 was 1637

## CSC – What we are doing?

- Review of training programme on DA for Social Workers to ensure support
- Review and strengthen the DA risk assessment tool
- Increased support for DA perpetrators via Positive Change Programme
- New TH Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP) arrangements and priorities in place (i.e. DA Task and Finish Group)

# HOUSING FOR VICTIMS



## Impact

- Number of domestic abuse approaches increased by 48% during pandemic
- Total DA approaches in 2019 was 133
- Total DA approaches in 2020 was 197

## Housing – What we are doing?

- DAHA Accreditation in progress
- Continue partnership working with registered Providers of Social Housing
- Implement recommendations from the DA Bill (most already in place)
- Prioritise move on accommodation
- Offer Lifetime tenancy
- Removal of local connection rule
- Funding secured for Housing IDVA/caseworker

# NEXT STEPS

- Continuing strategic oversight from Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Executive
- Implement all DA Bill recommendations
- Commitment from police to improve detection rates
- New police Predatory Offender Unit
- Commitment from RPSHs/Housing to achieve DAHA accreditation
- New Children and Families Safeguarding Partnership arrangements