



# Royal Borough of Greenwich

## Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

2023 to 2024

# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

11

## CHAPTER 2: PLACE AND POPULATION

18

## CHAPTER 3: RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

29

## CHAPTER 4: VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

43

## CHAPTER 5: DOMESTIC ABUSE

59

## CHAPTER 6: SEXUAL VIOLENCE

80

## CHAPTER 7: COMMUNITY VOICE

87

## CHAPTER 8: REVIEW OF EXISTING EVIDENCE

100

## CHAPTER 9: MAPPING CURRENT PROVISION

104

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thank you to Royal Borough of Greenwich colleagues across the following areas:

*Children's Services*  
*Adult Social Care*  
*Public Health*  
*Community Safety*  
*Housing Services*





# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Place-based

**Recommendation 1:** High harm neighbourhood partnership response

**Recommendation 2:** Re-evaluate street lighting in public spaces

**Recommendation 3:** Audit of public space signage that will improve feelings of safety in public spaces including our nighttime economy

## Improving data quality and expanding localised research

**Recommendation 4:** Undertake a borough wide Adverse Childhood Experiences study

**Recommendation 5:** Develop a local drugs market profile which includes links to county lines, supply routes, sales and demands

**Recommendation 6:** Improved recording and case management of Modern Slavery cases for both adults and children

**Recommendation 7:** Improve and maintain links between insight, analysis and evaluation

**Recommendation 8:** Partners to review current data collection relevant to serious violence to ensure meaningful, routine data exchange between key organisations

**Recommendation 9:** Improve data quality of protected characteristics across partnership datasets

## Children and Young People

**Recommendation 10:** Ensuring relevant services continue to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people

**Recommendation 11:** Ensure serious violence involving children is revised to incorporate serious violence as defined under the Serious Violence Duty

## Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

**Recommendation 12:** Produce a new Violence Against Women and Girls strategy covering all forms of VAWG and using the approach that addressing VAWG is everyone's business

**Recommendation 13:** More age- and digitally-appropriate education on misogyny and male violence for boys and young men

**Recommendation 14:** Improve service wide collection and use of case-based data about Violence Against Women and Girls

**Recommendation 15:** Delivery of key messaging and awareness raising in community settings about harmful sexualised behaviour



### **Recommendation 1: High harm neighbourhood partnership response**

The neighbourhoods identified in Chapter 4 are recommended as areas for partners to consider as priority for future focus within strategy and service delivery. These have been selected based on a combination of existing levels of serious violence. It is noticeable that areas of generational deprivation represent most residences for our domestic abuse referrals. It is acknowledged that partners and stakeholders will have a presence and be active and engaged in many of these areas already.

### **Recommendation 2: Re-evaluate street lighting in public spaces**

Re-prioritise the approach to the installation of new LED streetlights and replacement lamp columns based on resident feedback and consultation data.

An audit of the Street Lighting Upgrade Programme will be undertaken in line with Women and girls' safety consultation to highlight areas outstanding to prioritise resources in areas women and girls' consistently report feeling least safe.

### **Recommendation 3: Audit of public space signage to improve feelings of safety in public spaces including our nighttime economy**

Women and girls felt most unsafe travelling at night. Effective night-time signage ensures safety and improves visitor experience. Examples may include the following:

- + Luminated signage: Use well-lit, backlit or reflective signs.
- + Clear information: Keep signs concise and straightforward.
- + Icons: Use universally recognised symbols.
- + Contrasting colours: Ensure readability with contrasting colours.
- + Eye level placement: Position signs for easy visibility.
- + Directional signage: Mark paths to key destinations.
- + Safety signage: Highlight emergency exits and hazards.
- + Digital signage: Install interactive kiosks for detailed information.
- + Maintenance: Regularly check and clean signs.
- + Cultural sensitivity: Consider multi-language or universal symbols.
- + Feedback: Allow public feedback on signage effectiveness.
- + Local art: Integrate local artistic elements.
- + Interactive elements: Use QR codes for added details.
- + Event signage: Use clear temporary signs for events.

#### **Recommendation 4: Undertake a borough wide Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study**

Explore opportunities to reduce risks linked to serious violence and poor health outcomes, have remained an intergenerational problem.

Issues of inequality and disproportionality are highlighted as drivers that increase risk factors and decrease protective factors for our most vulnerable residents. The report also highlights that some communities are disproportionately impacted by multiple risk factors. Efforts to mitigate these risks are too often being managed as single-person focused.

Understanding how local populations are affected by ACEs can enable local authorities and partnerships to tailor their support services, targeting resources to the health needs of the populations they serve. This is particularly important considering the COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted populations globally and worsened existing health inequalities.

#### **Recommendation 5: Develop a local drugs market profile which includes links to county lines, supply routes, sales and demands**

This recommendation is in line with the National County Lines Coordination Centre key national strategic priorities:

1. Middle market drug supply into county lines – who's supplying the County Line networks?
2. Production locations for crack cocaine – how and where is crack being produced?
3. Illicit finances within county lines – how is this money stored/handled/used?
4. Recruitment of children into county lines – Social media, locations, and methods

#### **Recommendation 6: Improved recording and case management of Modern Slavery cases for both adults and children**

In a few cases an individual claiming to be a victim of modern slavery (and who is therefore referred through the National Referral Mechanism for a determination of that claim) may in fact be actively complicit in illegal activity.

A process is needed to ensure information is shared between relevant partners at an early stage to mitigate the impact on the criminal justice process of the lengthy delay until a final determination of their status is received (which can take up to 500 days).

#### **Recommendation 7: Improve and maintain links between insight, analysis and evaluation**

This recommendation is for the borough and its partners to use the findings from qualitative and quantitative research, such as from Critical Incident Responses in the place-based areas, to inform future needs assessments, and create a relationship between strategic analysis, commissioning, and evaluation of impact.

In addition, to address the potential, and actual difference, between national findings and local trends. For example, disproportionality within First Time Entrants in the criminal justice system.

**Recommendation 8: Partners to review current data collection relevant to serious violence to ensure meaningful, routine data exchange between key organisations**

To secure the necessary formal agreements to share routine data that is pertinent to serious violence for all partners, enabling future analytical products to be improved by the inclusion of important fundamental datasets that help describe the patterns and trends of serious violence in Greenwich. Particularly from Police, London Ambulance Service, the NHS, and Probation Service.

This includes an internal Royal Greenwich data repository of all datasets that record any form(s) of serious violence. For example, housing services, enforcement teams, Children's Services, Youth Justice Service, and Community Safety.

**Recommendation 9: Improve data quality of protected characteristics across partnership datasets**

Improvement in standardised recording of accurate age, sex, gender, ethnicity data across all Serious Violence Duty partners. For example:

- + More detailed ethnicity coding to be published by Youth Justice Service
- + Police to use ethnicity coding's more culturally sensitive and updated, as opposed to ICD coding towards Census 2021 ethnicity groups.

**Recommendation 10: Ensuring relevant services continue to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people**

This recommendation suggests maintaining support for activity and interventions that seek to work with the following groups of people as a priority for children and young people in the borough. This includes services focusing on providing bespoke, child-centred, deeper professional relationships with families.

- + Young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs
- + Young people in the care system
- + Young people in unregulated or unregistered care settings
- + Young people who go missing from their home or care
- + Young people in custody

In Chapter 4, more information can be found on the demographic breakdown of people involved in County Lines. Extensive research that young people at risk of school exclusion (especially young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs), and Children in Care settings (especially unregulated settings) who are more likely to go missing and put at risk of criminal exploitation.



### **Recommendation 11:** Ensure serious violence involving children is revised to incorporate serious violence as defined under the Serious Violence Duty

This includes findings and recommendations from serious case reviews to improve the following:

- + Promotion of school attendance: Boost attendance rates in schools and diminish exclusions for high-risk youth.
- + Risk escalation in adolescents: Evaluate the efficacy of adolescent risk referral and assessment, particularly in relation to rapid risk escalations.
- + Families' responses: Focusing on fostering better comprehension and discussions about their experiences, values, and viewpoints. Raising awareness about the risks faced by children relocated abroad by their families.
- + Social media's role in risk: Enhance understanding of how social media may amplify risks to youth, especially concerning serious youth violence. Incorporate social media patterns in risk and need assessments.
- + Child exploitation safeguarding: Ensure consistent monitoring of how effectively children are protected from exploitation and external familial dangers, with a particular focus on partner collaboration
- + Support for SEND individuals: Assess how effectively practitioners address the needs of individuals with Special Educational Needs and those with speech and language challenges. Emphasise recognising increased exploitation risks and ensuring swift, robust interventions.

### **Recommendation 12:** Produce a new Violence Against Women and Girls strategy covering all forms of VAWG and using the approach that addressing VAWG is everyone's business

- + To include issues affecting the safety and confidence of women and girls in public places
- + Draw on community engagement and research to ensure the views and needs of women and girls from all cultures and communities are reflected in the strategy's objectives, including intersectional issues
- + Onboarding all internal partners, and external agencies to the most accurate scale and nature of VAWG reported. This includes domestic abuse, rape and other sexual offences, child sexual abuse and exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, honour based abuse, stalking and harassment, adult sexual exploitation and sex work, technology-enabled VAWG which includes online harassment, VAWG in different space types: public, private and in places of education, and spiking.

### **Recommendation 13:** More age- and digitally-appropriate education on misogyny and male violence for boys and young men

Gender based violence and misogyny is intergenerational. Men are disproportionately more likely to be suspects in sexual offences and domestic abuse perpetrators in Royal Greenwich. This recommendation is in line with the findings from the Women and girl's safety consultation, and offence data findings:

- + Education in both primary and secondary schools on harmful male-orientated content and its subliminal messaging online
- + Culturally aware effort to incorporate languages and terminology into the education material which is not exclusively native-English.
- + Recognising cultural differences in experiences of misogyny
- + Male teachers and community staff to have a substantive role in delivery of educational content on misogyny
- + Schools, and parents, being educated on online language young children/boys are at risk/are accessing which does not resemble direct hate speech or inceldom. E.g., red pill content, gaming sites, online chatrooms.

### **Recommendation 14:** Improve service wide collection and use of case-based data about Violence Against Women and Girls

- + Survivor-centred design of VAWG administrative data systems within Greenwich services. For example, accurate recording of domestic abuse cases across different tenancy pathways.
- + Partners documenting VAWG only from the perspective of survivors will record information about the perpetrator.
- + Recording of abuse types in Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) database not only in case notes, to quantify scale of abuse per referral.
- + See [Appendix C](#) for a proposed recommended minimum dataset for all relevant services of variables and disaggregation to collect sex and age of the survivor, and the perpetrator, the survivor-perpetrator relationship and types of VAWG experienced/perpetrated.

**Recommendation 15:** Delivery of key messaging and awareness raising in community settings about harmful sexualised behaviour

- + Challenging 'normalised' attitudes and behaviours such as harassment.
- + Key areas of focus are educational settings (primary, secondary, college/university) to raise awareness of what problematic and harmful behaviour (verbal, physical, and emotional) can look like in primary and secondary school-aged children. For example, sexualised behaviours and derogatory language including up-skirting, revenge porn, misogynistic language, stealthing and spiking.



# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION



# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Serious Violence Duty was introduced by government through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, to commence on 31 January 2023. The duty places several requirements upon local areas, including agreeing a local partnership arrangement to lead on the duty, agreeing a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing, analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment, and to produce a Strategy to set out how the duty will be implemented locally.

Our definition of Serious Violence:

Any violence and exploitation affecting young people and adults, (with a particular focus on those under the age of 25), domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.

In this 2023 to 2024 Strategic Needs Assessment, we will aim to summarise the latest data and evidence under each of the areas above. We will begin by reviewing what we know about our borough, then identify what we know about those at risk of violence and harm, with links to the work we have been doing in this area over the last few years. Finally, we will represent our communities' voices, and where we may need to work better together to improve outcomes that will lead to a reduction in serious violence in future years.

This assessment is designed to provide an analytical foundation to the work of Royal Greenwich's statutory body, Safer Greenwich Partnership, in preventing and reducing serious violence in our borough. It incorporates quantitative analysis of crime, health, other local data, a review of literature and existing good practice, qualitative research, and an analysis of existing service provision.



## Experiences today that impact tomorrow: Serious violence is a multi-factorial problem

### Serious violence is a complex, yet preventable health problem.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) advocates a public health approach to tackling violence. Its first world report on violence and health published in 2002<sup>i</sup> – over a decade ago - called for a public health focus on the primary prevention of violence through strategies designed to **reduce the risk factors for violence and to boost protective factors** across the entire life-course.

A public health approach focuses on **mitigating the effects of violence** through the provision of support for victims. Violence, like many public health issues, lends itself to a **life-course approach**. This perspective views violence as the product of risk behaviours, protective factors, and environmental drivers that we encounter throughout our lives. A life-course approach is concerned with **experiences today that influence tomorrow**.

There are a wide range of factors that influence an individual's risk of involvement in violence. The WHO has adopted a framework for grouping these risk factors and for understanding how they interact at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels (Figure 1).

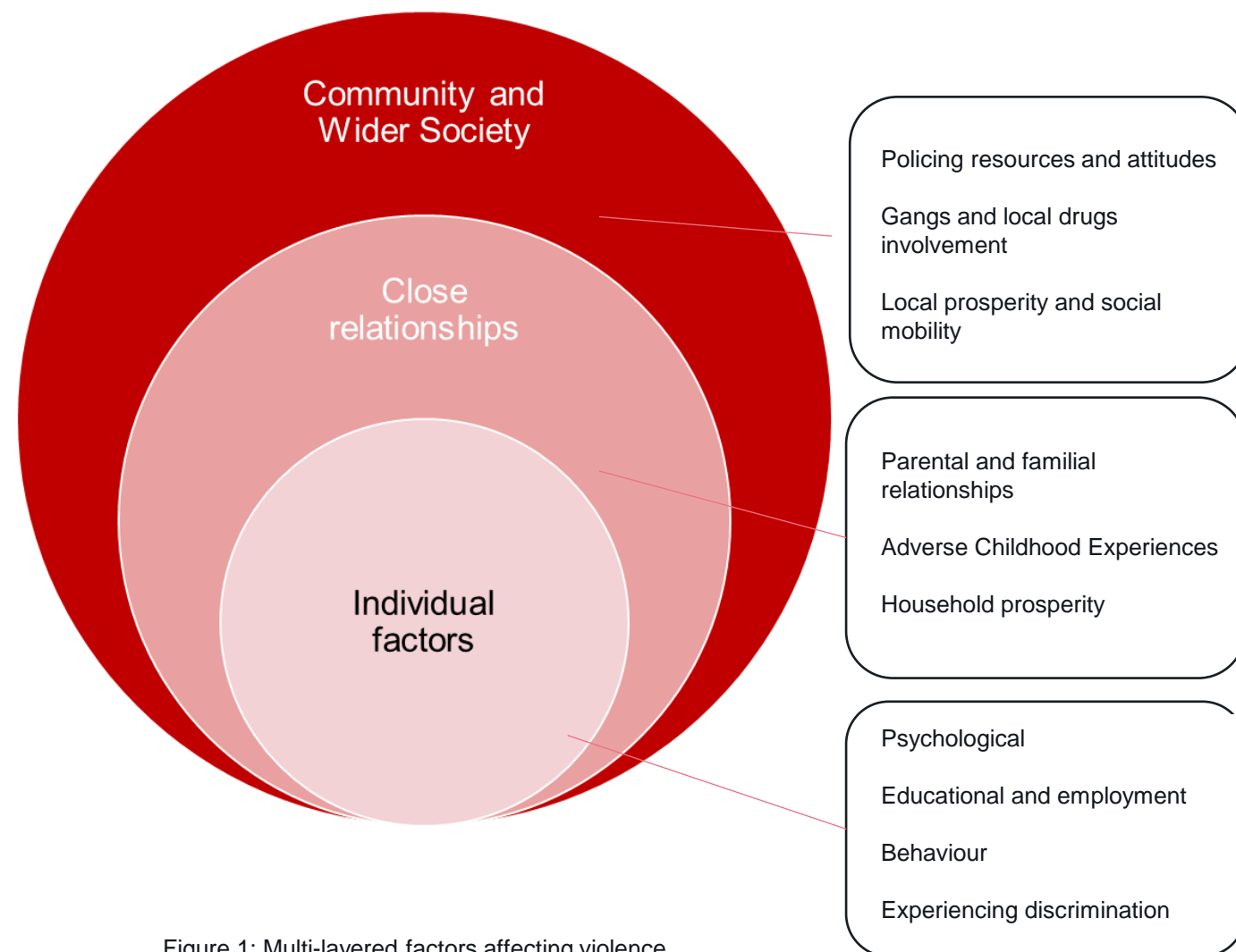
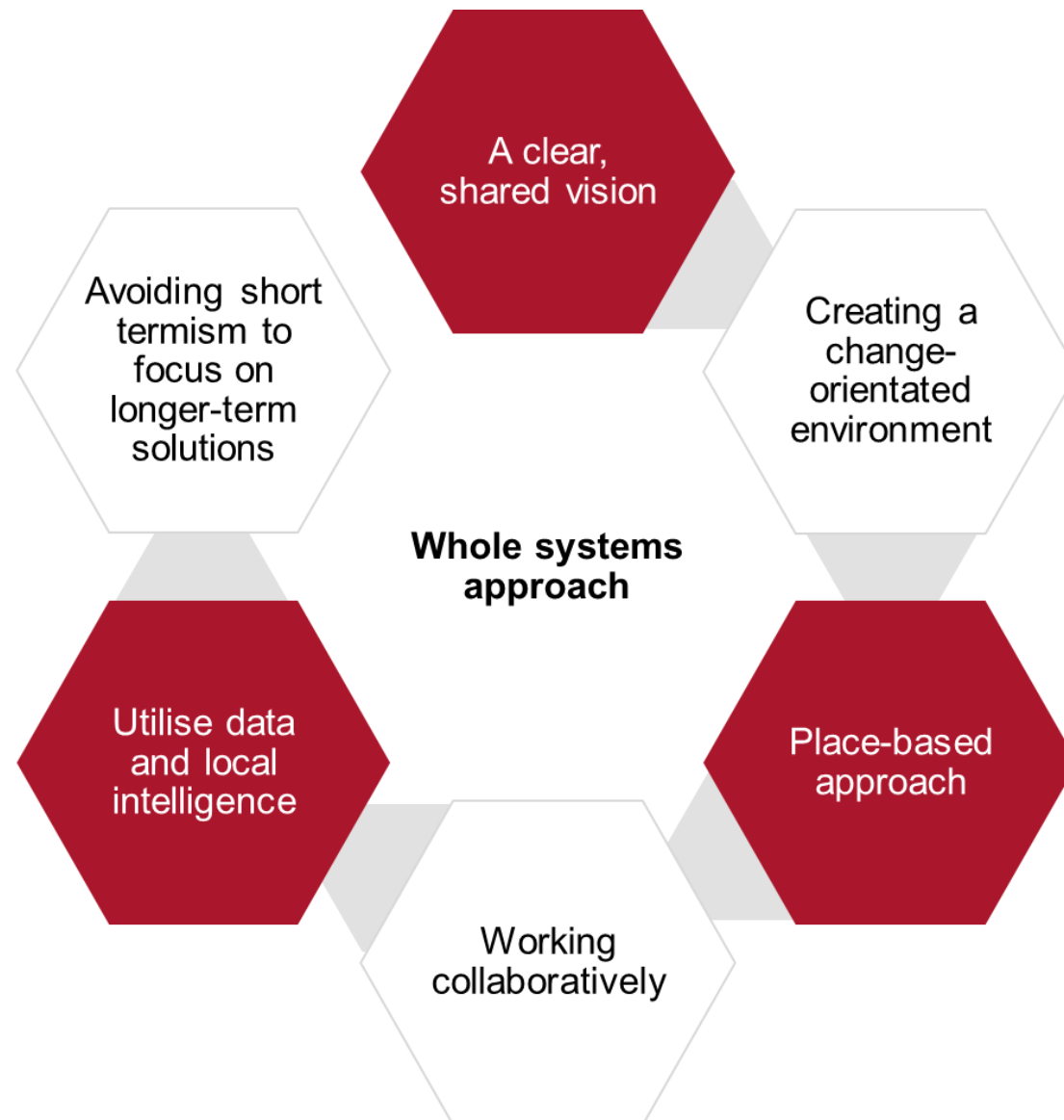


Figure 1: Multi-layered factors affecting violence



## Adopting a whole systems, public health approach



There is no single solution to serious violence prevention, our actions need to maintain cross-partnership working not revert to working in siloes. A whole systems approach (see Figure 2), published by Public Health England (2019) included the following:

- ▶ **A clear, shared vision** of what we want to achieve as a borough
- ▶ **Creating a change-orientated environment** not only articulating why certain people are vulnerable but being ready to improve their outcomes
- ▶ **Place-based approach** considering where crime takes place, deprivation, service boundaries and partner agencies
- ▶ **Working collaboratively** with stakeholders together from a broad range of areas, sharing strategic plans and community-focused outcomes
- ▶ **Utilise data and local intelligence** to provide an accurate local picture

Figure 2: Whole systems approach to addressing serious violence

## Trauma can affect individuals, families, and communities within Royal Greenwich

Services in Royal Greenwich recognise trauma is an emotional response to a distressing experience. We adopt a trauma informed approach which:

- ▶ **Shows** we understand trauma, in an empathetic manner
- ▶ **Recognises** trauma to impact biological, psychological, neurological and social wellbeing
- ▶ **Is aware** anyone accessing our services may have experienced trauma
- ▶ **Shifts away** from blaming and judging people for their reactions, to recognising responses may be a result of trauma
- ▶ **Understands** that people with a history of trauma may find it more difficult to trust and engage with people
- ▶ **Promotes** protective factors and builds resilience
- ▶ **Emphasises** the importance of support mechanisms for professionals and families to reduce the impact of secondary vicarious and secondary trauma

*“The effects of traumatic events place a heavy burden on individuals, families, and communities. Although many people who experience a traumatic event will go on with their lives without lasting negative effects, others will have difficulties and experience traumatic stress reactions. How someone responds to a traumatic experience is personal.”*

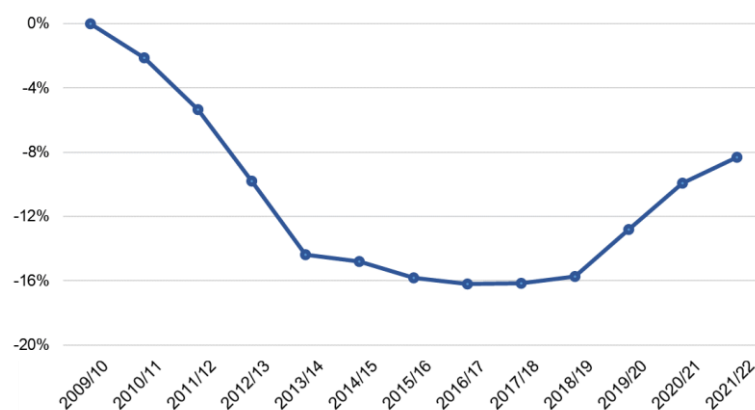
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)<sup>ii</sup>



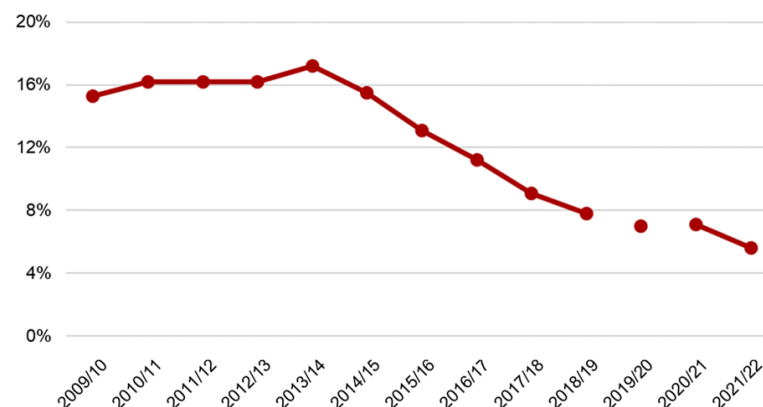
General Gordon's Square, Woolwich

## National policing: Spending has risen in recent years but is still lower than in 2009 to 2010

Change in gross police spending since 2009/10 (real terms) across England and Wales



Crimes recorded by the police that result in charges, 2009/10–2021/22



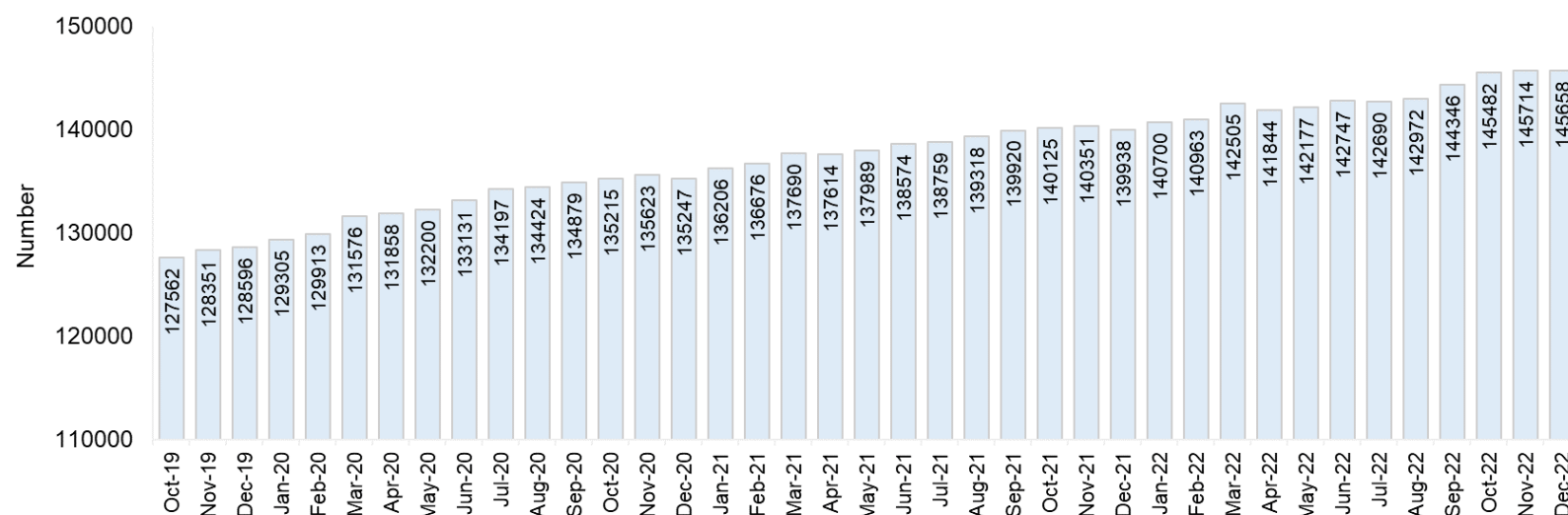
► The proportion of recorded crimes resulting in charges slightly increased in 2020/21 but hit a new low of 6% in 2021/22. This decline since 2014/15 is influenced by both the rise in recorded crimes and the decrease in the number of charges<sup>iii</sup>

► The charging rates for burglary, robbery, and theft have been criticised for low rates due to prioritisation, lack of capacity, poor digital forensic capability, and inadequate supervision. The charge rate for sexual offences, including rape, fell from 11.3% to 2.9% between 2014/15 and 2021/22. Factors such as digital data requests, detective shortages, and investigative delays contribute to this decline<sup>iv</sup>.

► As of September 2022, the number of full-time officers in the Metropolitan Police decreased by 1.1% compared to March 2010. However, the government's commitment to adding 20,000 officers by 2023 led to the recruitment of 16,753 new officers through the Police Uplift Programme by December 2022.

► The programme has faced challenges in meeting its target, with the need to increase officer headcount by over 1,000 per month between January and March 2023. Difficult labour market conditions, vacancies across the economy, and declining confidence in policing contribute to the risk of missing the target. Officer attrition adds to the difficulties faced<sup>v</sup>.

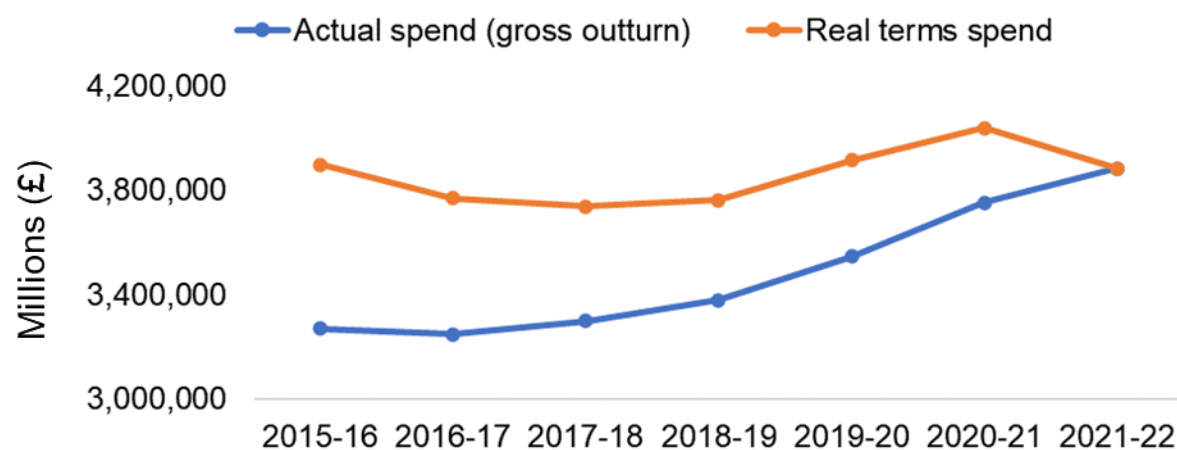
Police officer headcount, October 2019 to December 2022





## Regional policing: Funding and structural changes to the Met in recent years

Metropolitan Police Annual Spend (gross outturn) and real-terms spend (adjusted to 2022 prices), 2010-11 to 2021-22<sup>v</sup>



By 2021 to 2022, the adjusted figures show the real terms impact with spending still seven hundred million (£700,000,000), less than 20% lower than at the start of the previous decade<sup>v</sup>.

Up to 2012 to 2013, the Metropolitan Police budget received an additional £200 million in funding for the Olympics. Despite inflation-adjustments, the growing population of London and the ever-changing nature of complex crimes and non-crime incidents place further demands on police staff. Substantial organisational and changes to operational capacity have occurred because of significant reductions in funding.

Figure 3 (right): In 2018, the MPS restructured from 32 borough model aligned with local authority boundaries to form 12 larger units called Basic Command Units (BCUs). The BCU model was designed to align with strategic priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan, including changes to local policing.

Figure 3: Basic Command Units (BCUs) introduced in 2018 to the Met Police.



BCU	LONDON BOROUGH
South East (SE)	Bexley
	Greenwich
	Lewisham
South Area (SA)	Bromley
	Croydon
	Sutton
South West (SW)	Kingston
	Merton
	Wandsworth
West Area (WA)	Ealing
	Hounslow
	Hillingdon
North West (NW)	Barnet
	Harrow
	Brent

BCU	LONDON BOROUGH
North Area (NA)	Enfield
	Haringey
North East (NE)	Newham
	Waltham Forest
East Area (EA)	Barking and Dagenham
	Havering
	Redbridge
Central East (CE)	Hackney
	Tower Hamlets
Central South	Lambeth
	Southwark
Central West (AW)	Kensington and Chelsea
	Hammersmith and
	Westminster
Central North (CN)	Camden
	Islington



# CHAPTER 2: PLACE AND POPULATION





## 2. PLACE AND POPULATION

Royal Greenwich is home to a thriving economy with a mix of businesses, finance, creative, construction, and tourism. The borough is a major employment hub, with over 150,000 jobs in various sectors.

The population of Royal Greenwich is diverse, with a mix of ethnicities, cultures, and religions. The borough has a socio-economic mix of affluent and more deprived areas. The Royal Borough of Greenwich has implemented several programs and initiatives aimed at improving social outcomes, including community engagement programs, youth employment initiatives, and affordable housing schemes.

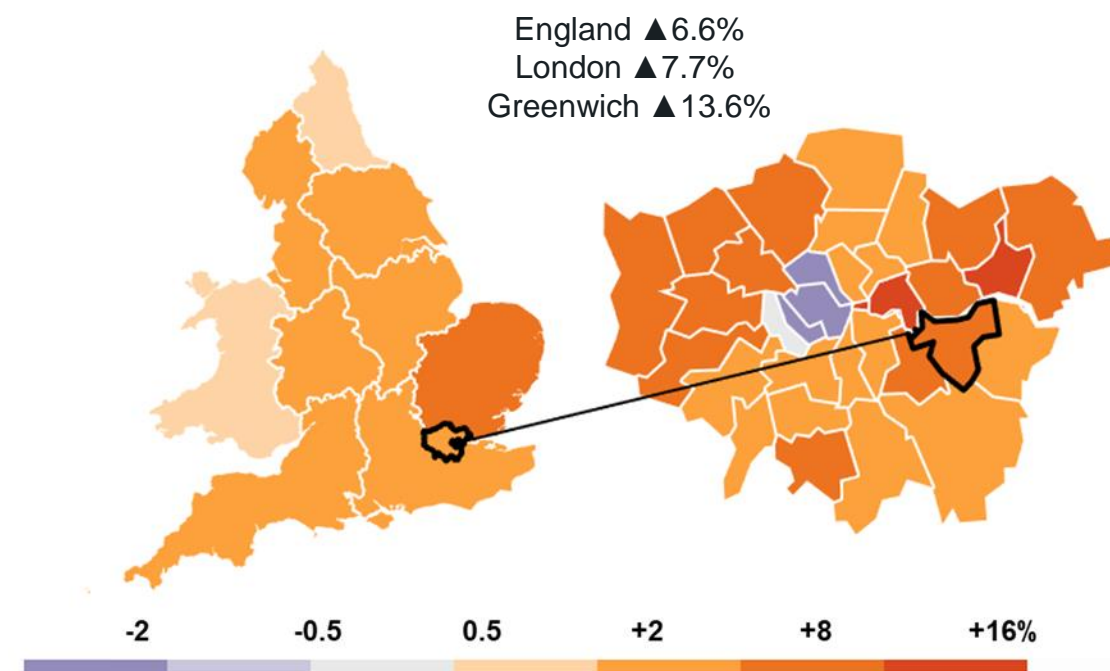
Royal Greenwich has a rich cultural heritage, including historical sites and museums. For example, the Royal Observatory, National Maritime Museum, and the Cutty Sark. The borough is also home to an arts and creative scene, with venues, galleries, and festivals, including the Greenwich and Docklands International Festival and the Greenwich Comedy Festival, aimed to promote cultural engagement.

Royal Greenwich, like many boroughs in London, has undergone significant change over the last 10 years. The Greenwich Peninsula has been transformed over the last decade, with the development of new residential, commercial and cultural spaces. This includes the O2 Arena, the Emirates Air Line cable car, the Ravensbourne University London, and the redevelopment of the Peninsula's industrial land into a mixed-use development.

Woolwich has undergone substantial changes in recent years, with the development of new housing, retail spaces, and leisure facilities. The arrival of the Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) in 2022 has changed commuter routes, employment opportunities, and our night-time economy. Kidbrooke, Thamesmead, and Charlton have also seen noticeable ward changes, with the development of new housing, and community facilities.

Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Royal Greenwich increased by around 14%, from just under 254,600 in 2011 to around 289,100 in 2021.

*Figure 4: Percentage population change in Greenwich and surrounding areas between 2011 Census to Census 2021*



Source: Census 2021<sup>vi</sup>

*Right:* Woolwich Elizabeth line station in Woolwich, which opened in May 2022, with trains to Canary Wharf and Central London.





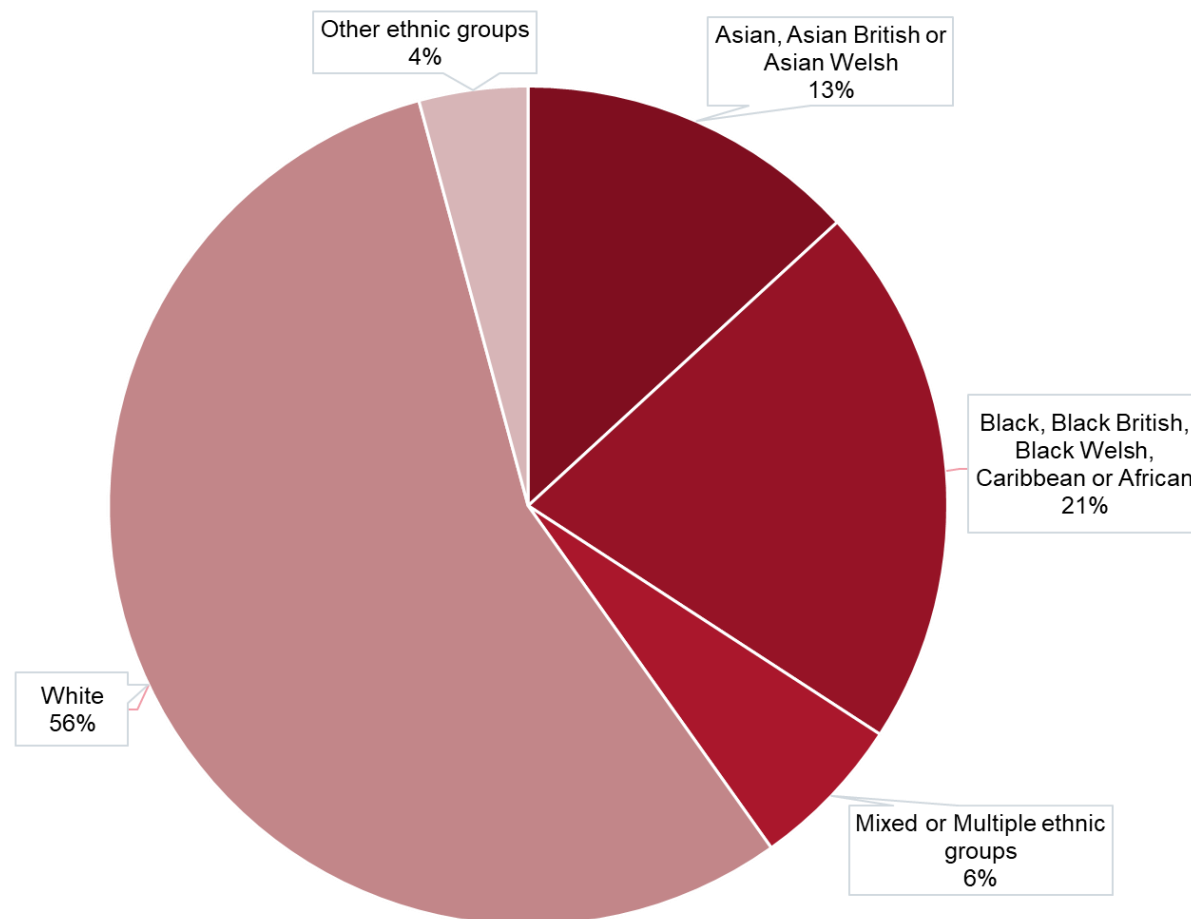
## Greenwich is more diverse, with residents from a wide range of backgrounds

- ▶ In 2021, 55.7% of people in Royal Greenwich identified their ethnic group within the White category (compared with 62.5% in 2011)
- ▶ 21.0% identified as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African category (compared with 19.1% in 2011)
- ▶ The percentage of people who identified as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh category increased from 11.7% in 2011 to 13.2% in 2021

↑ **12,400**

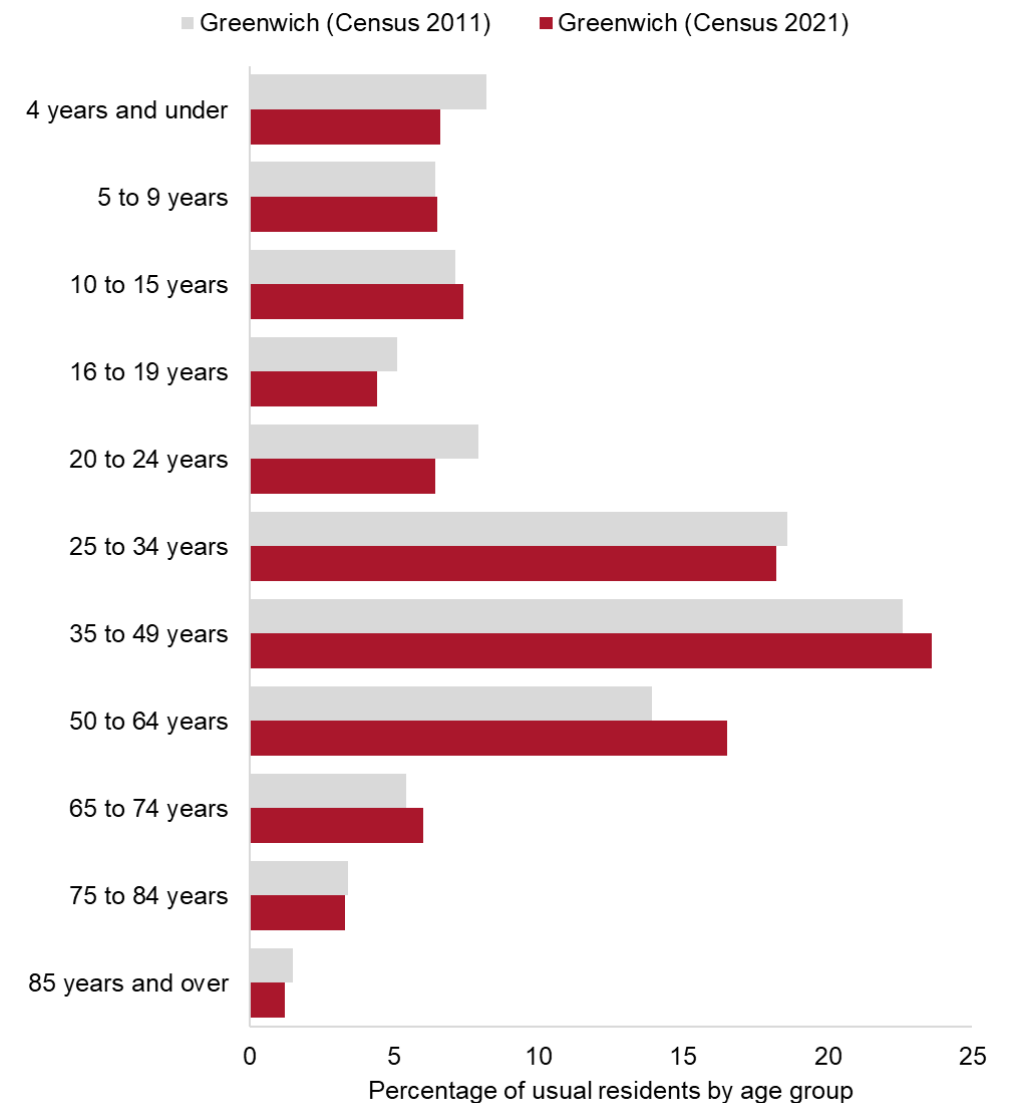
The increase in people aged 50-64 years in Royal Greenwich from 2011 to 2021 (35% increase)

Proportion of ethnic groups in Royal Greenwich in 2021



Source: Census 2021<sup>vi</sup>

Proportion of age groups in Royal Greenwich (Census 2011 to Census 2021)

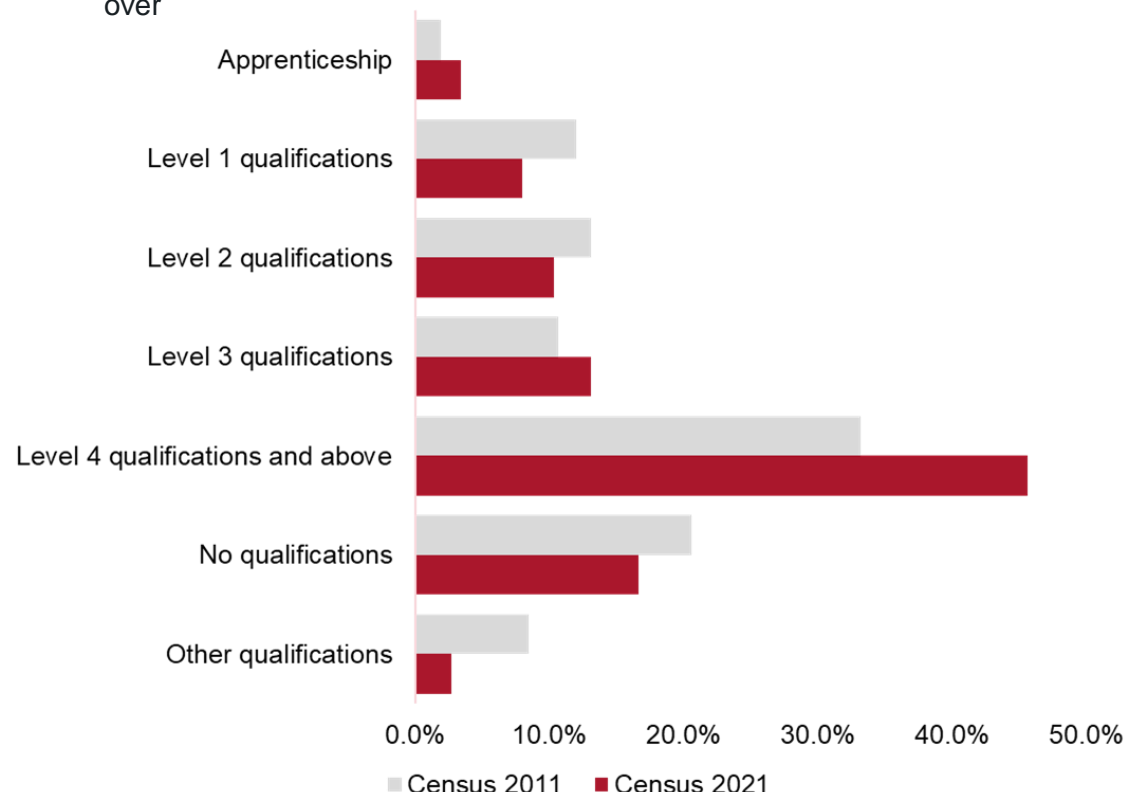


Overall, an educated society can contribute to greater prosperity, social mobility, health, and cultural development, and can help to reduce poverty and inequality. There have been noticeable changes to Royal Greenwich's population regarding educational attainment.

There has been an increase in the proportion of people with Level 4 qualifications and above such as degrees and post graduate qualifications from 33.2% to 45%. There has been an increase in the proportion of people with Level 3 qualifications, from 10.7% in 2011 to 13.1% in 2021. This may indicate an increase in the number of people completing vocational or technical qualifications such as BTECs or NVQs.

The proportion of people with no qualifications has decreased from 20.6% in 2011 to 16.7% in 2021. This indicates an overall improvement in the educational attainment of the population. The proportion of people with apprenticeships has increased from 1.9% in 2011 to 3.5% in 2021, which suggests a greater focus on vocational training and apprenticeships as a pathway to employment.

Proportion of Royal Greenwich residents by highest level of qualification reported aged 16 and over



Source: Census 2021<sup>vi</sup>

- ▶ People in Royal Greenwich aged 16 years and over (excluding full-time Pupils) who were employed rose from 55.9% in 2011 to 60.0% in 2021.
- ▶ Census 2021 data was collected during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the national lockdowns, guidance and furlough measures will have affected employment and labour figures

Excluding full-time students, Royal Greenwich had the **third-largest percentage-point rise** in the proportion employed aged 16+ nationally



University of Greenwich building

## Higher levels of deprivation in the north and north-eastern areas of the borough

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England<sup>viii</sup>. The IMD evaluates numerous factors across domains to gauge deprivation in the UK. Beyond just income, it assesses several domains for a holistic view. Each domain contributes to an overall deprivation score, ranking areas from most to least deprived. The IMD guides policymakers and councils in resource allocation and strategy against local deprivation.

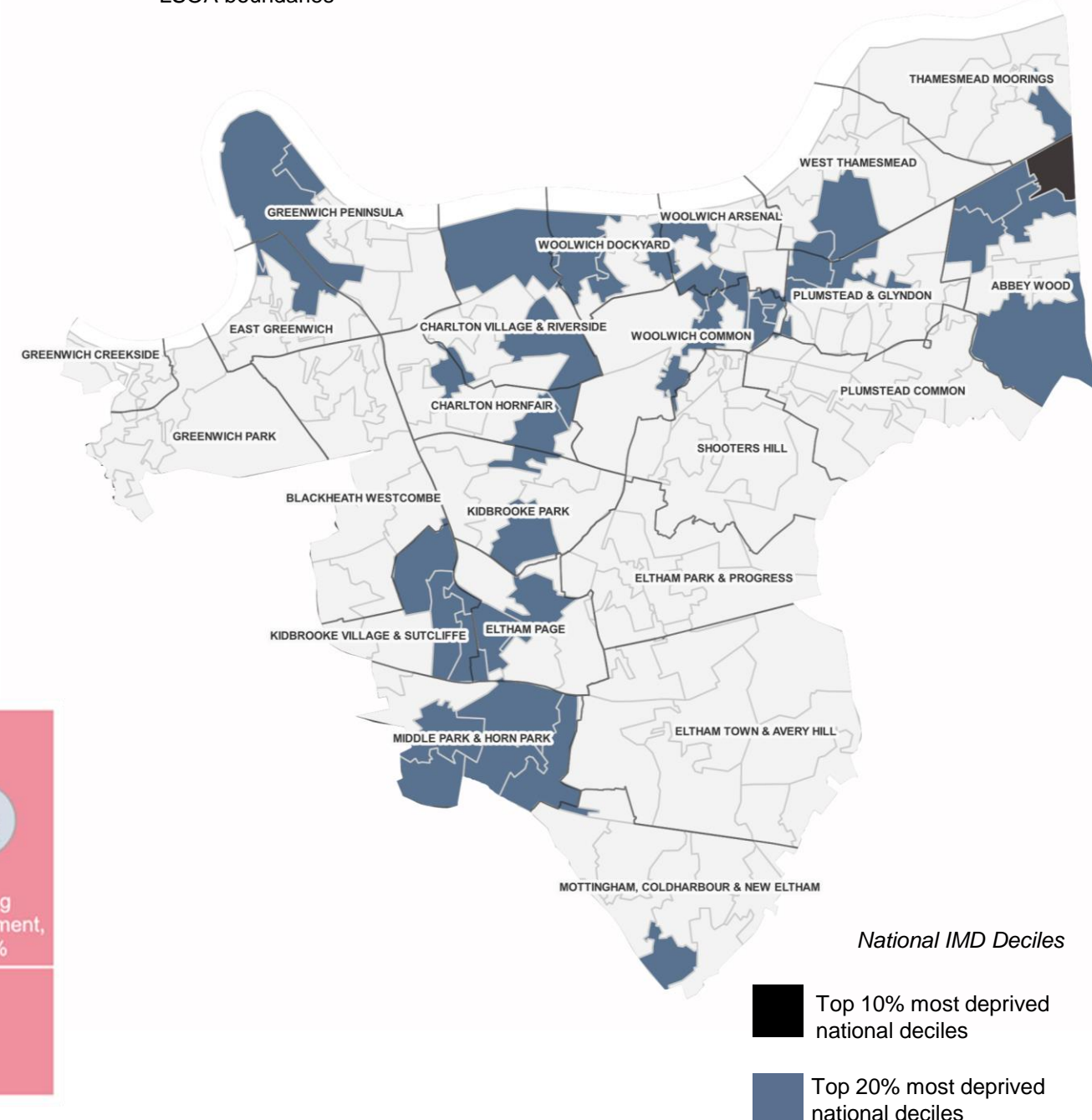
**“More than any demographic characteristic, area-level deprivation is a key risk factor for violent victimisation.”**

Victims of Serious Violence in England and Wales, 2011–2017, University of Hull<sup>vii</sup>

The weighting and is based on a basket of indicators. The domains and weightings are:



Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 in Greenwich re-aggregated to Census 2021 LSOA boundaries



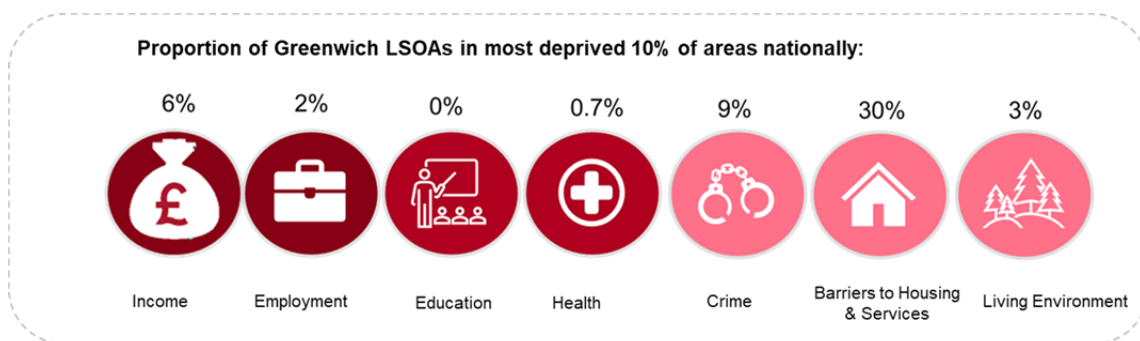


## More than 1 in 5 neighbourhoods in Royal Greenwich fall within the most deprived 20% of areas nationally, equating to **over 50,000** Royal Greenwich residents

Royal Greenwich is in the bottom most deprived quarter of all local authorities in England for the average rank but appear slightly less deprived for the average score measures, being within the bottom 50% all local authorities.

The borough has had a marked improvement using the rank of LSOAs (neighbourhoods) in the most deprived 10% areas in England moving from 173 in 2015 to 191 in 2019 (out of 315).

The Index of Deprivation (IoD) measures *relative* deprivation. While the ranking of Royal Greenwich compared to other local authorities may have improved (from rank 60 to 70 out of 315), this does not necessarily indicate that absolute levels of deprivation in the borough have reduced.



General Gordon's Square, Woolwich

Each area is unique and may have its own set of challenges, which can impact residents. This can include:

- ▶ A high percentage of **households with low incomes**, making it difficult for residents to afford necessities like food, housing, and healthcare.
- ▶ A high percentage of **people who are unemployed or not in work**, which can make it harder for them to access opportunities to improve their financial situation.
- ▶ A high proportion of **housing that is overcrowded**, poorly maintained, or lacking in basic amenities
- ▶ **Limited access to essential services** like healthcare, education, and public transport, which can make it harder for them to access opportunities and improve their quality of life
- ▶ **Limited access to green spaces** like parks and playgrounds, which can make it harder for residents to access outdoor recreational opportunities.
- ▶ **Higher levels of crime**, including violent crime and antisocial behaviour, which can make residents feel unsafe and insecure.

## Household composition: Percentage of households including a couple without children has increased

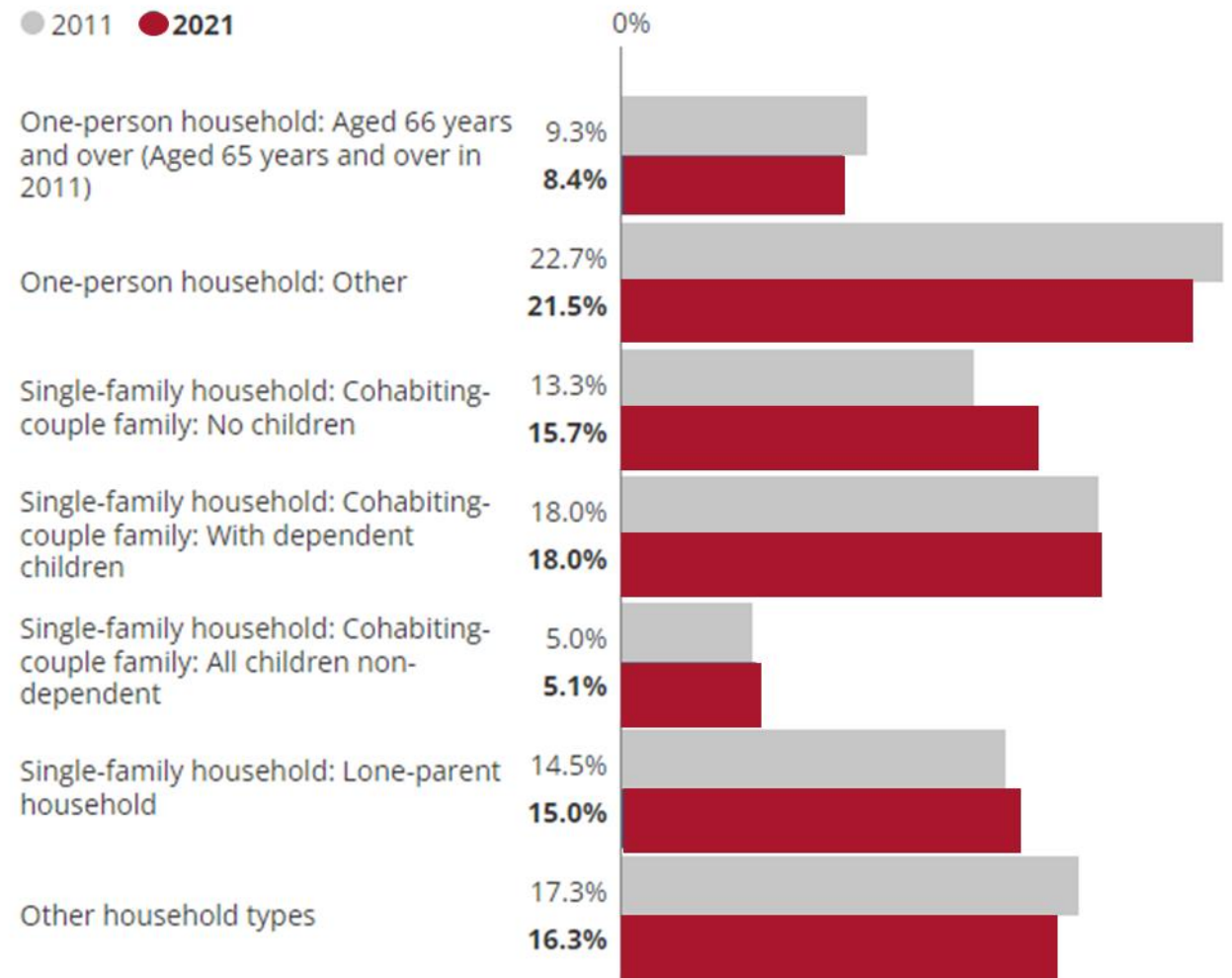
The percentage of households including a couple, but no children increased in Royal Greenwich but fell across England.

In Royal Greenwich, the percentage of households including a couple without children rose from 13.3% in 2011 to 15.7% in 2021, while across England it fell from 17.6% to 16.8%. During the same period, the regional percentage increased from 13.8% to 14.2%.

The percentage of households including a couple with dependent children in Royal Greenwich remained at 18.0%, while the percentage of households including a couple with only non-dependent children stayed similar (5.0% to 5.1%).



Household composition in Royal Greenwich, Census 2011 to Census 2021.



Source: Census 2021<sup>vi</sup>



## In 2021, Royal Greenwich was in the highest 3% of English local authorities for the share of households in the social rented sector

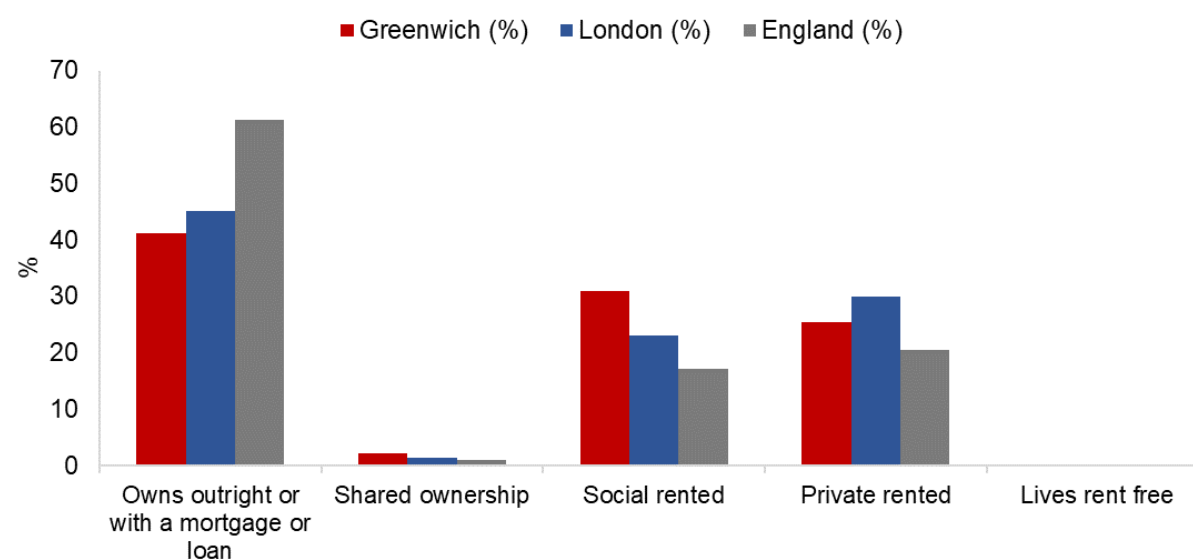
A high proportion of homeownership in an area typically suggests a higher average socioeconomic status, as owning a home requires a greater level of financial stability and investment. Homeownership also promotes stability, as homeowners are more invested in their communities and may be more likely to stay in the same area over the long term. This can create a more cohesive and stable community.

Conversely, areas with a high proportion of renting may suggest that the cost of homeownership is prohibitively high or that there is a lack of affordable housing available. This can impact the cohesion within a community, with residents being more likely to move frequently, and less likely to be invested in their local area.

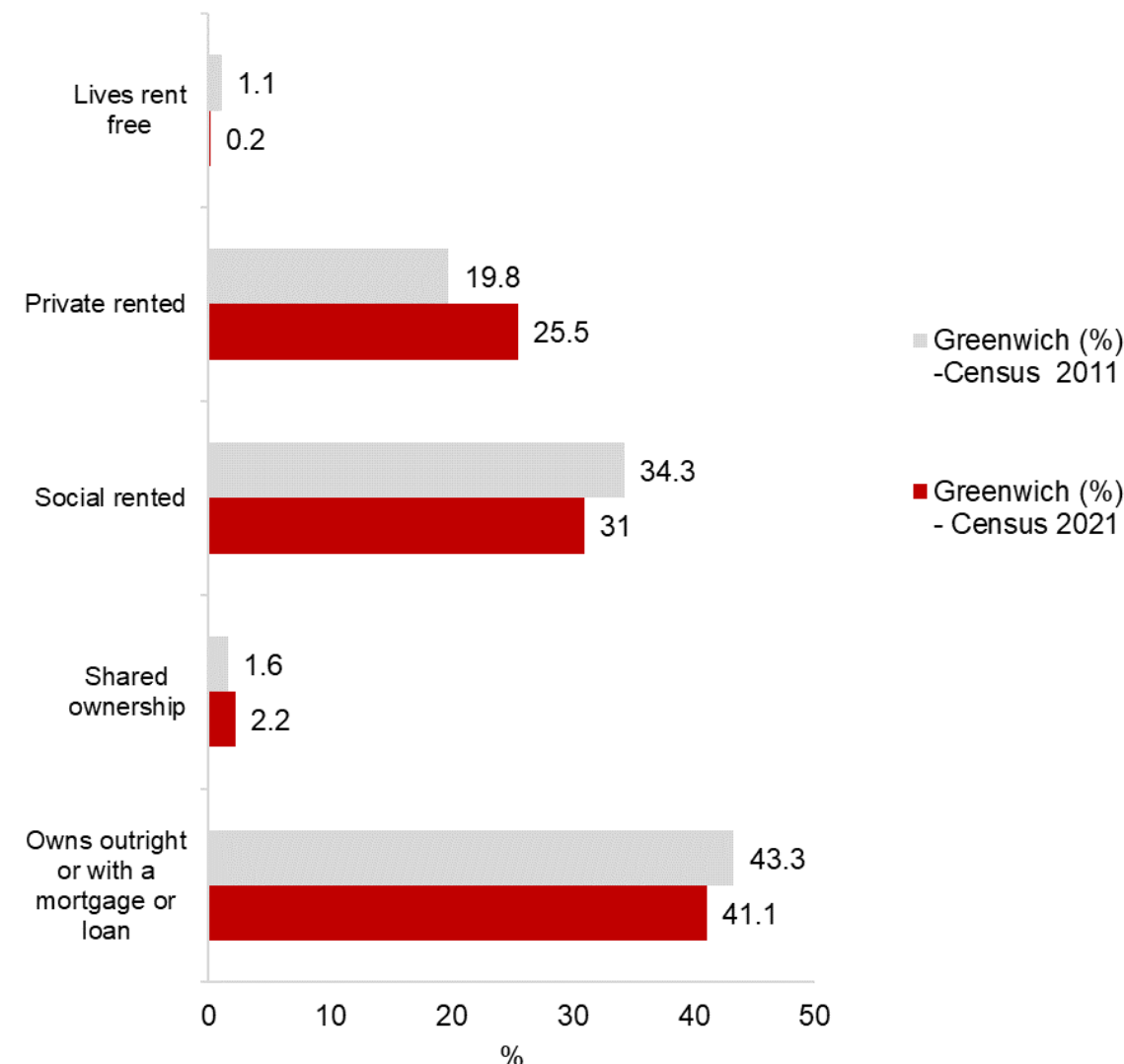
In addition, the type of rental housing can provide insight into the demographics of the area. For example, a high proportion of social housing may suggest a greater proportion of lower-income or vulnerable residents.

Royal Greenwich saw London's third-largest percentage-point fall in the proportion of households in the social rented sector (from 34.3% in 2011 to 31.0% in 2021).

Proportion of housing tenure of households compared to regional and national data (Census 2021)



Proportion of housing tenure of households in Royal Greenwich: Census 2011 to Census 2021



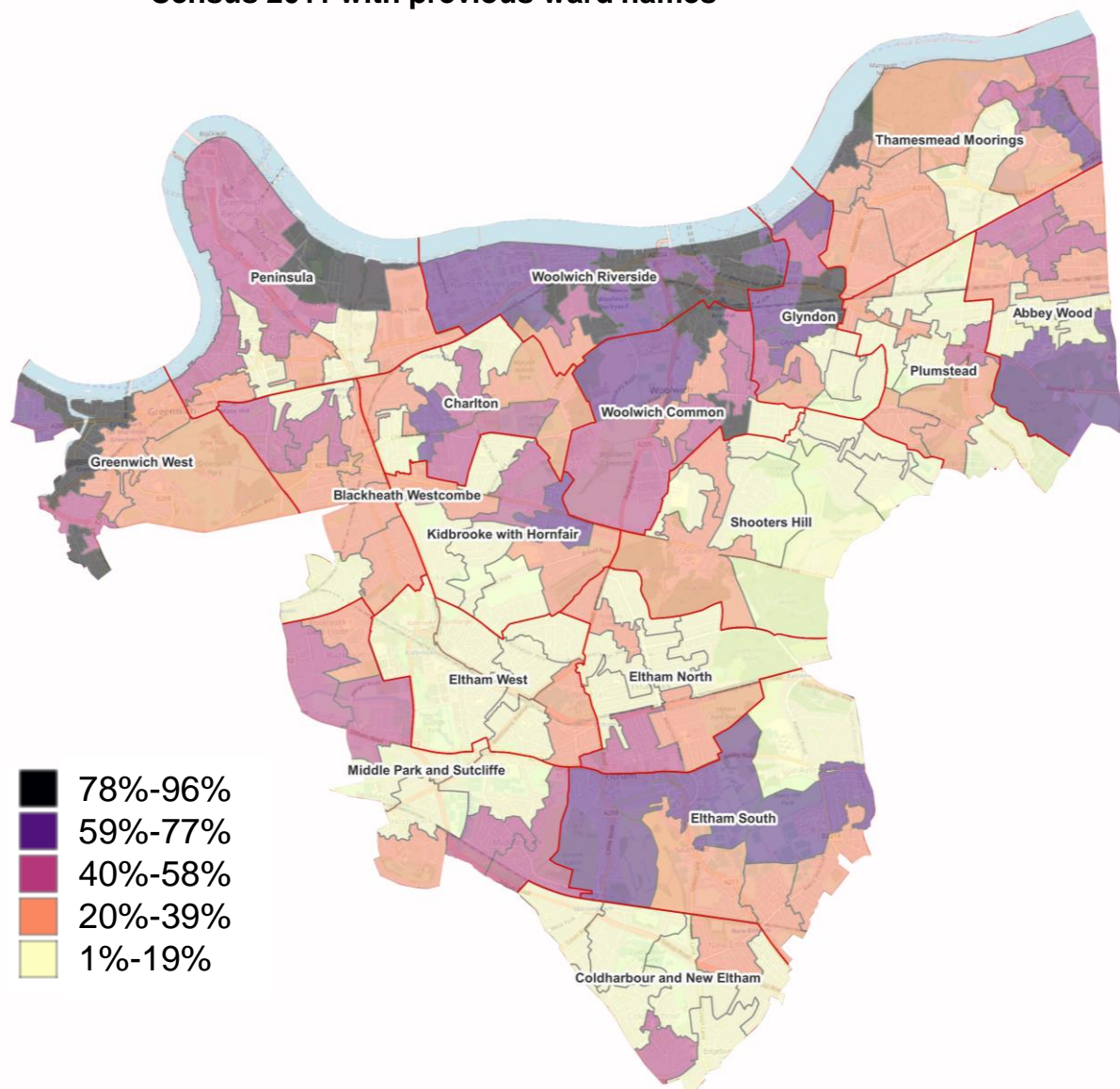
Source: Census 2021<sup>vi</sup>



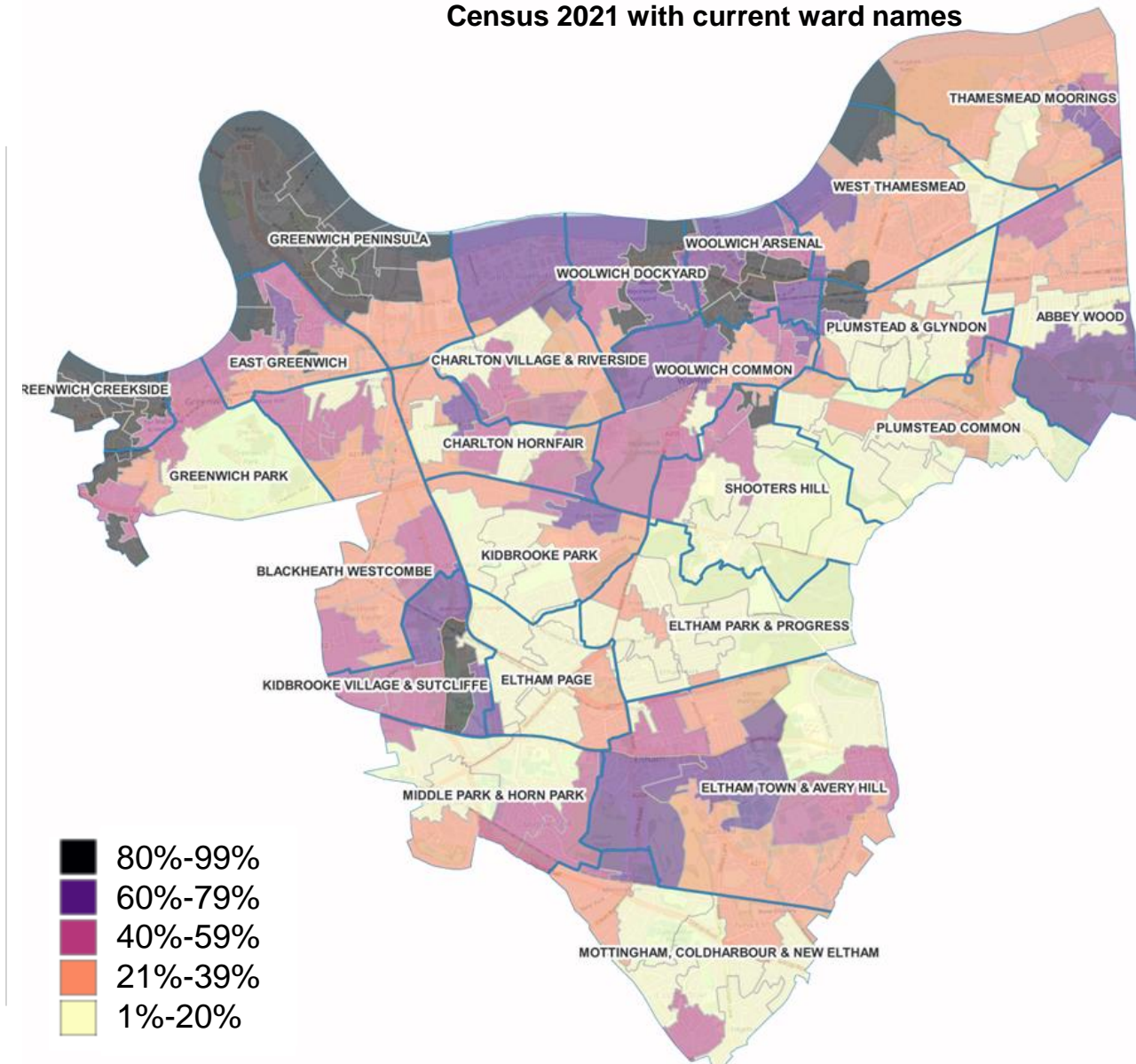
## Purpose-built block of flats or tenement: 51.5% of households in Royal Greenwich in 2021 were flats, maisonettes or apartments

% Proportion of purpose-built block of flats or tenement per LSOA

Census 2011 with previous ward names



Census 2021 with current ward names



Source: Census 2021<sup>vi</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Areas made up of LSOA boundaries (LSOA = Lower Layer Super Output Area)

## Our local crime and community safety governance arrangements

The Community Safety Partnership (known in Royal Greenwich as the Safer Greenwich Partnership – “SGP”) is a statutory body under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The SGP meets quarterly and is jointly chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement and the police Superintendent for Greenwich neighbourhoods policing and partnership (on behalf of the BCU Commander).

The SGP’s membership comprises representatives of the five statutorily-required bodies plus several other invited agencies. The statutory members are the Council, Metropolitan Police, National Probation Service, London Fire Brigade and NHS South East London Integrated Care Board. A range of council services have relevance to the SGP’s responsibilities and are represented at the SGP; these are: Adult Social Care, Children’s Services, Community Safety, Emergency Planning, Public Health, Tenancy Services and the Communications team.

Members of the SGP by invitation are:

- British Transport Police
- Charlton Athletic Community Trust
- HM Prisons Belmarsh and Thameside and HMP/YOI Isis
- Metro GAVS (Greenwich Action for Voluntary Service)
- Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
- Registered Housing Providers
- Greenwich Safer Neighbourhoods Board
- Victim Support London

Associate members (receiving meeting papers and attending as needed) are the Greater London Assembly Member for Greenwich, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime and the Woolwich Royal Artillery Barracks.

An Executive sub-group of the full SGP meets monthly. Its work includes planning for meetings of the full SGP, monitoring crime data, trends and developments following critical incidents and giving direction to activity such as community engagement and publicity campaigns.

Senior members of the SGP meet several times a year with senior representatives of the Greenwich Safeguarding Adults Board and the Greenwich Children’s Safeguarding Partnership to ensure that work on issues and activities of shared relevance is aligned. Coordination with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Combatting Drugs Partnership is ensured through representation at the SGP by officers from the Council’s Public Health function.

There are several strategic or oversight partnership groups that are accountable to the SGP for work on specific areas of responsibility. These include hate crime, serious violence and exploitation, modern slavery, counter-extremism and violence against women and girls.



## Royal Greenwich and MOPAC agreed local community safety partnership priorities

### ► Royal Greenwich Priorities

- Creating safer and more secure neighbourhoods and town centres
- Ending Violence and Abuse Against Women and Girls (VAWG), domestic abuse, and other forms of gender-based violence
- Preventing modern Slavery, supporting its victims and tackling the people who exploit them
- Preventing and reducing serious violence and exploitation
- Reducing the harm drugs and alcohol cause to individuals and communities
- Tackling hate crime and supporting repeat and vulnerable victims
- Driving community confidence and resilience



Woolwich Town Centre

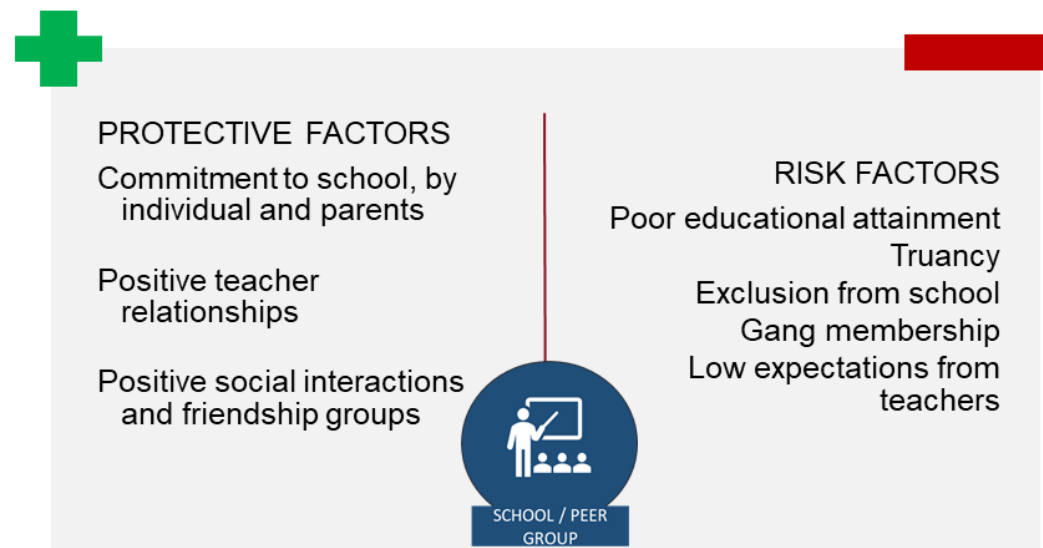
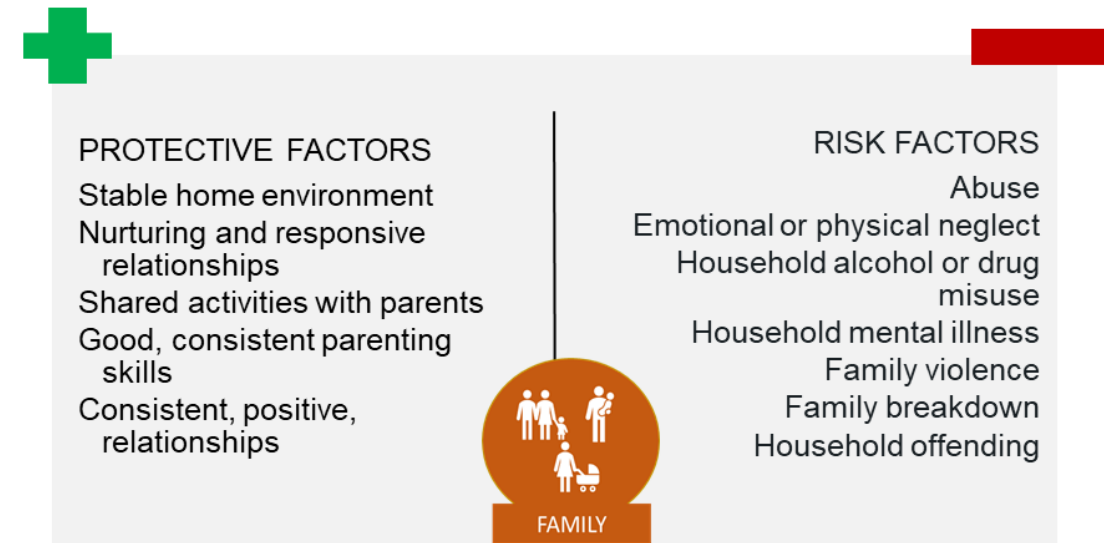
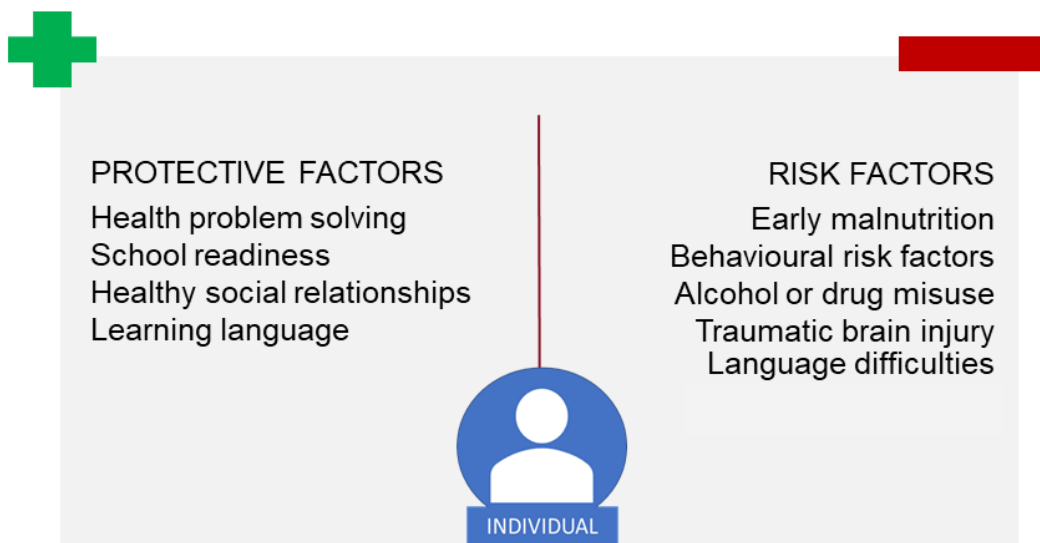
### ► Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Priorities

- **Reducing and preventing violence** – preventing and reducing violence affecting young people; making London a city in which women and girls are safer and feel safer; tackling the harm caused by drugs; reducing reoffending by the most violent and high-risk groups; preventing hate crime; and working together to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.
- **Increasing trust and confidence** – increasing public trust in the MPS and reducing gaps in confidence between different groups; ensuring that the MPS engages with Londoners and treats them fairly; and ensuring that the MPS, borough councils and all community safety partners respond to neighbourhood crimes such as burglary and anti-social behaviour.
- **Better supporting victims** – improving the service and support that victims receive from the MPS and the criminal justice service; working to ensure victims receive a better criminal justice response and outcome; and reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- **Protecting people from being exploited or harmed** – reducing the number of young people and adults who are criminally exploited or harmed; keeping young people in the justice system supported and safe; and keeping people safe online.



# CHAPTER 3: RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

### 3. RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS





## Royal Greenwich children aged 0-15 who live in income deprived families

For the purposes of this report, the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)<sup>ix</sup>, measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. It is a subset of the Income Deprivation Domain (referenced in '[Place and Population](#)').

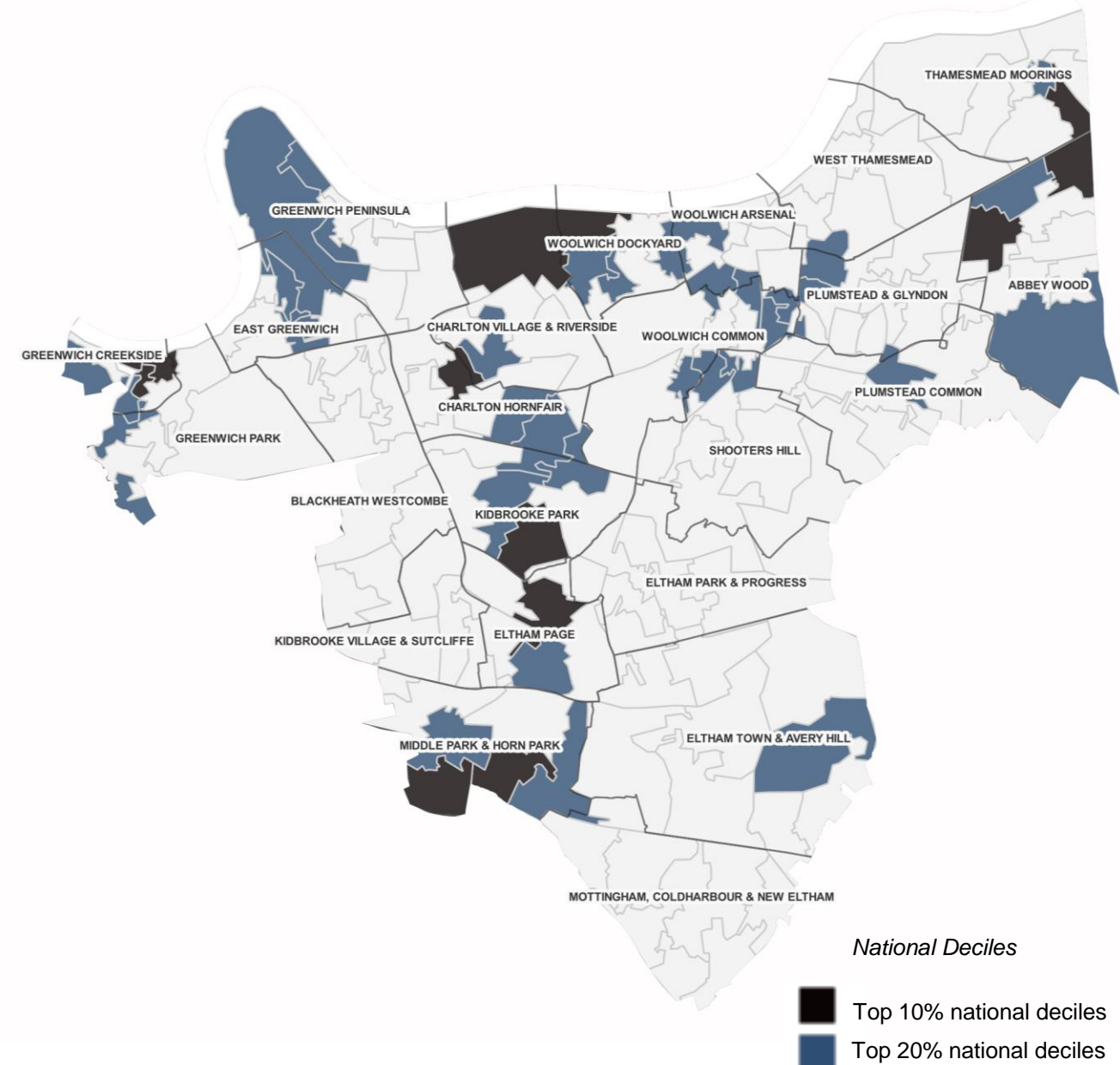
Research conducted by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in collaboration with MOPAC in 2021 found that there is a significant association between deprivation and serious violence among young people. It was also found that young people from deprived areas are more likely to be involved in violent crime, either as victims, perpetrators or both. The study suggested that the underlying causes of this association include factors such as poverty, lack of opportunities, poor educational attainment, and family breakdown.

“...three-quarters of the boroughs in London with the highest levels of violent offending are also in the top 10 most deprived, while the same boroughs also have higher proportions of children under 20 living in poverty than the London average.”

Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (2021)<sup>x</sup>

Additionally, the report highlights that children who are exposed to multiple risk factors such as poverty, poor mental health, and low educational attainment are at even higher risk of being involved in serious violence.

Index of Deprivation affecting Children (IDACI) 2019 in Greenwich re-aggregated to new Census 2021 LSOA boundaries





## School Readiness

**School readiness** is defined as all children defined as having reached a good level of development at the end of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) by local authority (OHID, 2022). Children are defined as having reached a good level of development if they achieve at least the expected level in the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development; physical development; and communication and language) and the early learning goals in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

School readiness is a critical protective factor for serious violence, particularly in children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Research has consistently shown that school readiness is a strong predictor of academic success, positive social development, and resilience.

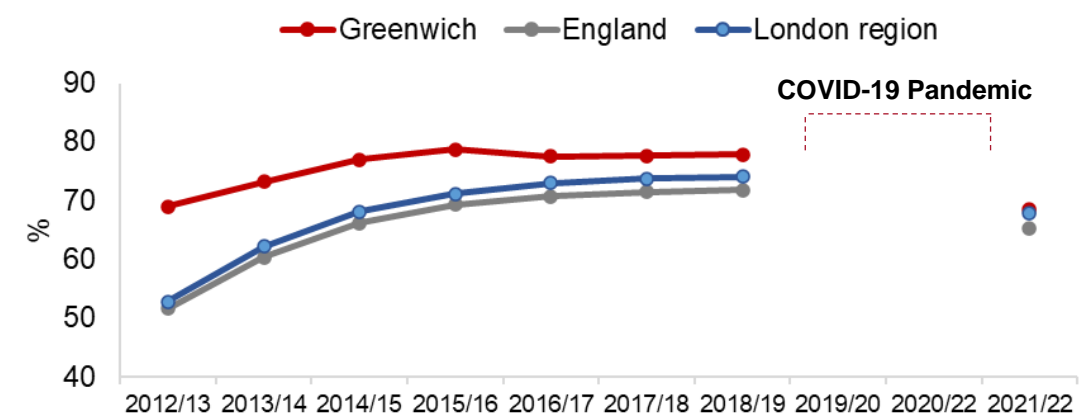
These factors are essential for reducing the likelihood of children engaging in violent behaviour. Academic success is a particularly important protective factor, as it is associated with higher income, better job opportunities, and increased social mobility.

### The impact of COVID-19 on school readiness

- ▶ There have been gaps in recording school readiness due to the age groups affected by the COVID19 pandemic, which has impacted school readiness in children across Royal Greenwich, and the UK. Social isolation, and wider familial and health implications on young children impacted school readiness outcomes across Royal Greenwich, London and England.
- ▶ Despite government support to the education sector during COVID-19, closures and reduced demand have increased financial pressures and stakeholders have raised concerns about the pandemic's long-term impact
- ▶ Available evidence suggests that changes in access to educational settings has impacted pre-school children in various ways, including social, emotional and behavioural development and mental health, physical development and school readiness<sup>xi</sup>
- ▶ Negative impacts on children's development and mental health from changes in access are more likely for disadvantaged children, children with unmet Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and children in care.



Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception (%)<sup>xi</sup>



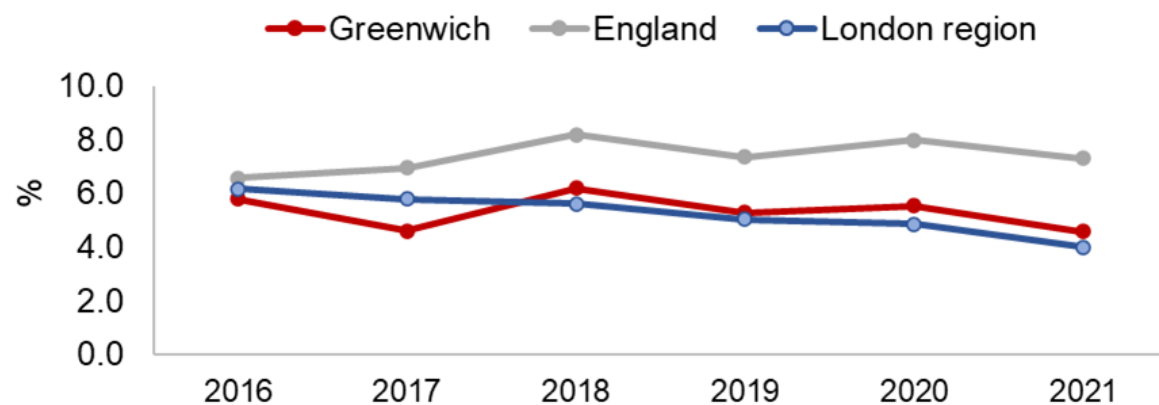
## 16- to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known

Anybody who is not in any forms of education or training listed above and who is not in employment is considered NEET. This can vary in different contexts especially involving children.

Learning plays a vital role in promoting the mental, emotional, social, and physical wellbeing of children, providing them with the knowledge, skills, capabilities, and attributes they need to thrive in both the present and the future. However, children with poorer mental health are more likely to struggle academically, and there is evidence to suggest that higher levels of educational attainment can positively influence wellbeing in adulthood.

Children who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) or whose activity is not known, can be at a higher risk of involvement in serious violence due to the lack of social support, positive role models, and opportunities for positive engagement that come with being in education or employment. NEET status can lead to low self-esteem, a lack of purpose, and feelings of hopelessness<sup>xii-xiv</sup>.

Proportion of children aged 16- to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known<sup>xv</sup>



## School disruption and serious violence

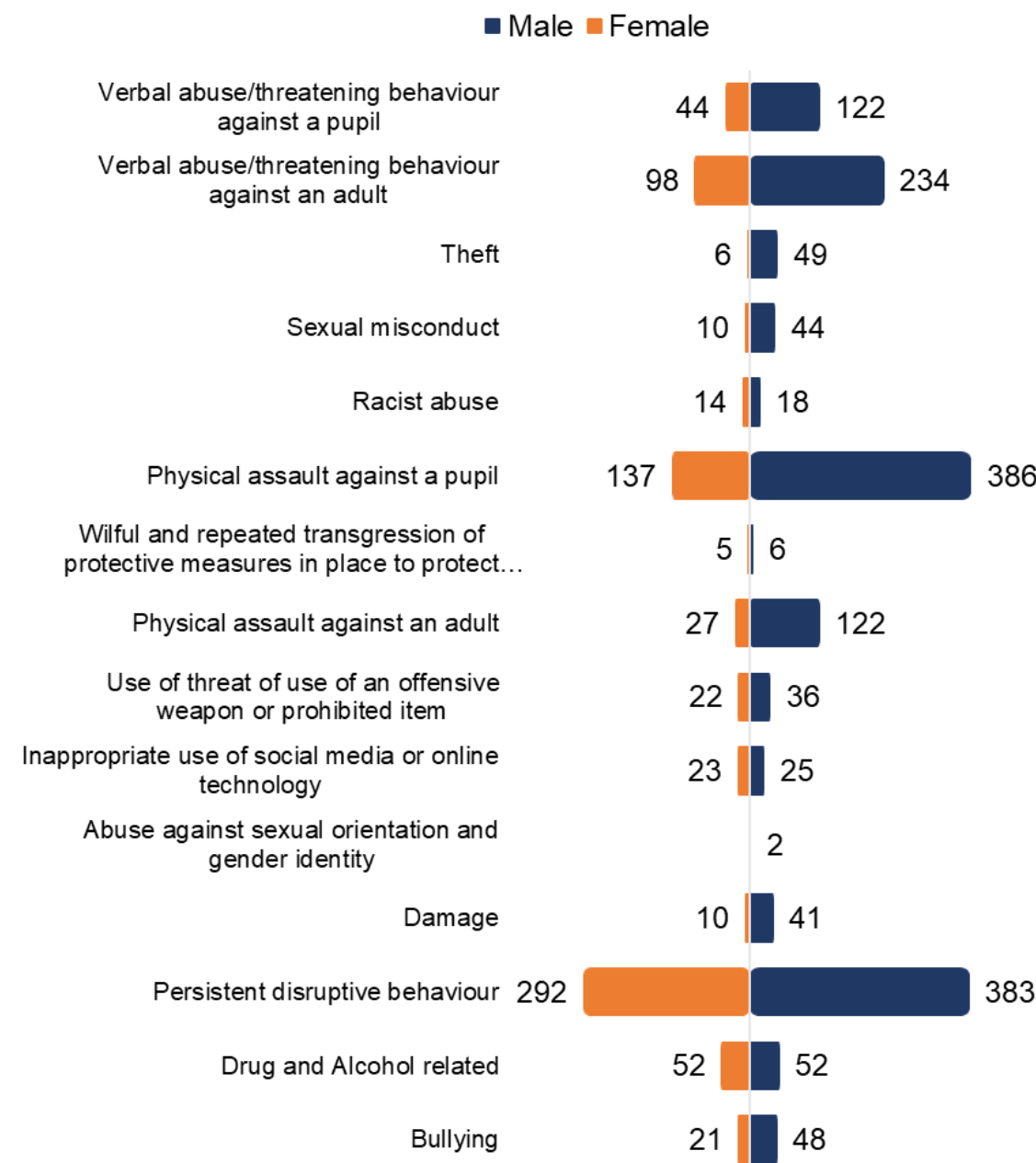
Research indicates that a significant proportion of young individuals involved in serious violence have experienced exclusion from school or have been at risk of exclusion. School disruption can lead to a range of risk factors, such as involvement with gangs, limited educational opportunities, a lack of positive support networks, and a disconnection from positive societal norms<sup>xvi</sup>.

Pupils who face multiple exclusions or have a history of behavioural issues often encounter disruptive school experiences that impact their academic and social development. Moreover, they may also grapple with mental health challenges, and lack the necessary support systems.

While it is crucial to acknowledge some correlations between school disruption and serious violence, it is equally important to recognise that the factors contributing to violence are multifaceted and complex. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of this issue necessitates consideration of various social, economic, and environmental factors that contribute to youth-related serious violence.

- In the 2021/ to 2022 academic year, physical assault against a pupil represented 22% of all suspensions. This was the most common across both genders, but a higher proportion of suspensions were male pupils. Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult accounted for 14% of all suspensions.
- Theft, and Sexual Misconduct had a disproportionately higher number of male pupils

Number of Royal Greenwich school (Primary, Secondary, and Special Schools) suspensions in the 2021 to 2022 academic year by gender and primary reason stated (N= 2,329)



	Female	Male
Unique pupil count	471	862



## Serious violence and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

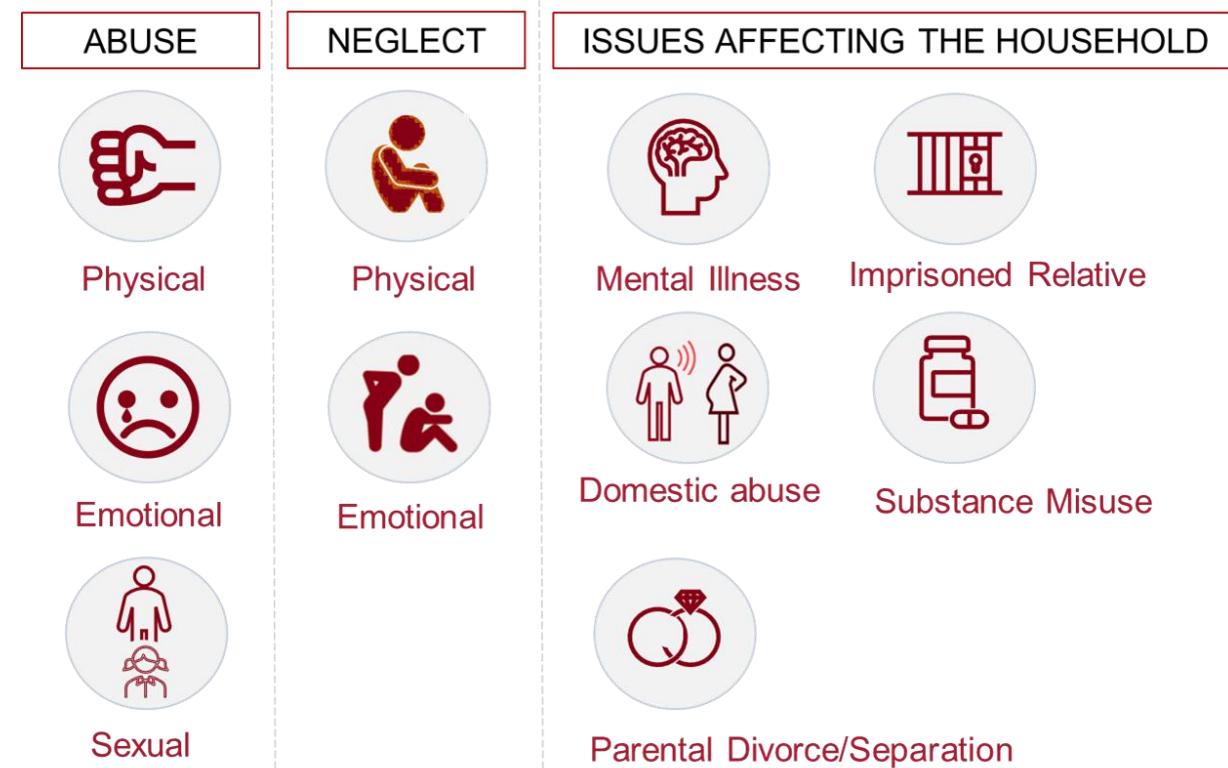
### What is adversity?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) encompass highly stressful and potentially traumatic events or circumstances that take place during childhood or adolescence<sup>xvii</sup>. They can manifest as singular incidents or persistent challenges that jeopardise a young person's sense of safety, trust, security, or physical well-being. These experiences have a direct impact on the individual and their surroundings, necessitating substantial adaptation in social, emotional, neurobiological, psychological, or behavioural aspects.

Adaptations include young people's attempts to:

- ▶ **Survive** their immediate environment
- ▶ Find out how to **mitigate** or tolerate their adverse experiences
- ▶ Establish a **safe place** and control
- ▶ **Make sense** of their experiences

### What kinds of experiences are adverse?



Approximately **half of all adults** living in England experience at least one ACE in their childhood or teenage years<sup>xvii</sup>.

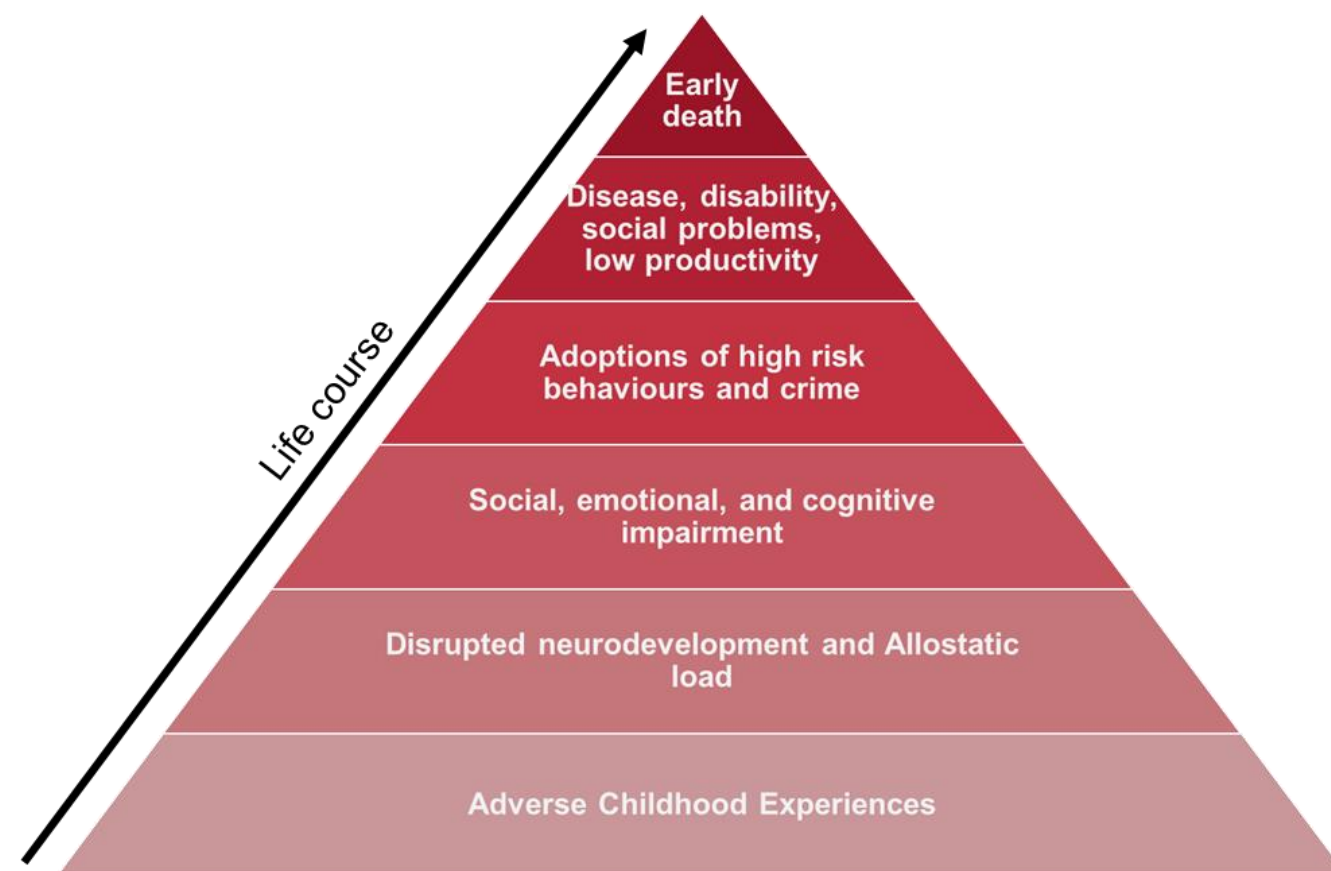
Applying this estimate to Royal Greenwich's population, this equates to **around 111,600** resident adults.

ACEs have been identified as significant risk factors for serious violence. The cumulative effects of these experiences can have a profound impact on an individual's life trajectory, including an increased risk of engaging in serious violent behaviour (see Figure 4).

Those experiencing **four or more ACEs** are almost **7 times more likely** to be a victim of violence...

...and almost **8 times more likely** to have **committed a violence act**, than those with no ACEs<sup>xviii</sup>

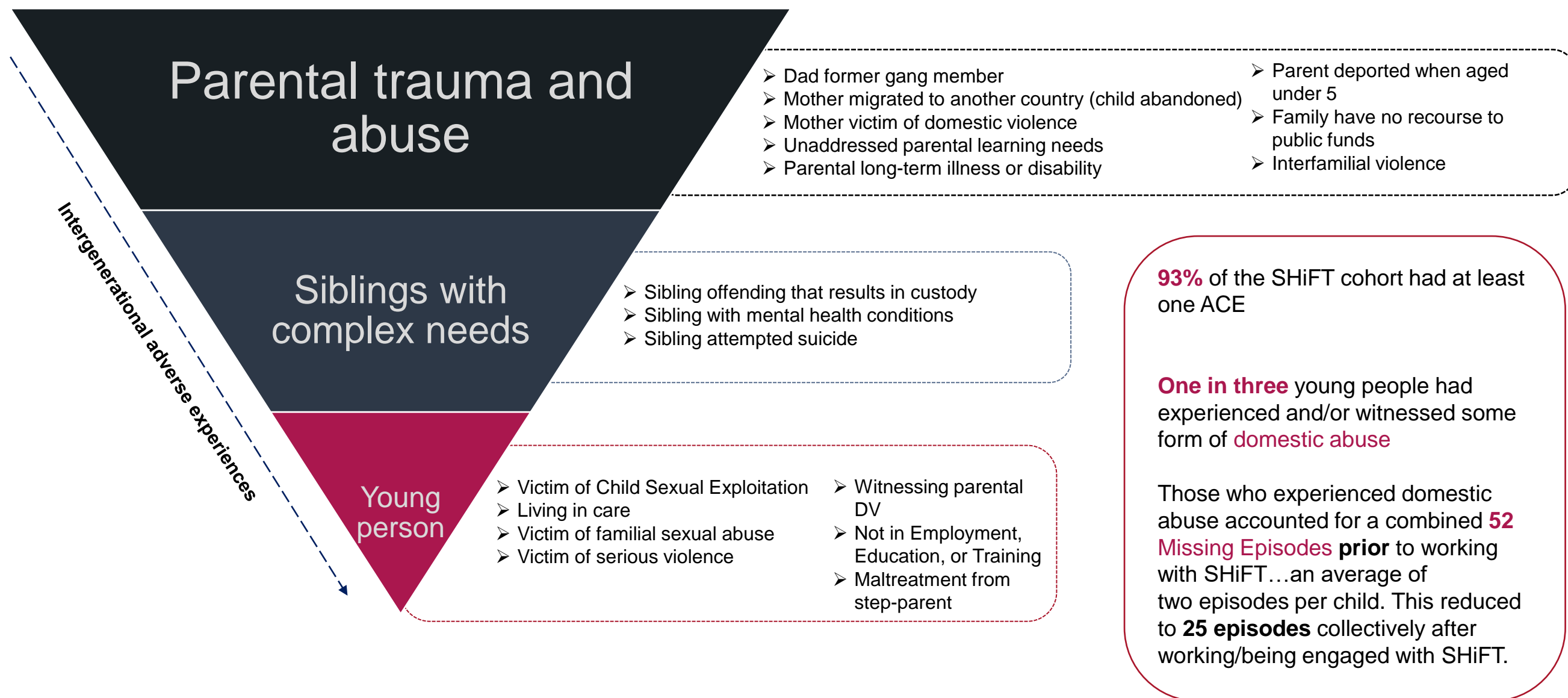
Figure 4: Life course of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences.



# Intergenerational issues of crime, health and social care needs – SHiFT Greenwich

SHiFT is a diversion programme breaking the destructive cycle of children and young people, and/or families caught up in, or at risk of, crime or within the Youth Justice Service. They seek to transform policy and practice in how young people in these circumstances are seen and supported.

**An overview of the complexities faced by young people in the SHiFT cohort** (examples do not apply to all young people). Data extracted from entire Greenwich SHiFT UK cohort (past and present) as of June 2023 (N=58).



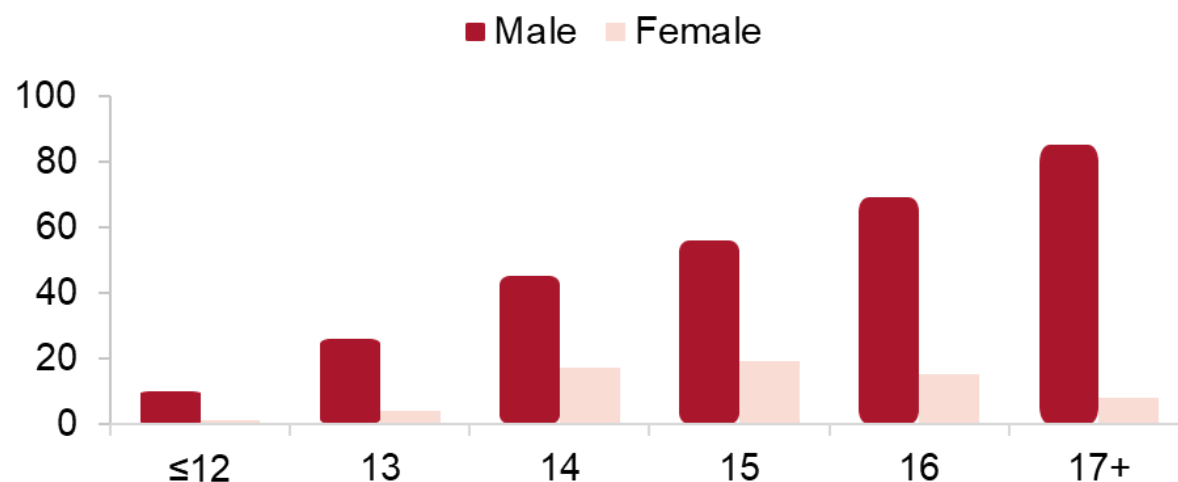


## Royal Greenwich Youth Justice Service: First Time Entrants

To effectively prevent offending, it's important to understand who are the local children who have offended. This section describes what we know about our Royal Greenwich Youth Justice Service (YJS) First Time Entrants (FTE).

Source: Royal Greenwich Youth Justice Cohort extracted from reporting years 2019-20 to 2022-23.

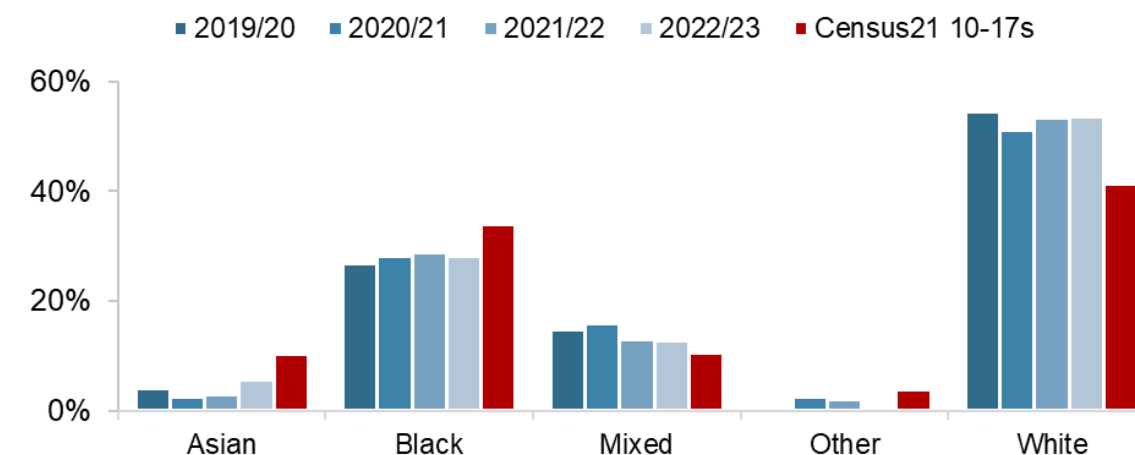
First Time Entrants: Royal Greenwich YJS Cohort by Age and Gender\*



- Between the ages of 10 to 17, FTEs are more likely to be aged 15 to 17.
- The cohort is of multiple ethnic groups, but there are overrepresentations in Mixed, and White ethnic groups.
- There is a moderately positive correlation (0.60), between residence deprivation and number of FTEs. 32% of the four-year cohort reside in the most deprived 20% of Royal Greenwich and surrounds.

\*Age calculated based on school year.

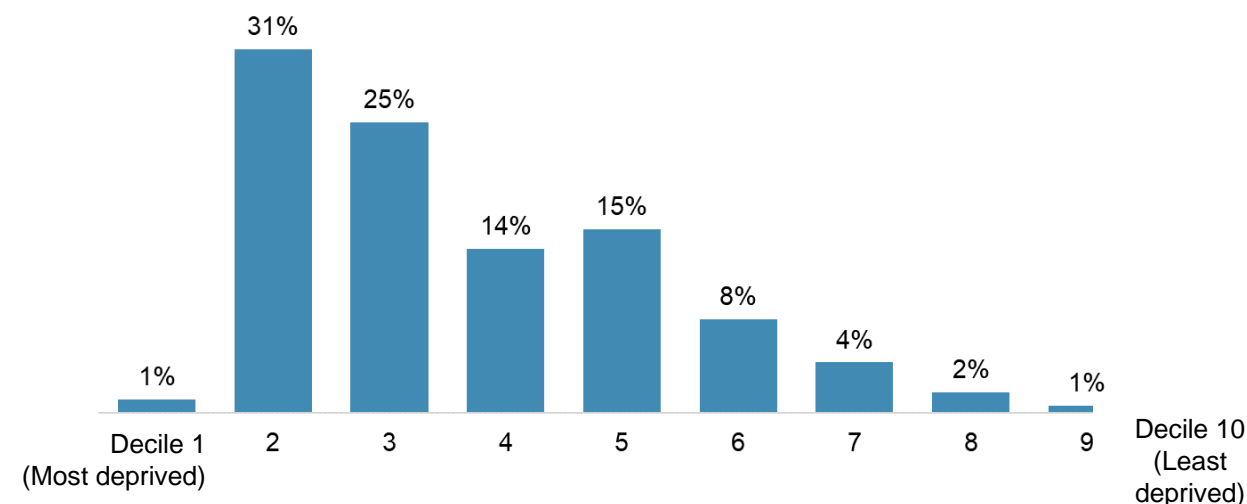
First Time Entrants: Proportion of Royal Greenwich YJS Cohort by Ethnicity per reporting year



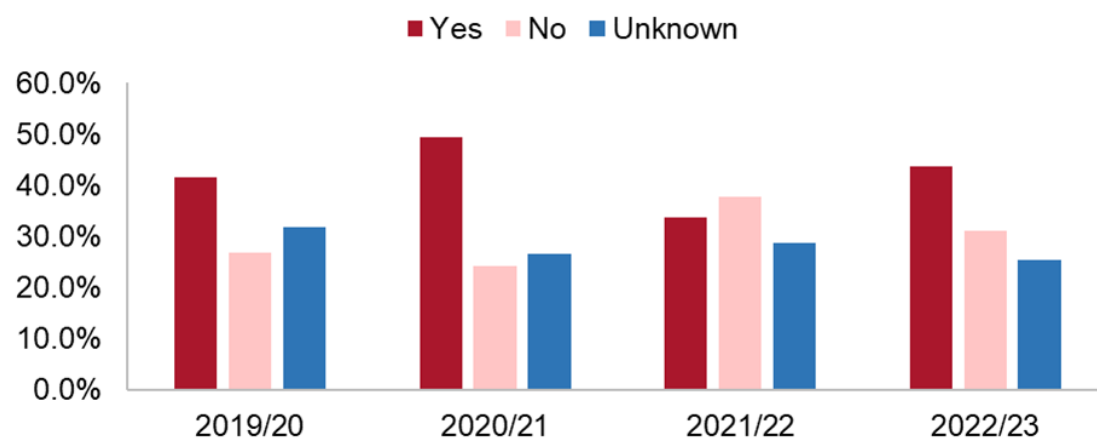
Rate per 1000 population (10-17s, all years combined)

Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White	All
4.5	10.4	17.0	3.7	16.3	12.7

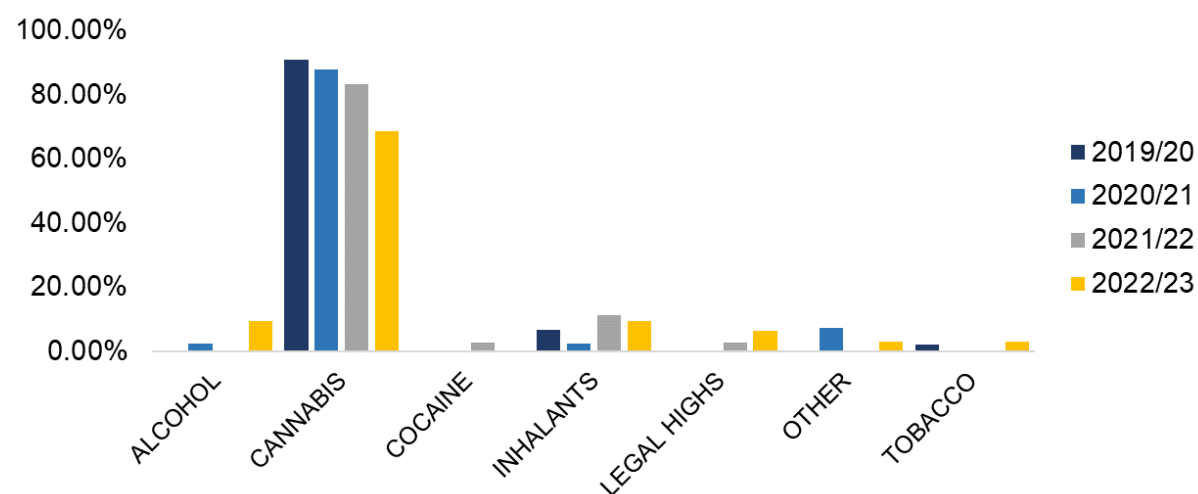
First Time Entrants: % of Royal Greenwich YJS Cohort by IMD Decile (2019-20 to 2022-23)



First Time Entrants: Percentage of children in Royal Greenwich YJS Cohort with Evidence of Substance Misuse by year



First Time Entrants: Percentage of substances recorded by year



- The percentage of children with evidence of substance misuse ("Yes") increased from 41.6% in 2019/20 to 49.4% in 2020/21, then decreased to 33.7% in 2021/22 before rising again to 43.7% in 2022/23. Overall, four in ten children had evidence of substance misuse.
- Cannabis use represented the overwhelming substance, 91% of all substances in 2019/20 decreasing to 69% in 2022/23. In the most recent year, the proportion of Inhalants, alcohol, and 'legal high' use has increased.

First Time Entrants: Breakdown of Mental Health Records (2019-20 to 2022-23)

**355** First Time Entrants (FTE)  
between 2019-20 to 2022-23\*

**80** children with a Mental Health concern\*

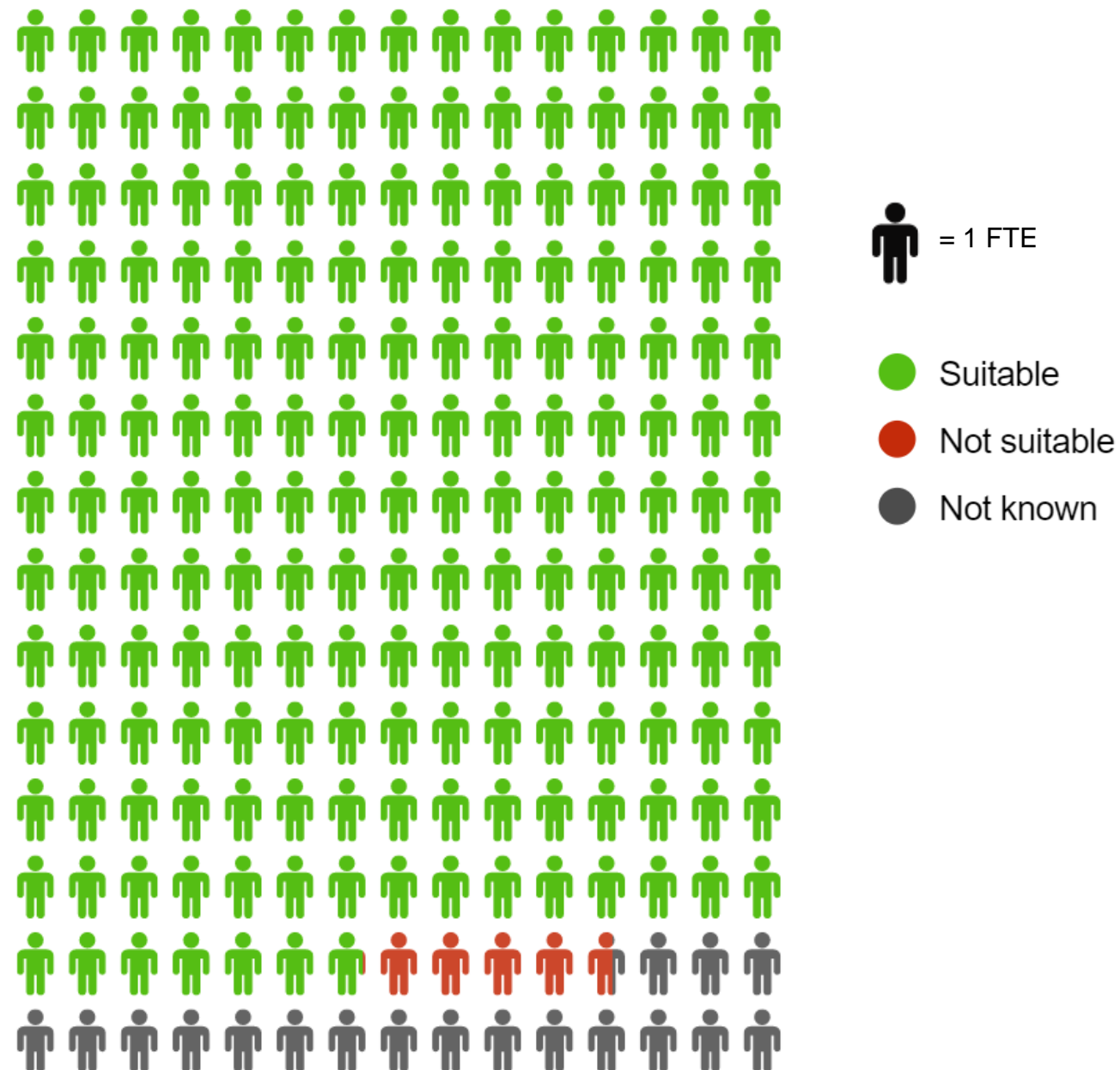
**66** in contact with Mental Health Services\*

**31** with a formal Mental Health diagnosis\*

\*Of those via Asset Plus

## Royal Greenwich YJS Cohort by Address Suitability (combined 4 years, 2019-20 to 2022-23)

First Time Entrants: Percentage of YJS Cohort by address suitability. N = 355



**89%** of FTE cases were living in a suitable environment.

Most of these included living with parents or relatives, with a smaller proportion of children living in Council Tenancy, Foster Care, Semi-Independent, or Lodgings/Support Lodgings

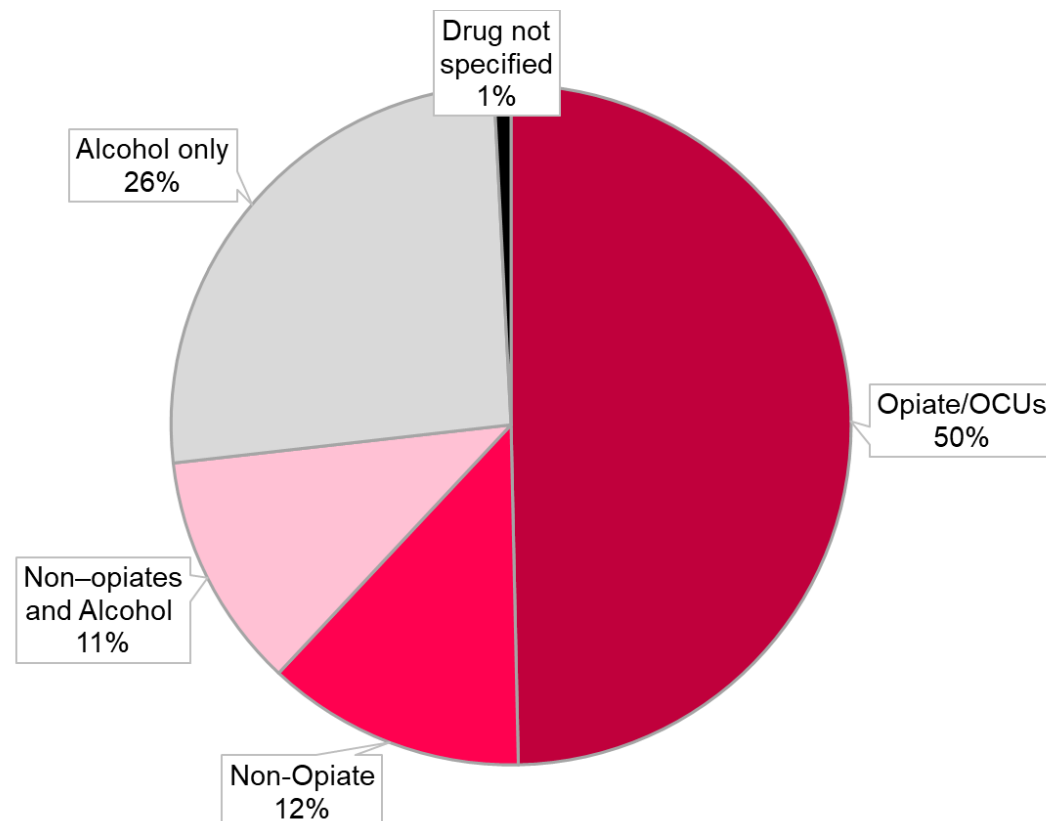
Of those living in an environment deemed not suitable, this included Custody, Exposure to Risk of Harm, Social Exclusion, Night Shelter, Direct Access, or living in an Emergency Hostel.



## Substance harm: Numbers in treatment in Royal Greenwich

There were **1,752 adults** in contact with Royal Greenwich drug and alcohol services between April 2022 and March 2023<sup>xix</sup>.

The treatment population\* breakdown for March 2023 is as follows (N= 739):



The profile of drug users in Royal Greenwich matches the national profile in terms of age and ethnicity with most service users being Male, White British and aged 40-44 or 45-49.

The ratio of male to females in treatment remains constant at 60%/40% respectively.

\* Excludes numbers awaiting assessment

Hospital admissions for drug poisoning, and drug related mental health and behavioural disorders (primary diagnosis of selected drugs)<sup>xx</sup>:



Of **102,108** attendances at A&E by Royal Greenwich residents in 2020-21:



**1,301** were for drug poisoning or overdose (this figure includes prescription drugs, proprietary drugs, and controlled drugs).

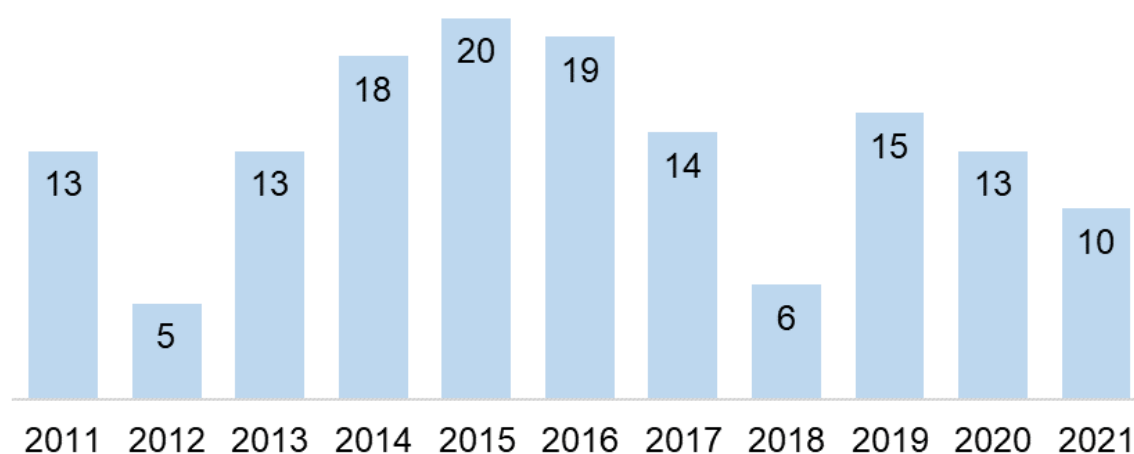


Of the **1,301** records that included a coded diagnosis field: **717** were identified as poisonings and **584** as overdose.

## Deaths related to drug misuse

The ONS data for local authority areas (2019-2021) shows that in Royal Greenwich, **38 deaths** were drug related.<sup>xxi</sup>

Drug related deaths in Royal Greenwich residents, 2011 to 2021.



The drivers for the increase in drug related deaths may include:

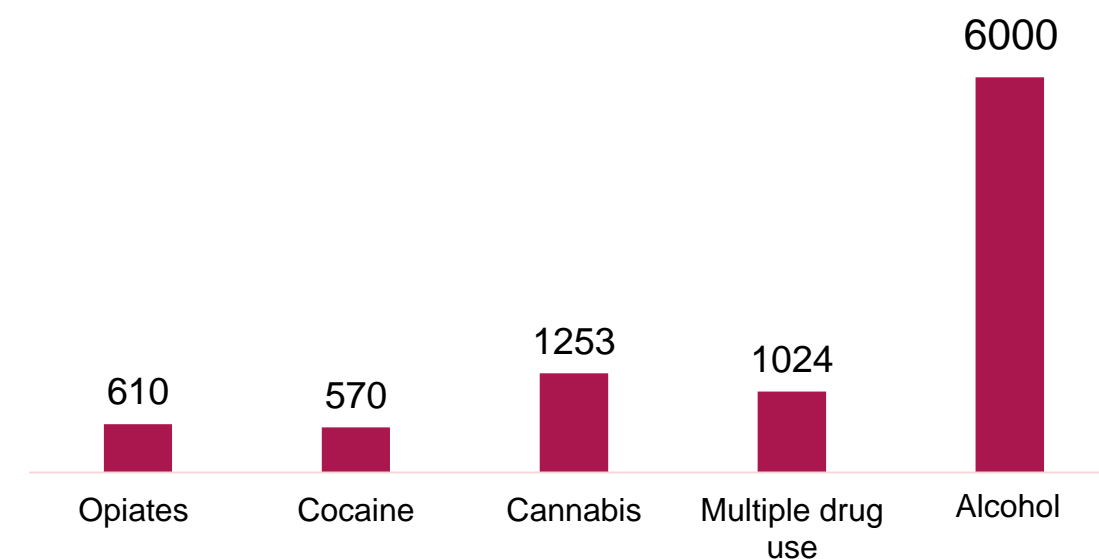
- **ageing long term opioid users** with poor health and increased susceptibility to overdose
- increase in **multiple use of drugs**, which may increase the risk of an overdose
- increase in **disengagement** or non-compliance with opiate substitute therapy (OST)
- **a lack of availability** of services, both due to COVID-19 and long-term reductions in treatment budgets nationally
- The recent increase in cocaine deaths is likely due to **increased availability, low prices and high purity**

## Hospital admissions due to substance misuse

**9,457** Royal Greenwich residents were admitted to hospital between 2017/18 to 2021/22, for conditions relating to substance misuse, which included admissions for drug poisoning, drug misuse, and alcoholic related disorders<sup>xxii</sup>

- **6,000** alcohol related
- **1,253** cannabis related
- **1,024** multiple drug use related
- **570** cocaine related
- **610** opiate related

Hospital admissions due to substance misuse  
2017/18 to 2021/22



Note: These figures should be viewed with caution as 59.7% of A & E records had a “null” entry in the diagnosis field. Meaning only 40% of all cases had alcohol or drug use recorded at time of presentation.



# CHAPTER 4: VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

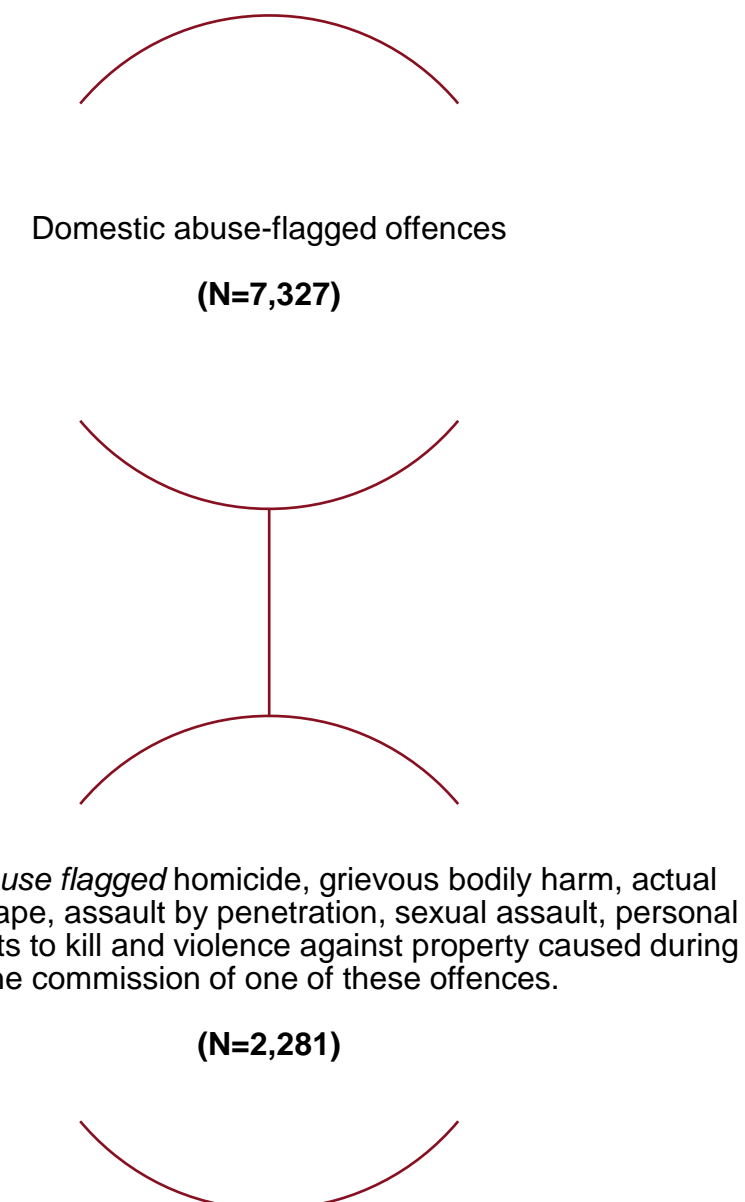
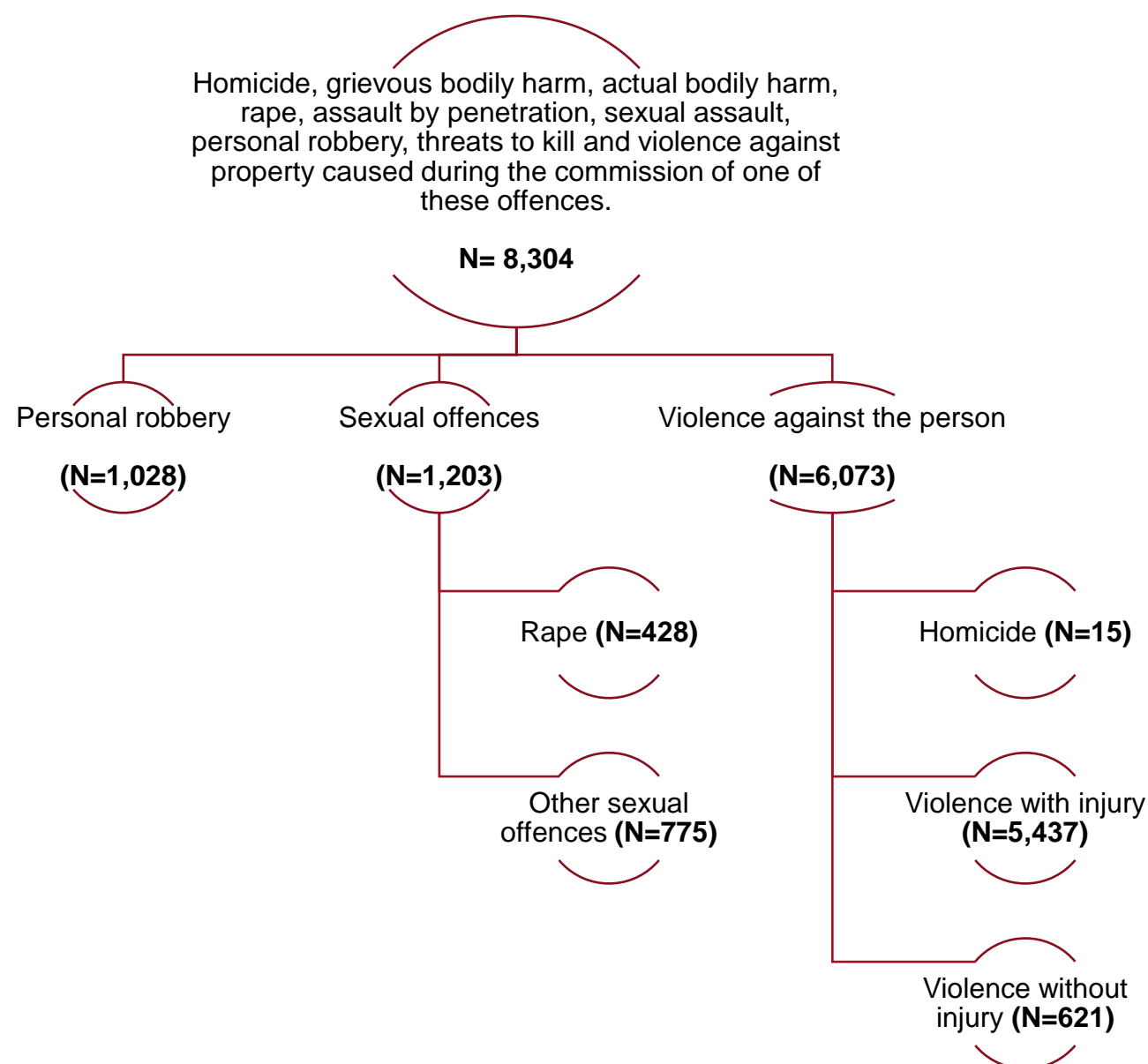




## 4. VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

### Serious violence overview in Royal Greenwich: Breakdown by numbers (2021-2022)

How has the crime data been analysed? For the full methodology see [Appendix B](#). The offences, victim, and suspect data in this report is sourced from the 'LA Analyst Data' datasets which are shared by the Metropolitan Police for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty. Population figures have been calculated using Office for National Statistics Census 2021 figures.



Offence data in this chapter, Violence and Exploitation, reference to ‘serious violence offences’ is specific to *homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property* caused during the commission of one of these offences.

Some of these offences will be domestic abuse flagged, however all domestic abuse offences have been analysed in the following chapter, [Domestic abuse](#). Domestic abuse offences have been presented separately to avoid double counting.

### Key findings

- **1 in 6 offences** in Royal Greenwich was a serious violence offence between 2021 and 2022
- Serious violence has increased by 7%, an increase of 338 offences from 3,983 in 2021, to 4,321 in 2022
- 16 of the 23 Royal Greenwich wards in 2022 have shown an increase in violent crimes when compared with 2021
- Top violent offences are linked to potentially high harm injuries, including personal robbery, violence with injury, and sexual offences

### Gang and weapon-related violence

- Gang violence offences have shown little change in 2022 when compared to 2021
- Very low known reports of criminal exploitation in which criminals groom and manipulate children and vulnerable adults to recruit them as runners to transport drugs and cash (three known incidents recorded in a two-year period)
- Most serious violence committed in Royal Greenwich are not linked to Gangs or County lines
- An increase of over 14% (+48) in the use of knives in all serious violence from 2021 to 2022
- East Greenwich ward shows the highest year on year increase in all serious violence, Eltham Town & Avery Hill the lowest.



329

2021

377

2022

**14.6% increase** in  
Knife-flagged offences\*  
in Royal Greenwich

\*offences include homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.

■ Other Total Notifiable Offences (TNO)

■ Serious Violence Offences

20,892

3,983

2021

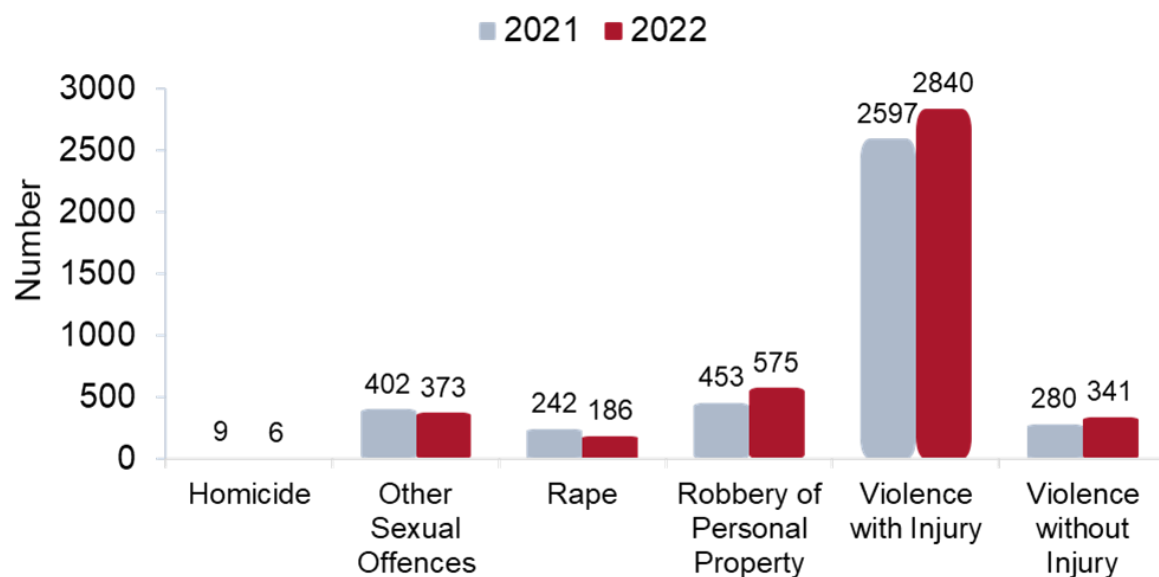
20,812

4,321

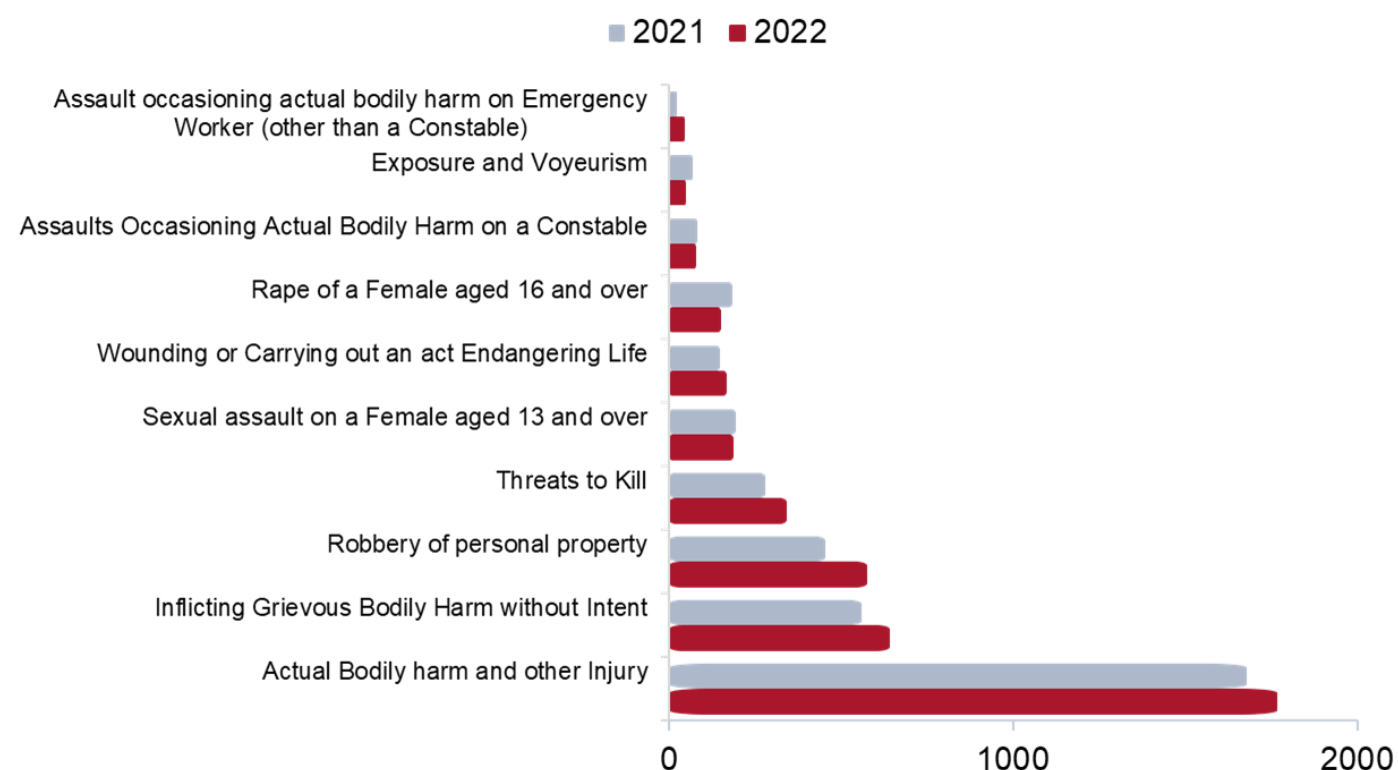
2022

In 2021, serious violence offences accounted for 16% of the total offences, while other TNO offences constituted 84% of the total. In 2022, there was a slight increase in serious violence offences, which comprised 17% of the total offences.

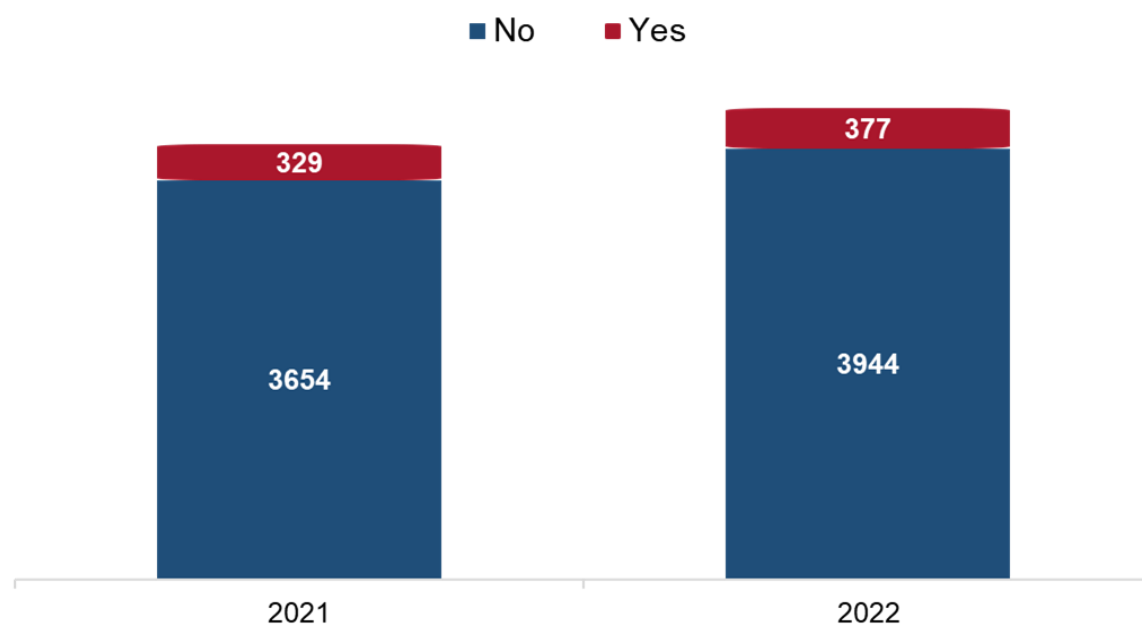
Serious violence crime groups



Top 10 most prevalent serious violence offences



Knife-flagged (Yes) and non-knife flagged serious violence offences



- Personal robbery and Violence without injury showed the largest increase in 2022, compared with the previous year
- Recorded Rape offences showed a 20% decrease year on year to 2022
- Reduction of Homicides from 2021 to 2022
- 20% increase in age group 1-17 as victims of serious violence
- 10% fall in victims from the aged 25 -29 group



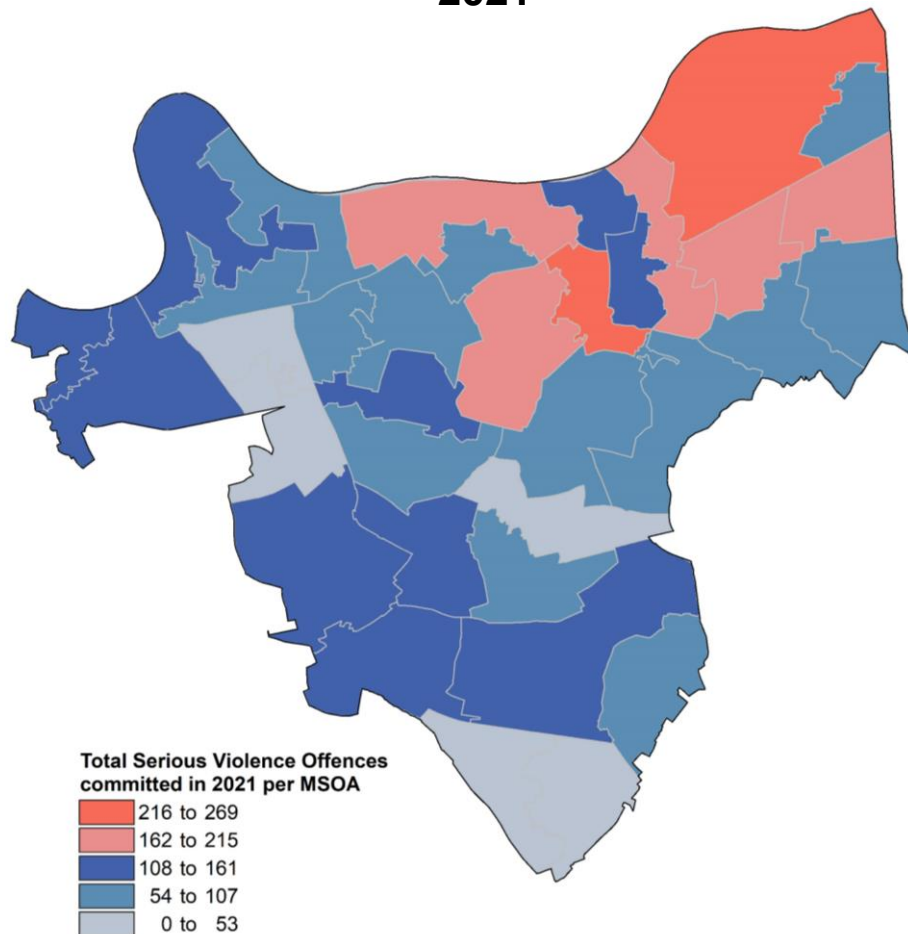
## Offence locations: Serious violence offences<sup>1</sup> by MSOA



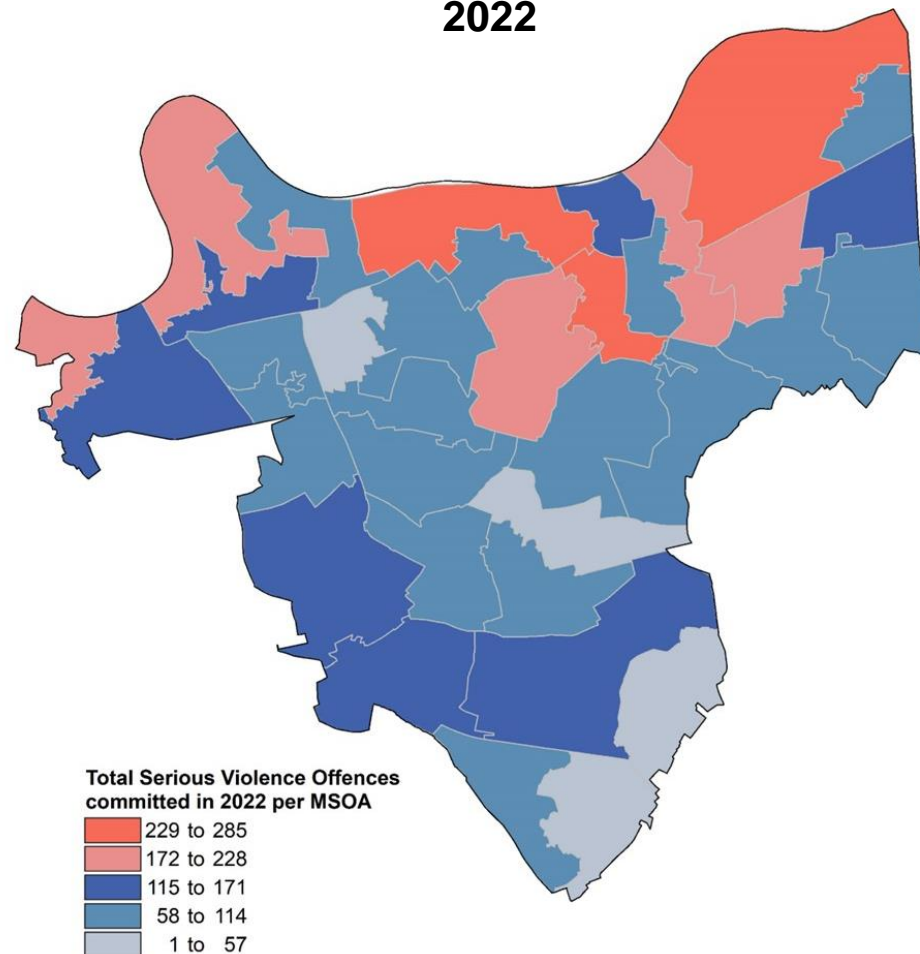
**What is an 'MSOA'?** A Middle Layer Super Output Area is a small geographic area that sits within a ward boundary. They have an average population of between 7,500 residents or 4,000 households.

More information can be found here: [LSOAs, LEPs and lookups : A beginner's guide to statistical geographies \(ocsi.uk\)](https://ocsi.uk/)

2021

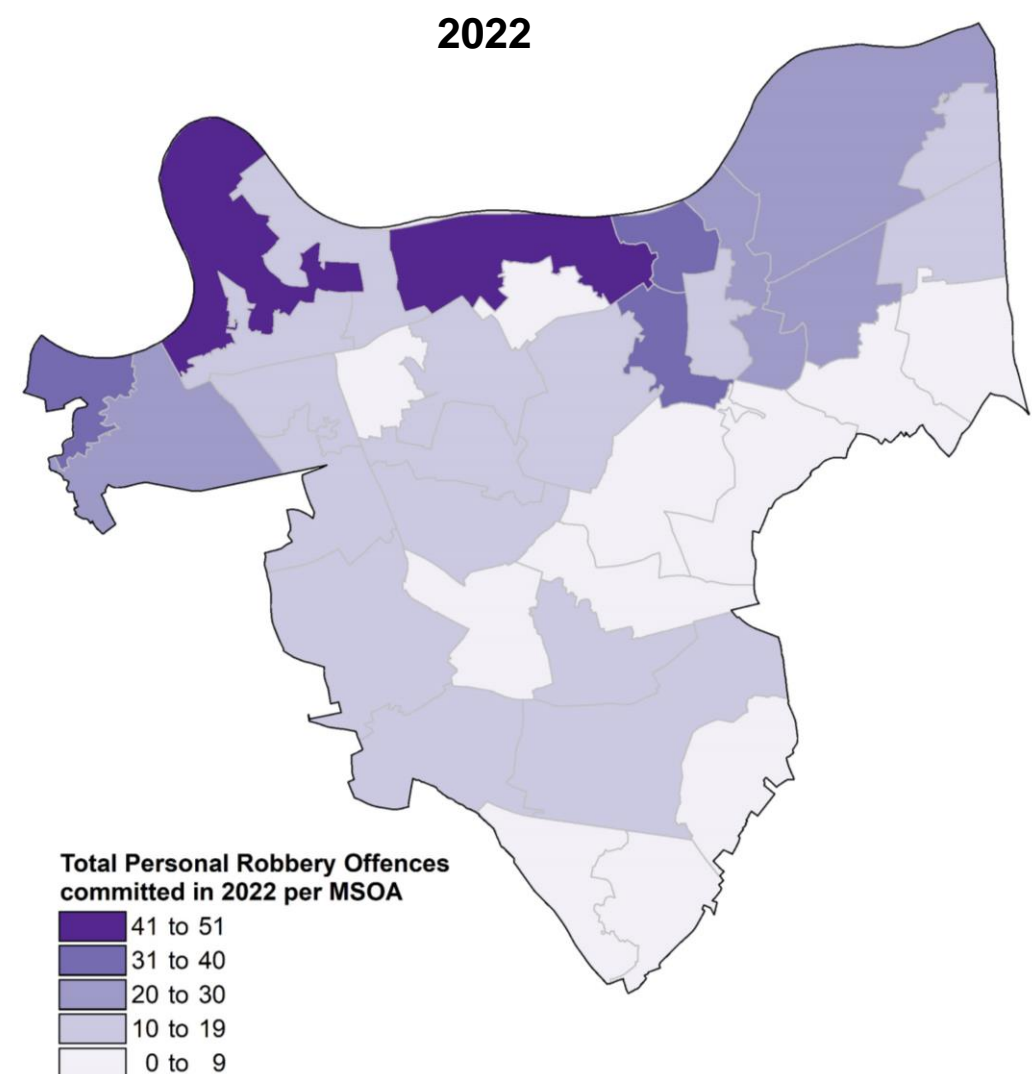
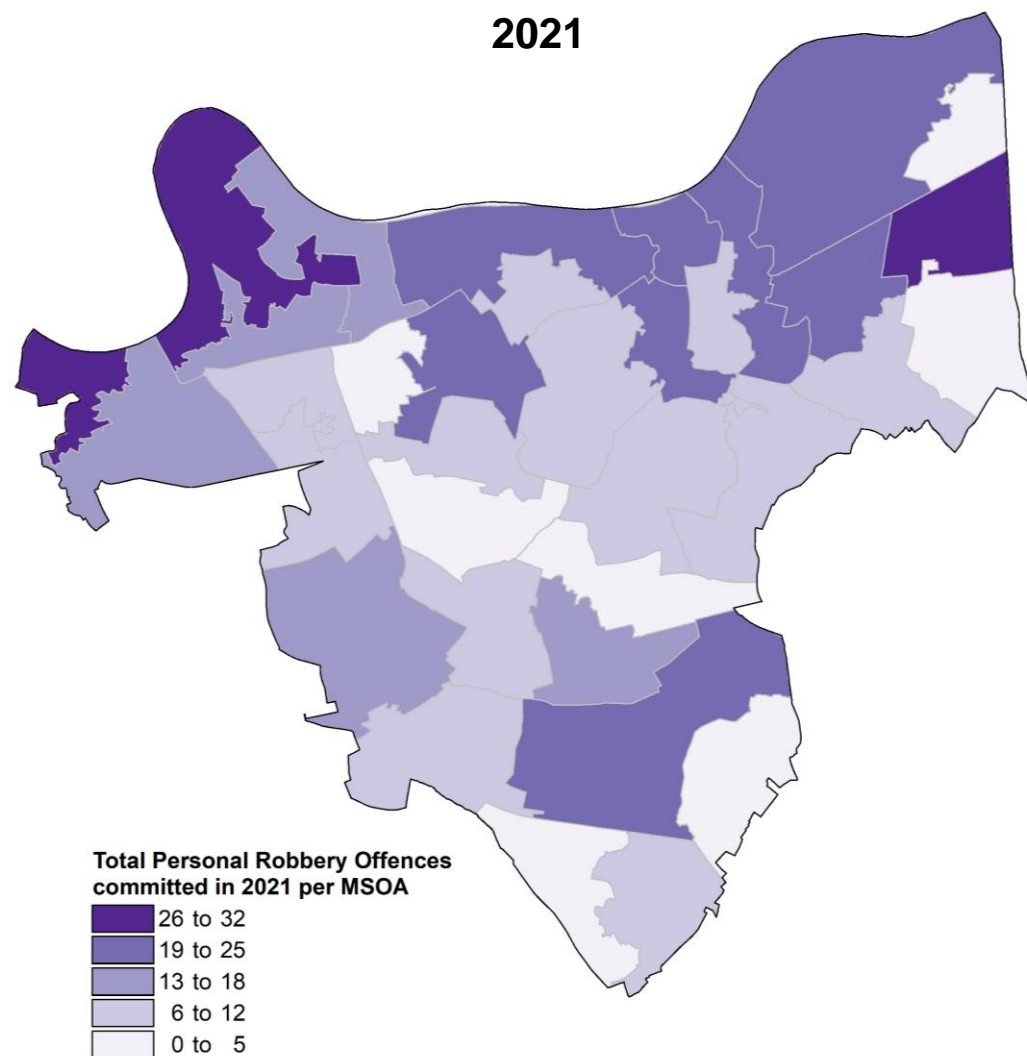


2022



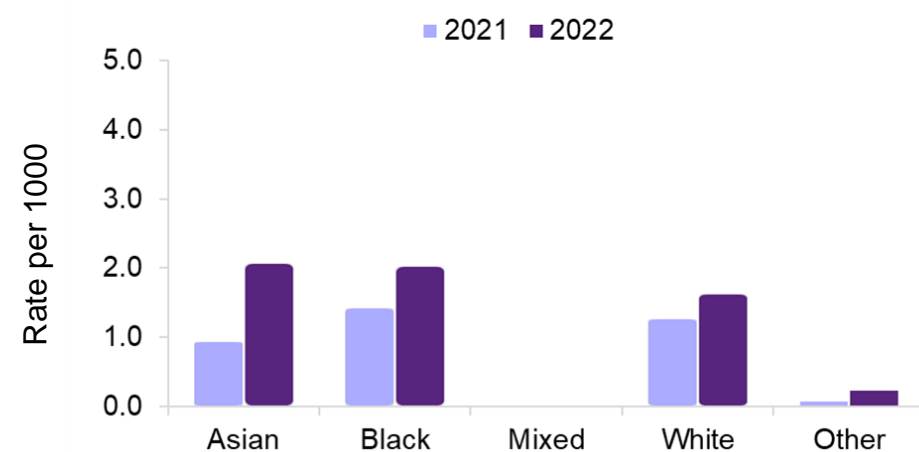
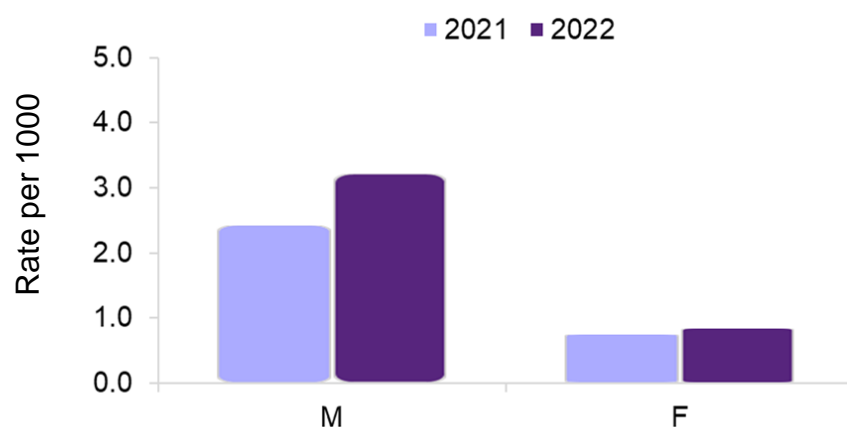
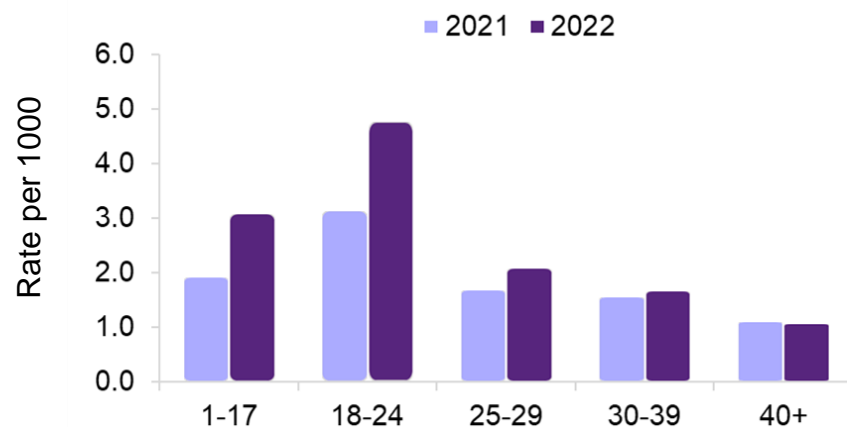
- <sup>1</sup>The following map shows Met Police recorded homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property, caused during the commission of one of these offences aggregated to neighbourhood level that happened in Royal Greenwich.
- The median number of incidents per neighbourhood in 2021 was 45, increasing slightly to 49 in 2022.
- Neighbourhoods across Abbey Wood, Thamesmead, Plumstead, and Woolwich (red and pink) are in the top 20% of all serious violence crimes. These areas are some of Royal Greenwich's most deprived neighbourhoods.
- Areas surrounding Town Centres, and areas of high footfall have a higher prevalence of serious violence. During these years, the Woolwich Elizabeth Line was built.
- In 2022, neighbourhoods in Greenwich Peninsula and Greenwich Creekside were in the top 20% of all neighbourhoods for serious violence.

## Offence locations: Personal Robbery by MSOA



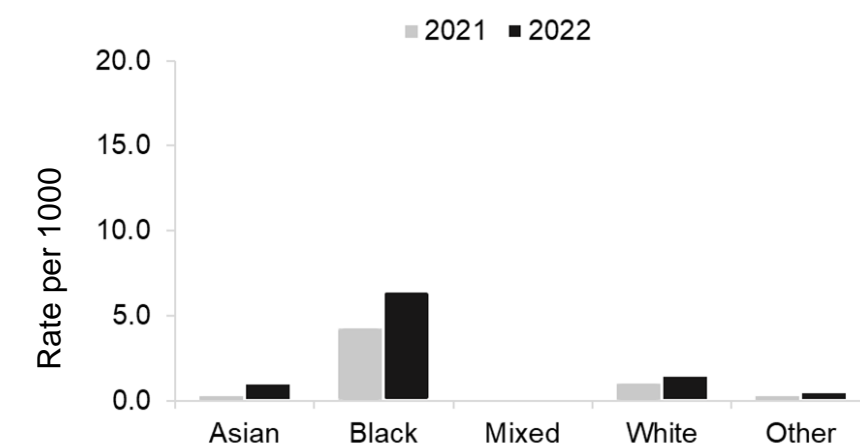
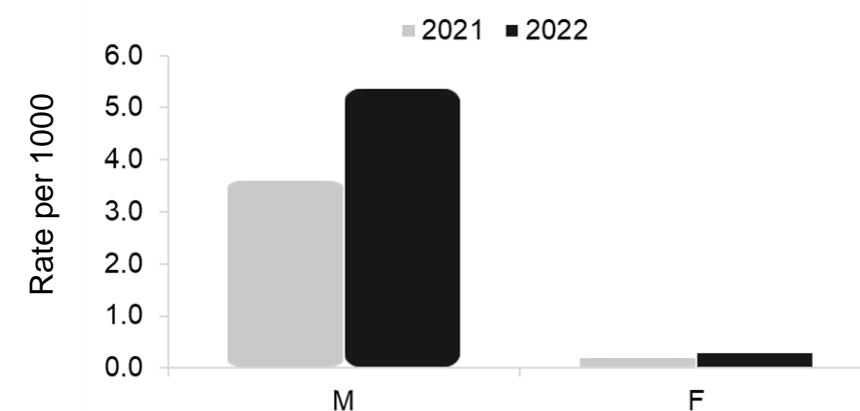
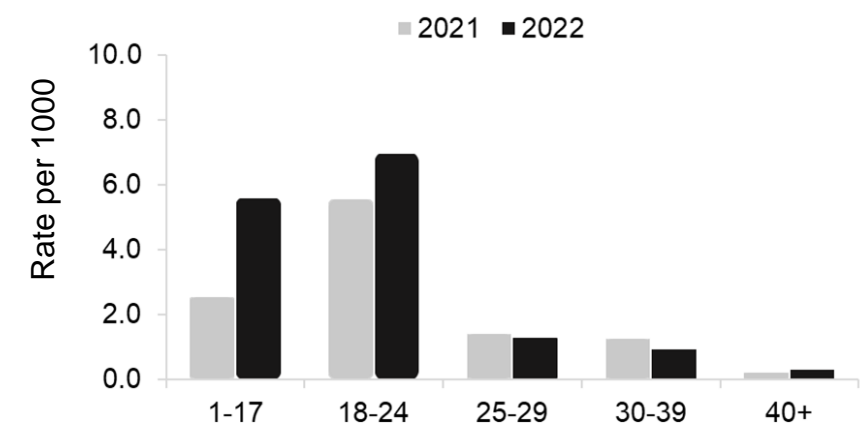
- The maps above show Met Police recorded crimes of personal robbery aggregated to neighbourhood level that happened in Royal Greenwich.
- The median number of incidents per neighbourhood (MSOA) in 2021 was 11, with a slight increase to 12 in 2022.
- A neighbourhood within the Peninsula remained in the top 10% of neighbourhoods in both 2021 and 2022. This area has a high footfall and is situated near the O2 Arena.
- Over the two years, areas surrounding major transport hubs have had the most offences. In 2022, neighbourhoods in Greenwich Peninsula and Greenwich Creekside were in the top 20% of all neighbourhoods for personal robbery.

## Victim Demography

Personal Robbery  
(Rates per 1000 population)

- Under 25s represented the greatest proportion of personal robbery victims
- Most notable increase per population were 18 to 24s. An increase from 3.2 per 1,000 to 4.8 per 1,000 between 2021 to 2022
- Between 2021 and 2022, males were 3.5 times more likely to be victims compared to females. This disparity increased in 2022
- In 2021, 26% of personal robbery victims were under 18 (N=120), with a seven-percentage point increase to 33% in 2022 (N=192)
- Between 2021 and 2022, of victims where ethnicity was recorded (excluding *Unknowns*), there was a slightly higher proportion of victims of White, and Black ethnicity compared to Royal Greenwich's population; White victims (59%), Black victims (26%)
- Despite representing 30% of Royal Greenwich's population, those aged under 25 accounted for 76% of personal robbery suspects in the two years combined
- Suspects were 18 times more likely to be male than female
- Suspects were 4 times more likely to be of Black ethnicity than White across both year periods, accounting for 42% of suspects in both years combined

## Suspect Demography



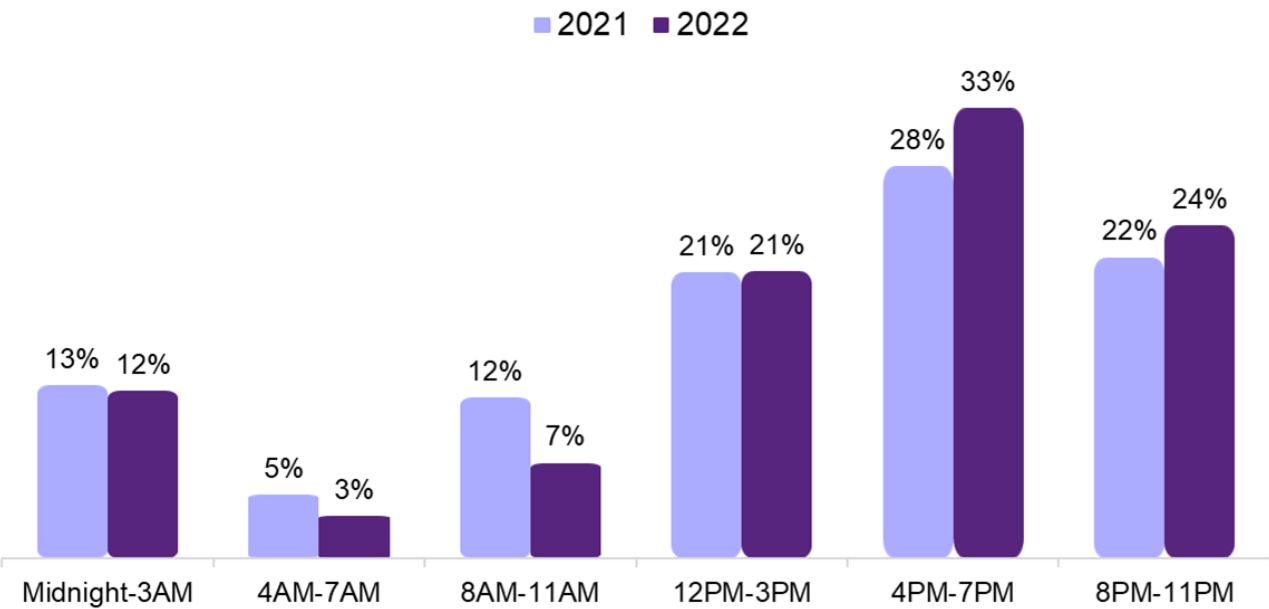


Personal Robbery offences by hour committed

Offence breakdown by hour per calendar year

Calendar Year Committed	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
2021	27	15	11	4	9	7	2	3	15	8	13	17	14	18	27	35	31	34	34	30	31	23	25	20
2022	24	20	16	10	4	3	3	8	7	10	11	12	21	18	38	43	62	47	38	41	52	29	33	25

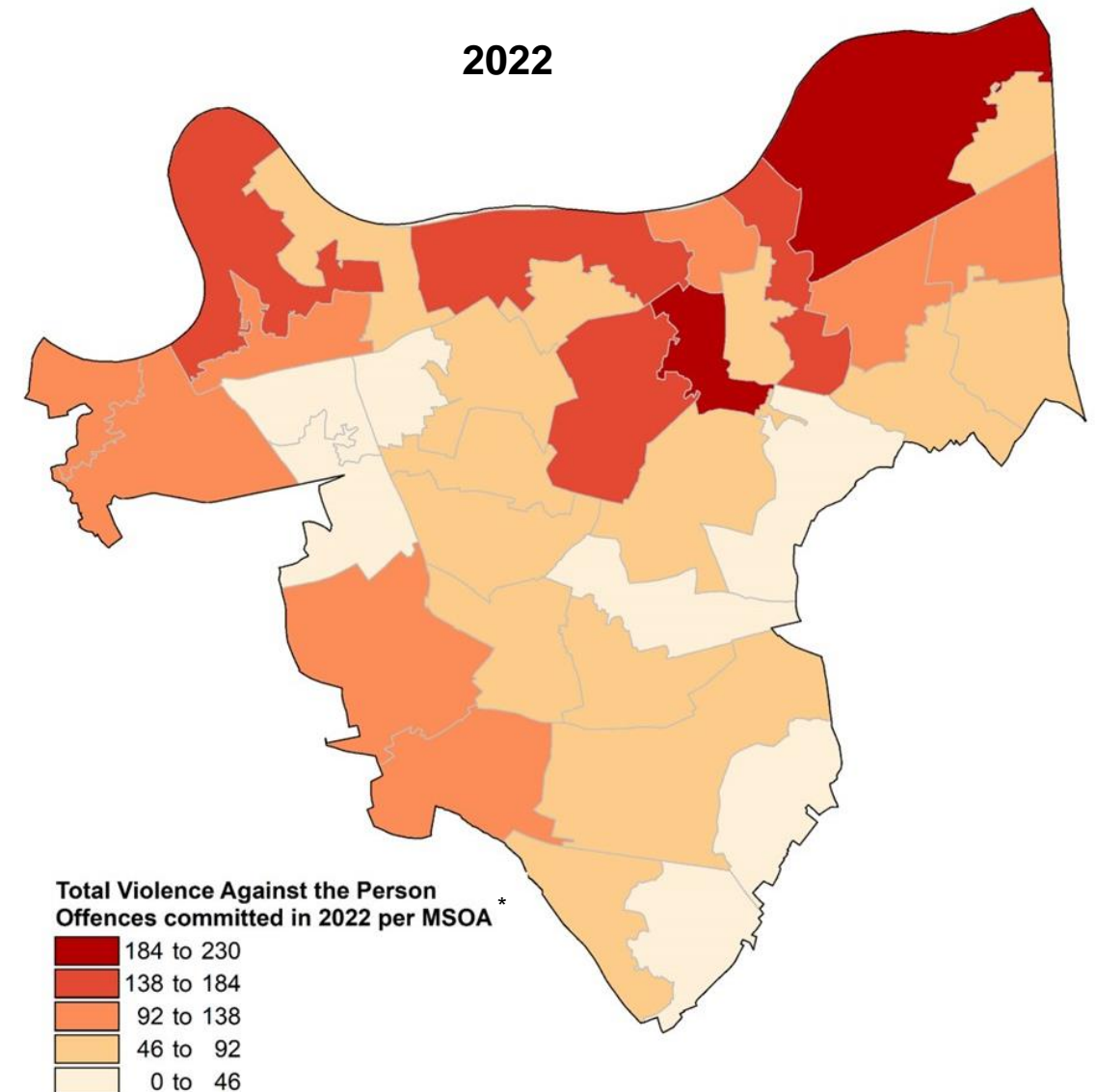
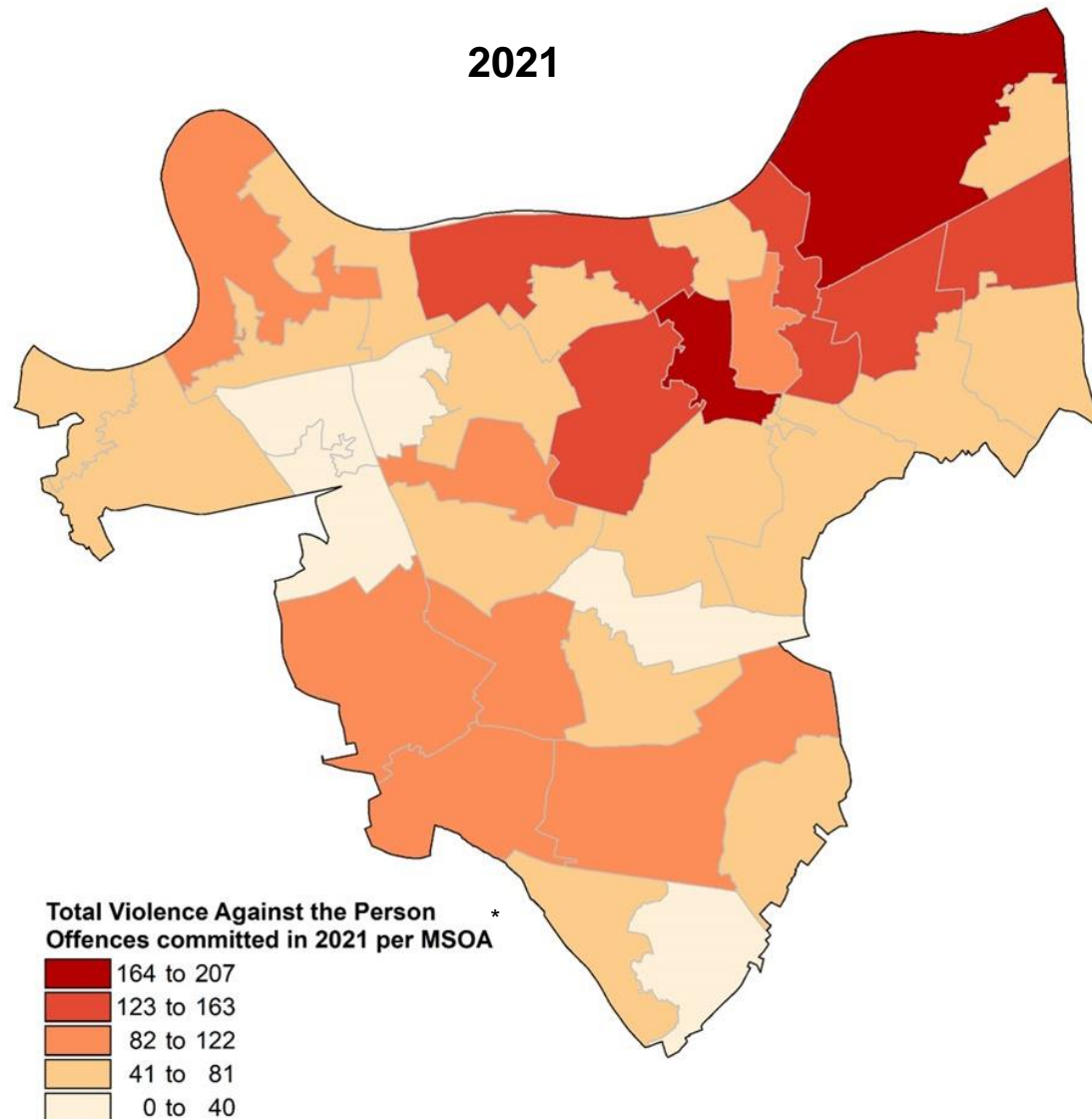
Offence breakdown by four-hour grouping per calendar year



- Higher proportion of offences committed between late afternoon and nighttime hours in both years
- Between 4 to 7pm had the highest proportion of offences in both years. A five-percentage point increase from 2021 to 2022
- In both years, over a third of personal robbery offences were committed between 8pm to 3am

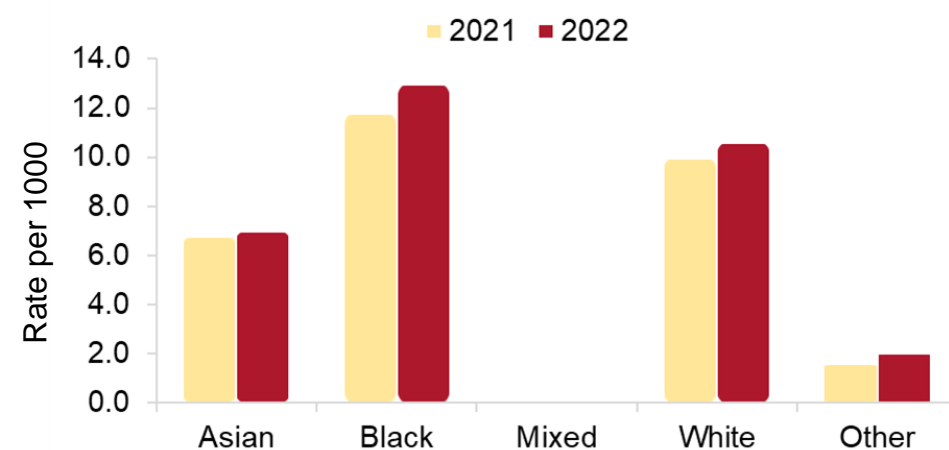
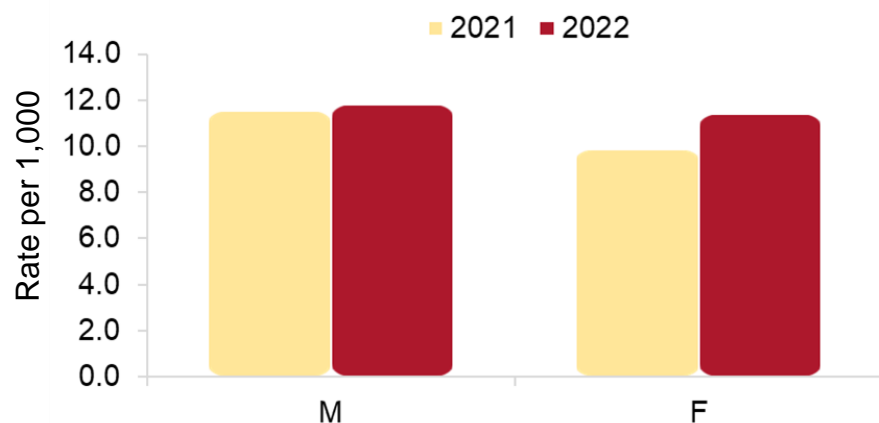
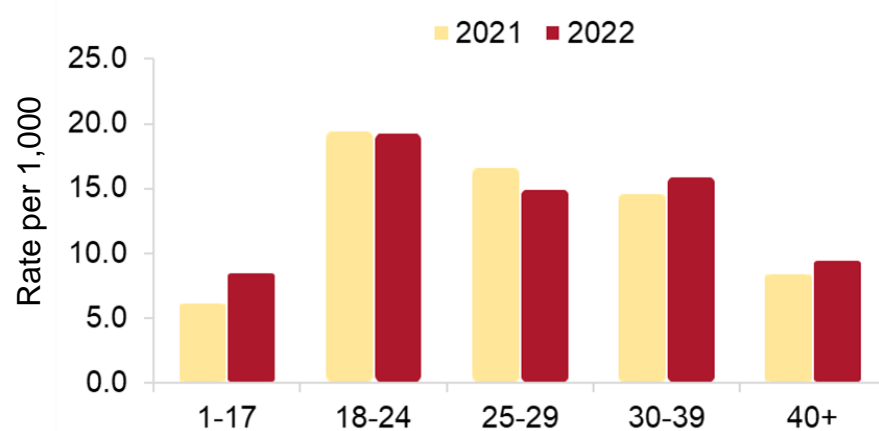
## Offence locations: Violence Against the Person offences

Note: Violence Against the Person offences within the definition of serious violence (see page 46)



- The maps above show Met Police recorded crimes of Violence Against the Person offences aggregated to neighbourhood level that happened in Royal Greenwich. The median number of incidents per neighbourhood in 2021 was 75, increasing slightly to 80 in 2022.
- Neighbourhoods across Abbey Wood, Thamesmead, and Woolwich (red) are in the top 10% of offences. These areas are some of Royal Greenwich's most deprived neighbourhoods.
- Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and Other Injury, Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) without Intent, and Threats to Kill were the most prevalence offences. GBH is an *indictable only* offence, which means that it can only be heard in the Crown Court. ABH is an *either way* offence, which means that the defendant can elect whether the case is heard in the Magistrates Court or the Crown Court.

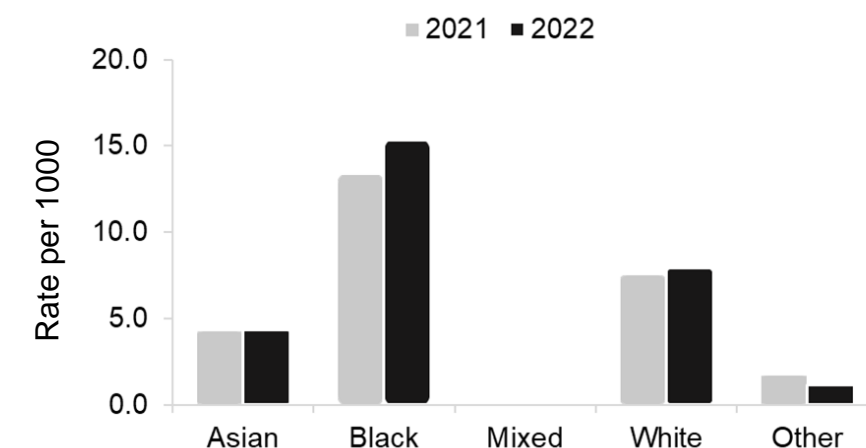
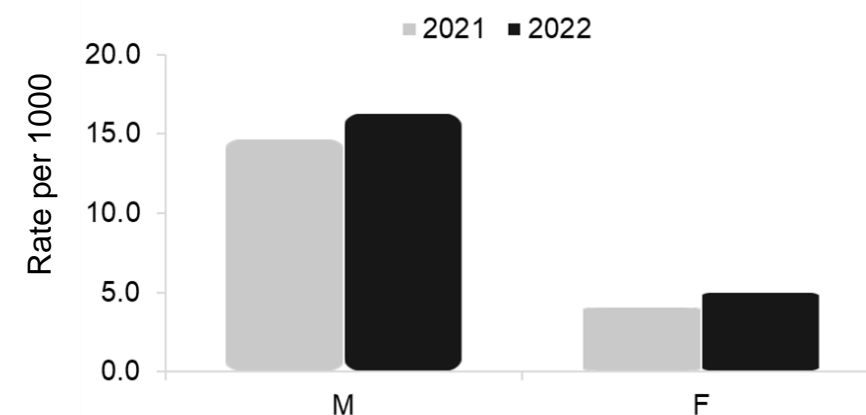
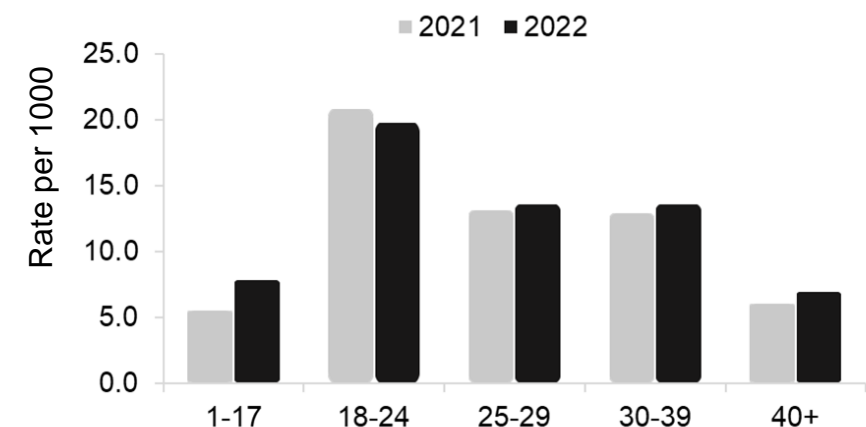
## Victim Demography

Violence Against the Person Offences\*  
(Rates per 1,000 population)

\*within the definition of serious violence

- The proportion of victims was similar to the distribution of residents per age group. This was for both 2021 and 2022.
- Six in ten victims were aged over 30.
- Very similar rates of victimisation by gender.
- Those of White and Black ethnic groups had the highest rates of victimisation from Violence against the Person serious violence offences.
- There was an over representation of both victims and suspects of Black ethnicity.
- It could be argued a lack of consistency between self-identified victim ethnicity and Police perception can present as a risk for skewing figures in reporting.
- Males were disproportionately more violent, over three times more likely to be the suspect in both 2021 and 2022 compared to females.
- The suspect in Threats to Kill offences was seven times more likely to be male than female.
- The distribution of suspect ages was similar to the overall victim profile. The profile of homicide victims and suspects was skewed to a younger cohort.

## Suspect Demography





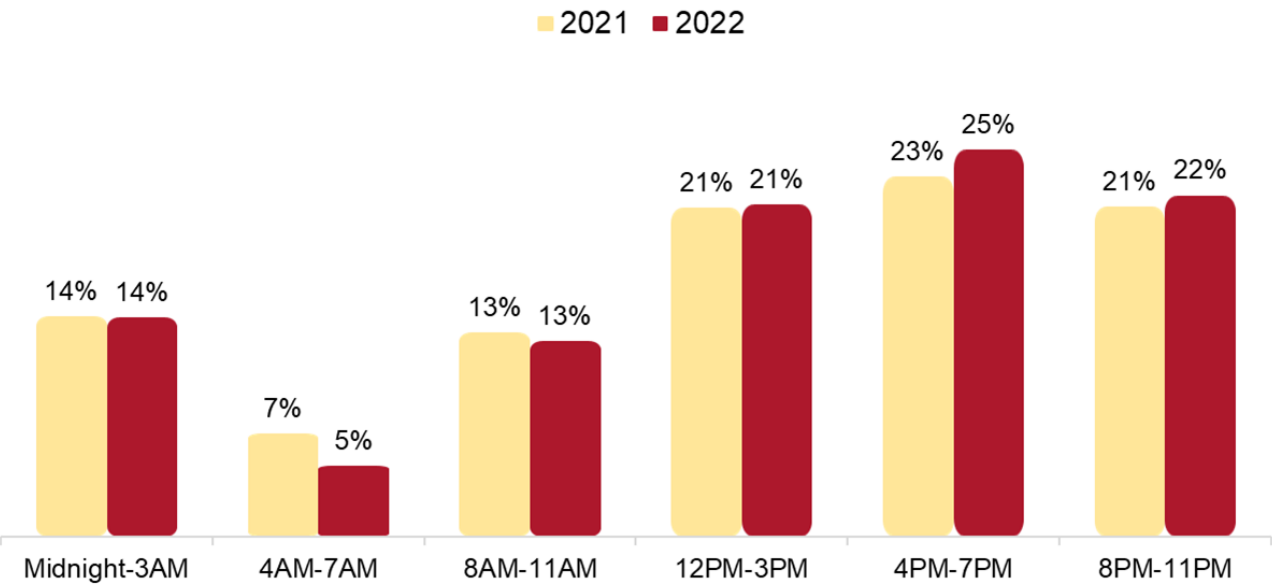
Violence Against the Person offences by hour committed

Note: Violence Against the Person offences within the definition of serious violence (see page 46)

Offence breakdown by hour per calendar year

Calendar Year Committed	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
2021	199	81	80	52	59	42	46	45	86	95	104	97	159	148	142	164	156	190	165	161	159	144	164	148
2022	220	106	74	52	31	25	39	51	76	105	98	125	169	136	166	213	202	226	221	149	191	166	191	155

Offence breakdown by four-hour grouping per calendar year

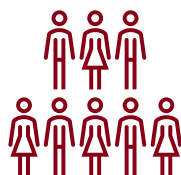


- Similar proportion of offences committed from midday to 11pm in both years
- Narrowly, between 4 to 7pm had the highest proportion of offences in both years.
- In both years, over a third of offences were committed between 8pm to 3am.

## Findings from Redthread's Youth Violence Intervention Programme

Redthread's Youth Violence Intervention Programme operates in hospital emergency departments. Its innovative service aims to reduce serious violence and exploitation affecting young people aged 10 to 25, transforming the support available to young victims of violence. Locally this service is delivered within Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), Woolwich but not all Royal Greenwich residents will present at QEH.

In 2022-23, of Royal Greenwich resident young people involved in Redthread:



**331** referrals of which **317** were eligible



**102** received some form of service



**42** engaged in longer-term work

Source: Redthread, 2023<sup>xxiii</sup>.



### Hospital-based safeguarding referrals

In terms of safeguarding, referrals are normally made through clinician via the Early Help System (e-CAF) and flagged with the hospital safeguarding team who follow up accordingly and link in closely with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team. Should a young person have a local connection outside of Royal Greenwich, then the referral will be made with the relevant local authority. The Redthread team also attends hospital safeguarding meetings. This also allows for space to share further information, e.g., if a young person is known to Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS).

### Redthread statutory network

The Redthread team operates in a wide network of statutory and non-statutory services and multi-agency meetings in Royal Greenwich. This includes CAMHS, housing options services, some schools, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) /Her Centre, Community Safety team, and Greenwich Risk Adolescent Safeguarding and Prevention (GRASP).

Operational networks with youth offending teams and probation are less developed and is currently strengthening the referral pathway and practices.

Findings from the Redthread Youth Violence Intervention Programme

Referral overview comparing Royal Greenwich residents and London-wide young people involved in Redthread (2022 to 2023):

Reasons for presentation	Reasons for referrals	Incident locations	Demography at arrival
Royal Greenwich N= 331 London N= 2,964	Royal Greenwich N= 331 London N= 2,964	Royal Greenwich N= 331 London N= 2,755	Royal Greenwich N= 329 London N= 2,207

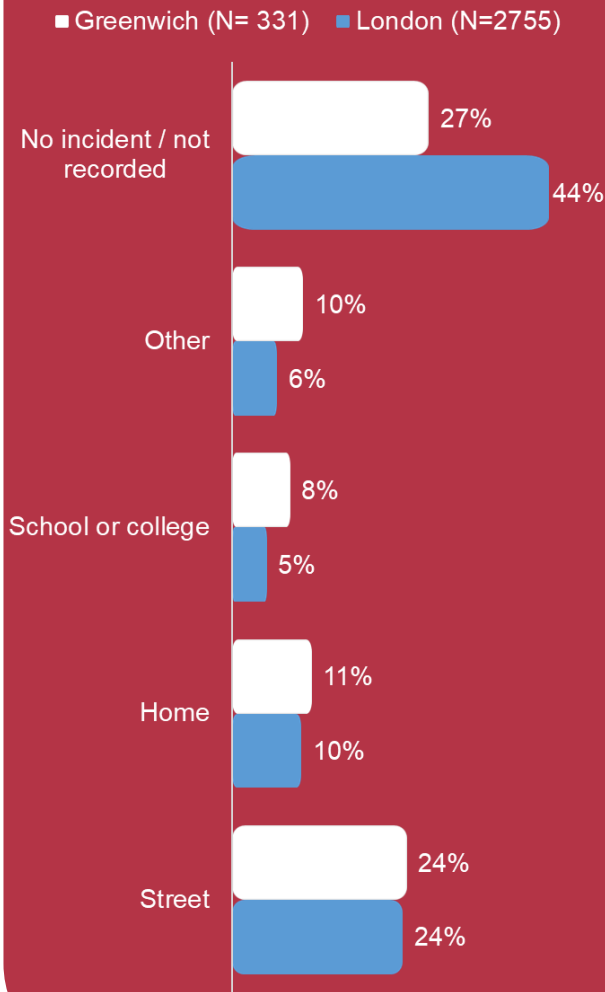
Hospital presentations

- Assault including sexual assault accounted for **73%** of presentations of Royal Greenwich residents, compared to **57%** London-wide
- 10%** of London referrals had no hospital presentation.
- Mental health and substance misuse represented **14%** of presentations in Royal Greenwich residents, and **13%** in the London-wide cohort
- Other presentations include Maternity Services, Sexual Health appointments, and Outpatients

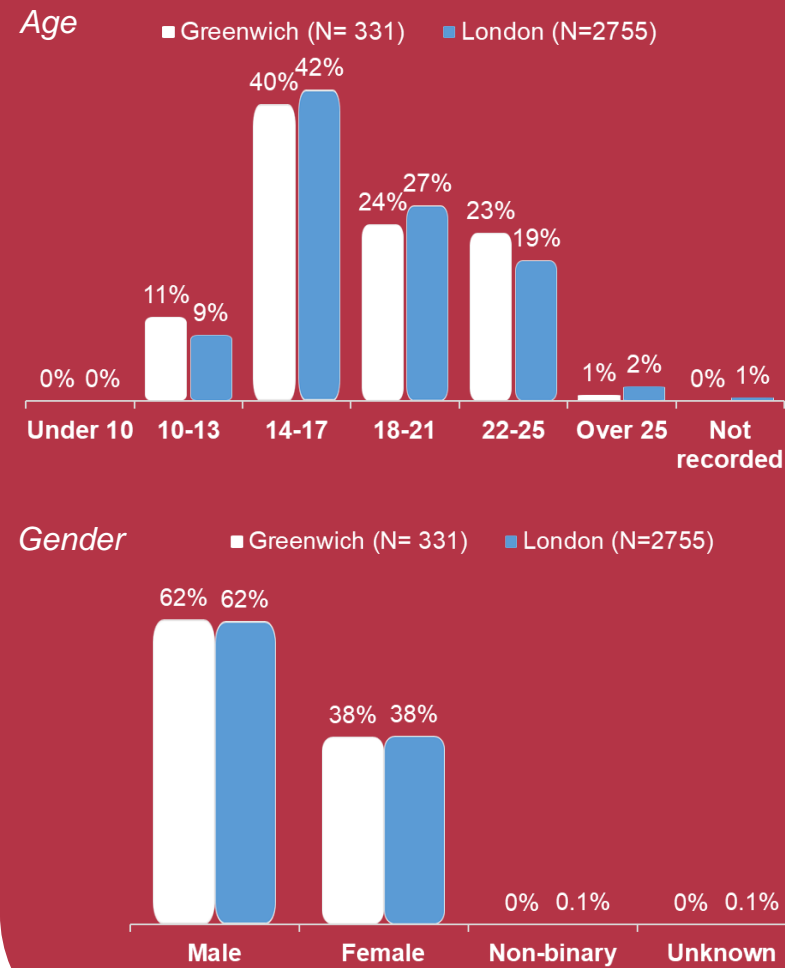
Referral reasons

- 67%** of Royal Greenwich referrals were referred due to an assault, mostly by bodily force or from a weapon, compared to **58%** across London
- 11%** of Royal Greenwich referrals were because of **domestic violence** related presentation, similar to London (**10%**)
- Child sexual exploitation, and child criminal exploitation** combined represented **6%** of reasons for referral in Royal Greenwich residents, and London overall

Top 5 Incident Locations



Demography of referrals at arrival

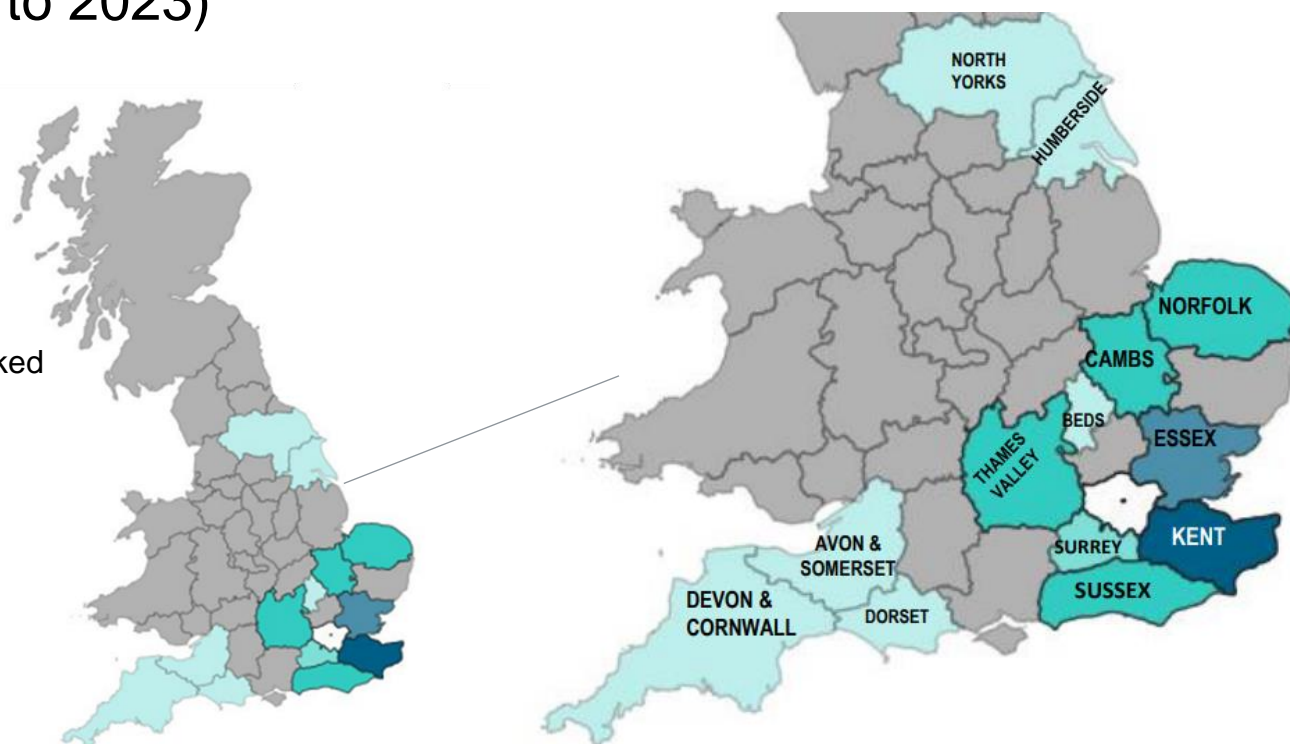




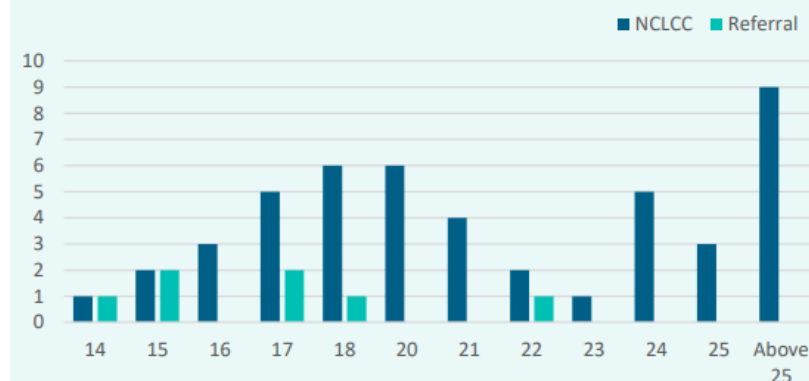
# Exploitation: Royal Greenwich County Lines Overview (2022 to 2023)

xxiv

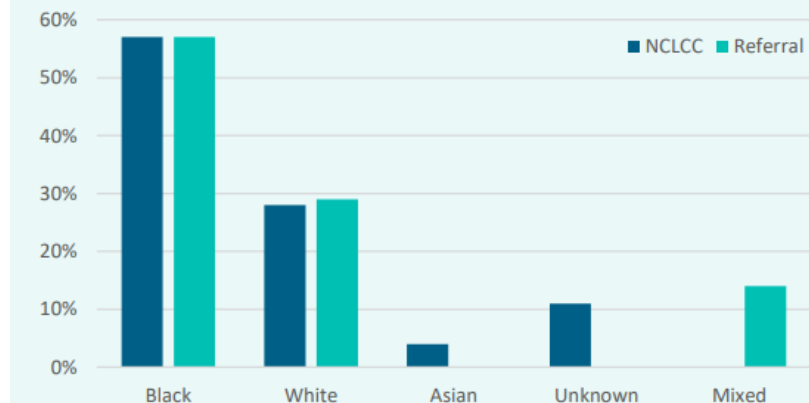
Number of  
individuals linked  
to counties



## AGE BREAKDOWN



## ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN



### ► PAN LONDON TRENDS

**Debt bondage:** Various forms of debt bondage; in a particular case a young person was asked to take a picture of two males, and when handing the phone back, the male dropped the phone. The young person then told the child that he owed him for breaking his phone. They then took the young person to Kent to a 'traphouse'.

**Grooming/ Network operations.** Air BnBs are being used rather than the 'usual' trap houses, and the use of Facebook marketplace and a Russian app called 'VK' in relation to grooming. Increase in blackmail being used linked to threats to share indecent images around schools. Increased cases where young people are ingesting drugs instead of plugging.

**Other cases of note:** Rescue and Response teams have observed that the age of children and young people rescue requests are getting slightly younger. Previously many of these requests were for 16 to 17-year-olds, but recently there have been requests for 14 to 15-year-olds. SE Basic Command Units have indicated an increasing frequency of young people (mainly under 18 years) who have been diagnosed with Mental Health conditions as part of their assessments.

► **ROYAL GREENWICH COUNTY LINES COHORT:** 47 individuals have been identified with links to county lines activity between April 2022 and March 2023; 16 less than the previous year.

► **REFERRALS:** Seven children and young people were referred to Rescue and Response. There was a 22% reduction of referrals received.

► **GENDER:** There was 86% (6) identified as males and 14% (1) as female; this was in line with the London Picture (NCLCC data) with 96% identified as males.

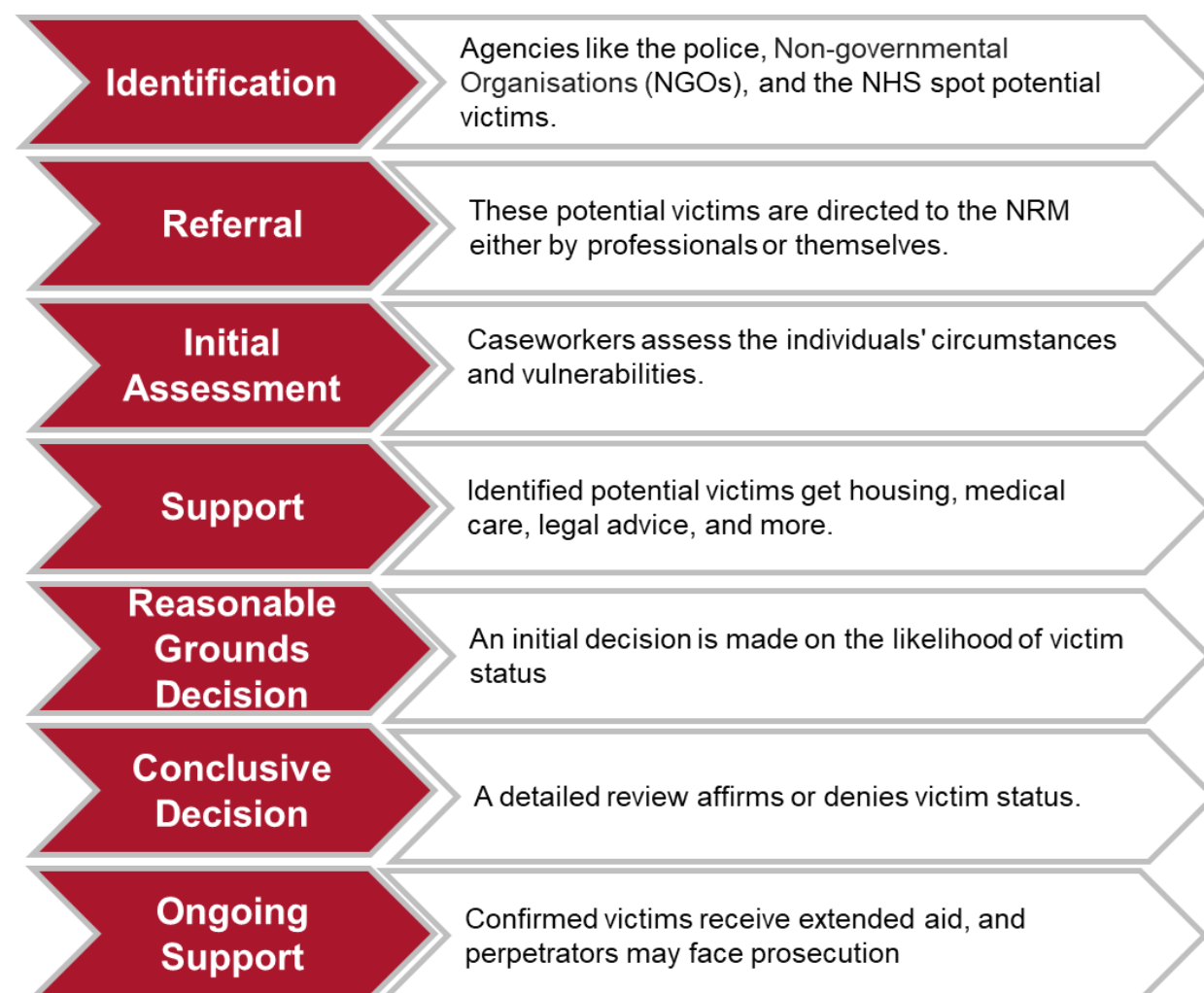
► **AGE:** The ages of all 47 individuals range from 14 to 53 years, with the mode age being 18 and 20 years. 23% were children.

► **ETHNICITY:** Unlike last year (2021/22) where there was a higher number of Asian individuals, there are no Asian individuals linked to county lines from Royal Greenwich in the referral cohort. Black individuals remain overrepresented in both data sets.

## Modern Slavery

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) identifies, refers, and supports potential victims of modern slavery, which encompasses human trafficking, domestic servitude, and forced labour. Victims might not recognise their predicament, even if they've given consent. Any suspicions should be directed to the NRM for assessment. If the individual is potentially under 18, a direct NRM referral is essential. Child victims don't require consent and must first be safeguarded, then referred to the NRM.

A summary of the NRM process below:



There can be a general misconception that the NRM is an additional safeguarding measure. The NRM is a framework to identify victims of modern slavery. Children will be referred into Barnardo's if they receive a positive conclusive grounds decision that they are a victim of modern slavery. Barnardo's may provide an International Child Trafficking Guardian (ICTG) to advocate for the child that has been referred. If the NRM is for an adult, then the adult gains access to support from the Salvation Army.

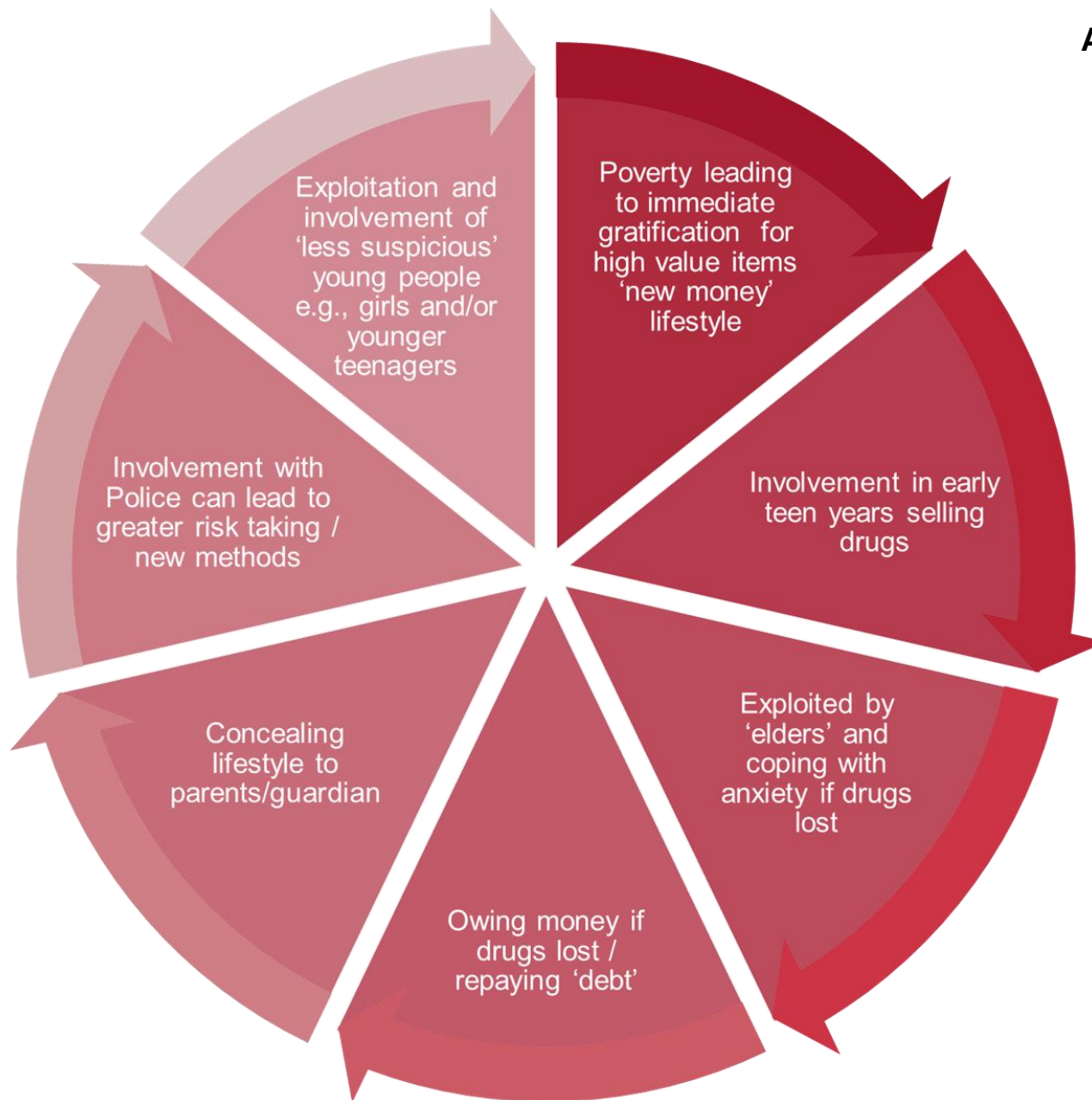
For a child, the support package is provided by the local authority. The child gains no more than the status of being a victim of modern slavery. However, this may assist them if they are going through judicial proceedings.

Currently, Royal Greenwich are not currently part of the NRM devolved decision making panel which means that children with an NRM referral have their decision made by the Single Competent Authority (SCA), which can take up to 500 days. The pilot sites are delivering decisions within 90 days.<sup>xxv</sup>

The threshold for a positive conclusive grounds decision to be made, is so low but it has the power to be pursued by the Crown Prosecution Service not to continue proceeding against an individual. This is having a huge impact on court cases where due to this referral a section 35 defence is being brought up which can be at any point and with no detailed information that the police can progress, and this is causing the case to be thrown out. This has happened on several cases. This is being looked at centrally and in government as commented on by the crime commissioner.

## What is driving violence on our estates?

*A cycle of behaviour affecting violence across Royal Greenwich estates*



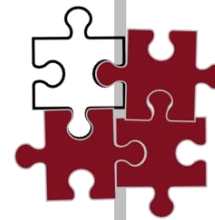
### ADDITIONAL FACTORS



Social Media



Inter-school tensions  
between pupils



Gaps in partnership  
working

*"Parents are working long hours and leaving children to look after themselves."*

Police Officer, South East BCU

*"A lot of young people are growing up in deprived areas where they frequently hear news of stabbings or other violent activity near to where they live. To them it seems impossible to escape this way of life so instead they feel they have no choice but to become a part of it."*

*"They believe that the only way to stay safe from the constant violence is to become part of a gang which appears to offer some kind of protection."*

Police Officer, South East BCU



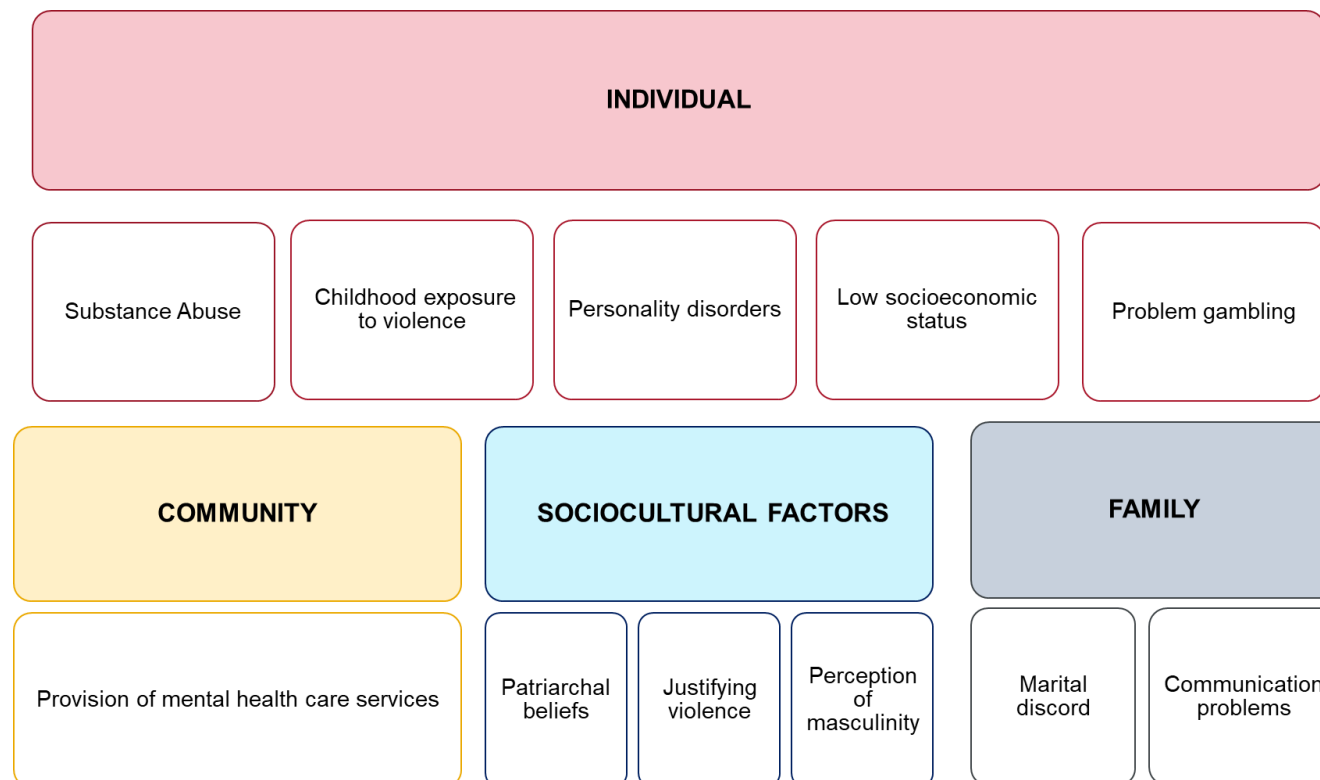
# CHAPTER 5: DOMESTIC ABUSE





## 5. DOMESTIC ABUSE

### Risk factors for domestic abuse perpetration



Individual characteristics like substance abuse, witnessing family abuse in childhood, and developing certain personality disorders from trauma can heighten the likelihood of domestic abuse. When combined with familial and community influences, they can create a cycle of violence. Nevertheless, tackling mental health issues, past traumas, and addictions, while promoting conflict resolution and effective communication, can help reduce potential problems in relationships that lead to abuse. Furthermore, recognising cultural backgrounds can aid in identifying and challenging detrimental beliefs and attitudes, with the goal of preventing abuse within families.

Between April and July 2021, a research consultancy report prepared by the University of Greenwich for the Royal Borough of Greenwich, carried out interviews with seven stakeholders to obtain their views on domestic abuse (DA) in Royal Greenwich, and to explore perceived risk factors for perpetrators to become perpetrators and to carry out DA<sup>xxvi</sup>:

*“Stalking, harassment and unwanted contact were on the rise, and this included contact through social media such as Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. At the same time, it was difficult for victims to stop using their social media, in additions to moving away to a refuge as this meant cutting out their current support networks, in a time of need to remain in contact with friends to digest experiences.”*  
(Cited in Monks et al, 2021, p. 31)

*“Being exposed to DA in childhood can mean that by the time the person is an adult they have minimised the experience to cope with the trauma or, along the lines of social learning theory, they have learnt that these are ‘normal’ ways of interacting. Either way, these childhood experiences are likely to lay the foundations for the behaviours of a future victim or perpetrator.”* (Cited in Monks et al, 2021, p. 34)

*“All stakeholders expressed that mental health issues such as anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, personality disorders and psychotic illnesses were risk factors to being a perpetrator, especially in combination with substance misuse. Interviewees considered that substance misuse would decrease impulse control and therefore it was more likely that a person presented abusive behaviours (e.g., physical, sexual and verbal).”* (Cited in Monks et al, 2021, p. 34)

## Domestic abuse as a housing issue: Survivors in temporary accommodation

The connection between temporary accommodation and domestic abuse in the UK underscores the dire necessity for safe havens for survivors. Domestic abuse compels many individuals to seek refuge in temporary accommodations, such as shelters and refuges.

Domestic abuse is intrinsically linked to housing issues. It causes a climate of fear and restricted freedom, predominantly in settings where women and their children ought to feel most protected: their homes. Although every survivor's experience is unique, housing often proves crucial in enabling them to break away from their abusers<sup>xxvii</sup>.

Survivors often experience domestic abuse within the context of what is often named England's "housing crisis". Referring to various widespread housing issues including:

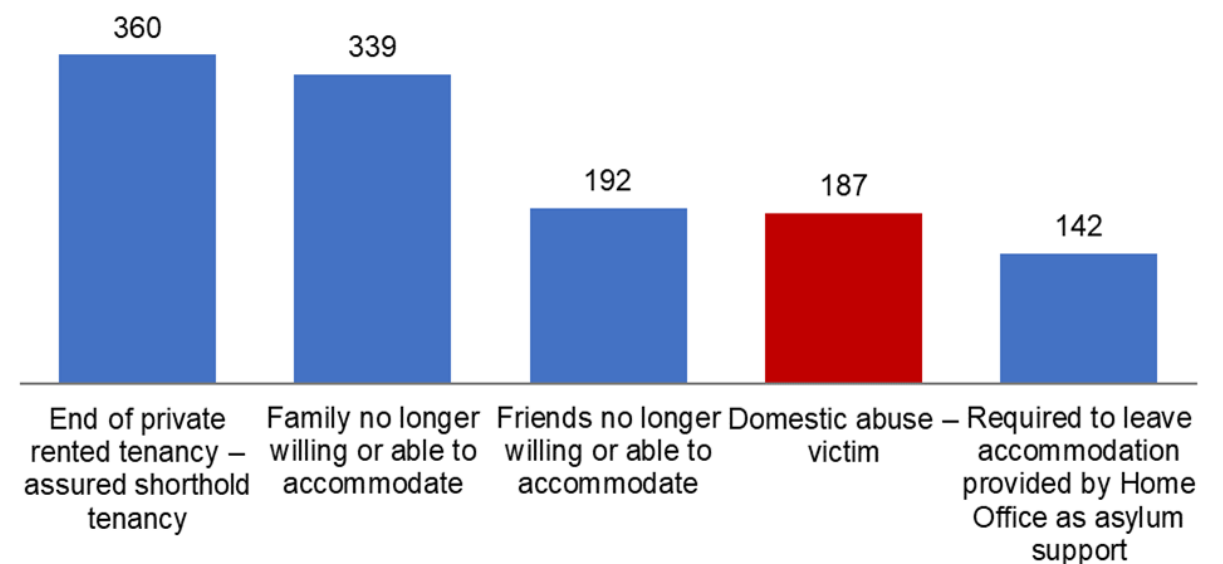
- ▶ a shortage of affordable and social housing
- ▶ a high cost of private renting
- ▶ long waiting lists for social homes
- ▶ people who are homeless
- ▶ people sleeping rough.

*“Our challenge in terms of housing for people who are victims of domestic abuse or who are homeless for any reason is that of supply. There is a national chronic shortage of affordable accommodation across all tenures.”*

Greenwich Housing Inclusion Worker (2023)

Cumulative total of the top five reasons for moving into temporary accommodation with a start date between 2018-19 to 2022-23 by number of applicants

Data extracted on 29 August 2023; figures may vary after this date.



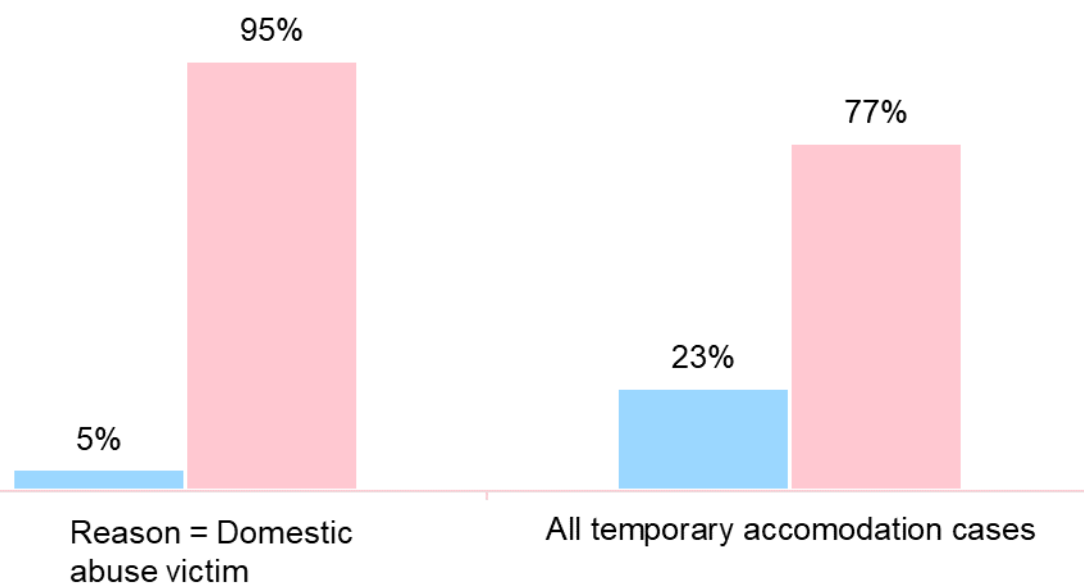
Note: Date range was based on the 'temp start date'. The age groups at the point of temp start date.



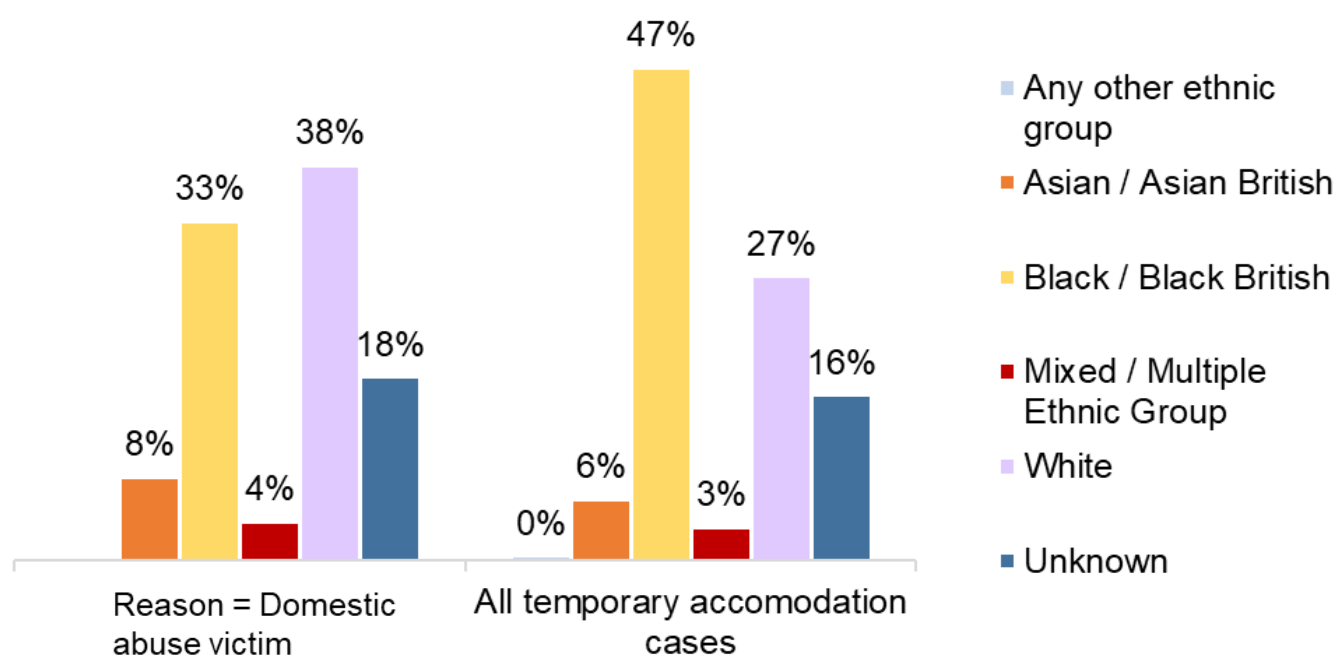
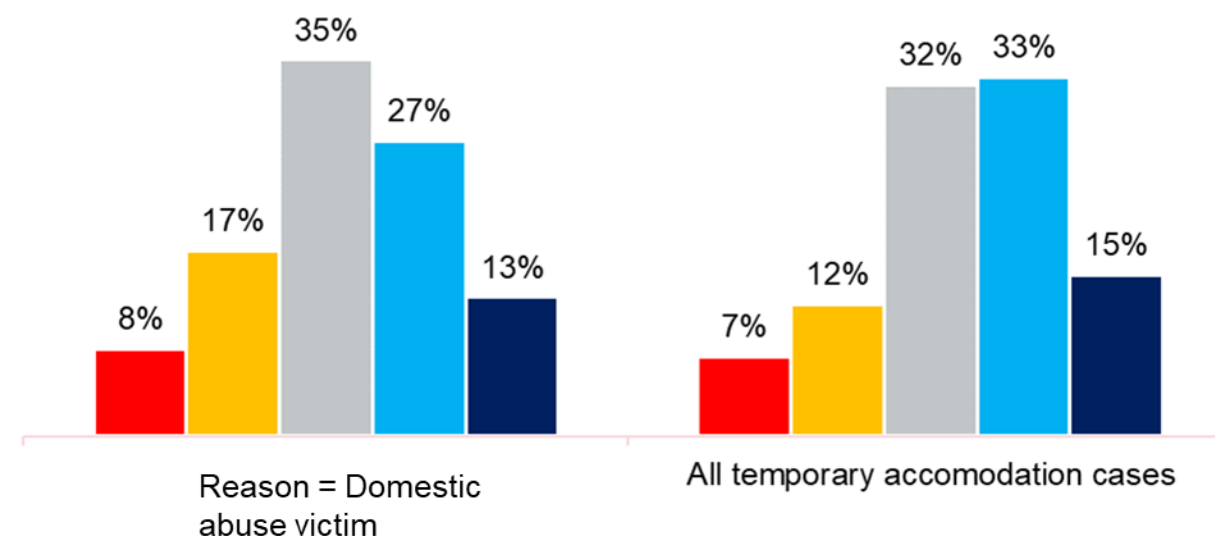
Temporary accommodation reason (domestic abuse versus all reasons) demography comparisons, cumulative total of temporary accommodation cohort with a start date between 2018-19 to 2022-23 by number of applicants. Data extracted on 29 August 2023; figures may vary after this date.

Domestic abuse victims, N=187 All temp accommodation case, N=1,575

Male Female



18-24 25-29 30-39 40-49 50+



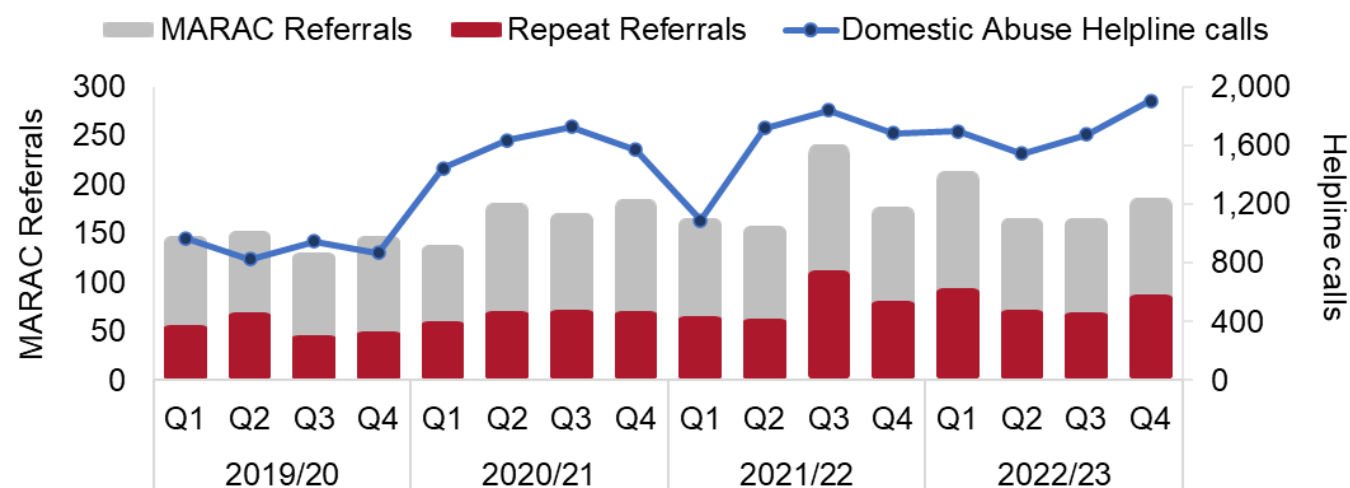
- In line with MARAC referrals and domestic abuse offences, there is a **disproportionately higher** number of female survivors compared to all temporary accommodation cases
- Domestic abuse survivors in temporary accommodation are **younger than** all temporary accommodation cases
- Higher proportions of survivors of **Black/Black British, and White ethnicity**
- **Almost 1 in 5 cases** in both groups has an unknown ethnicity record

Note: Date range was based on the 'temp start date'. The age groups at the point of temp start date.

## Domestic abuse referrals: Sustained rise in referrals and calls since the COVID-19 pandemic

A MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is a meeting where information is shared on domestic abuse victims at risk of serious harm and injury, and/or murder. Attended by representatives of local stakeholders, including police, health services, and local authority.

Breakdown of Royal Greenwich MARACs and number of calls to the Greenwich Domestic Abuse helpline (last four years)



- ▶ **Referrals:** The number of referrals increased steadily from 577 in 2019/20 to 729 in 2022/23, with a slight dip in 2020/21.
- ▶ **Repeats:** The percentage of repeat cases remained relatively stable over the years, fluctuating between 38.5% in 2019/20 and 44.3% in 2022/23. This suggests that a significant portion of individuals required ongoing support or multiple interventions.
- ▶ **Calls:** The number of calls received showed a significant jump from 3,607 in 2019/20 to 6,818 in 2022/23, with a minor decline in 2021/22. While the number of referrals increased, the percentage of repeat cases remained relatively consistent. This suggests that the service may be successfully addressing the needs of new individuals while also maintaining support for those who require ongoing assistance.
- ▶ Despite the varying trends in referrals and repeat cases, the number of calls received continued to rise steadily throughout the years. This implies that the service's overall reach and engagement with the community expanded over time, leading to an increased number of individuals seeking assistance or information.

### KEY LEGISLATION IN THE LAST DECADE

2014 – (THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DISCLOSURE SCHEME) KNOWN AS CLARE’S LAW

2015 – THE OFFENCE OF CONTROLLING OR COERCIVE BEHAVIOUR (CCB) CAME INTO FORCE THROUGH SECTION 76 OF THE SERIOUS CRIME ACT 2015.

2015 - SECTION 37 OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COURTS ACT 2015 AMENDS THE OFFENCE OF POSSESSION OF EXTREME PORNOGRAPHIC IMAGES

2017 – CHANGES TO LEGAL AID RULES

2017 – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE BILL

2018 - THE UP-SKIRTING BILL (VOYEURISM OFFENCES ACT) IS INTRODUCED

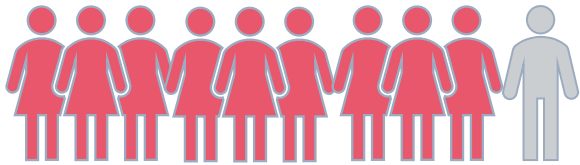
2019 - PUBLIC CALL FOR EVIDENCE FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVORS TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF FAMILY LAW

2020- FEMICIDE CENSUS REPORT OF UK FEMICIDES FROM 2009-2018 IS RELEASED

2021 – DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT

2021 - CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS OF WOMEN EXPLOITED IN PROSTITUTION WILL REMAIN ON THE POLICE NATIONAL COMPUTER (PNC) UNTIL THEY REACH 100 YEARS OF AGE

2021 - NON-FATAL STRANGULATION OR SUFFOCATION ANNOUNCED TO BECOME A STAND-ALONE OFFENCE WITHIN THE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT



9 in 10 referrals were female, half of these were aged 26-40.



Of male victims, 36% were aged 41-60, and 29% aged 26-40



47% of female victims were White British. 17% were Black women (of which most were of West African backgrounds), 8% were Asian women (mostly of South Asian backgrounds)

AT A GLANCE: ROYAL GREENWICH MARAC IN NUMBERS (2019-20 to 2022-23)



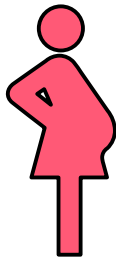
Referrals in four years, almost two referrals per day



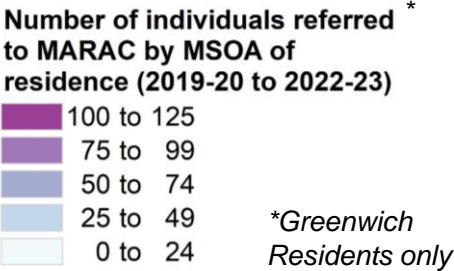
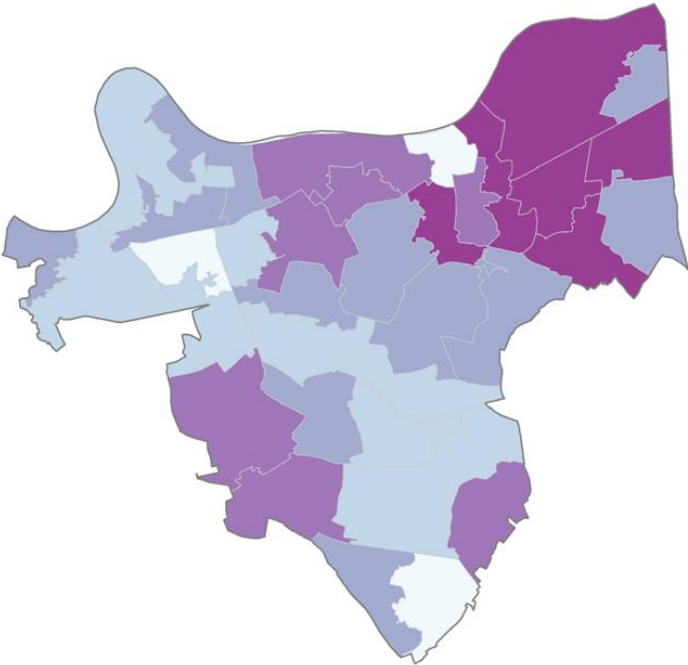
Cases where children were involved = 1,511



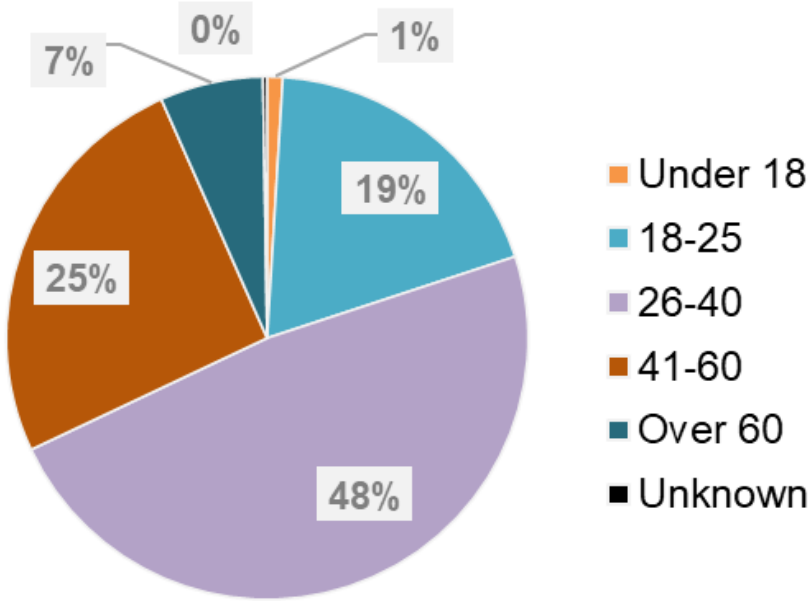
Number of children involved = 3,046



152 Pregnant women



MARAC referrals by age band



Greenwich Domestic Violence & Abuse Services

5% via GDVA



5% via Victim Support



50% by Police

TOP 5 REFERRAL AGENCIES



12% by Children's Services

7% Transferred from another MARAC

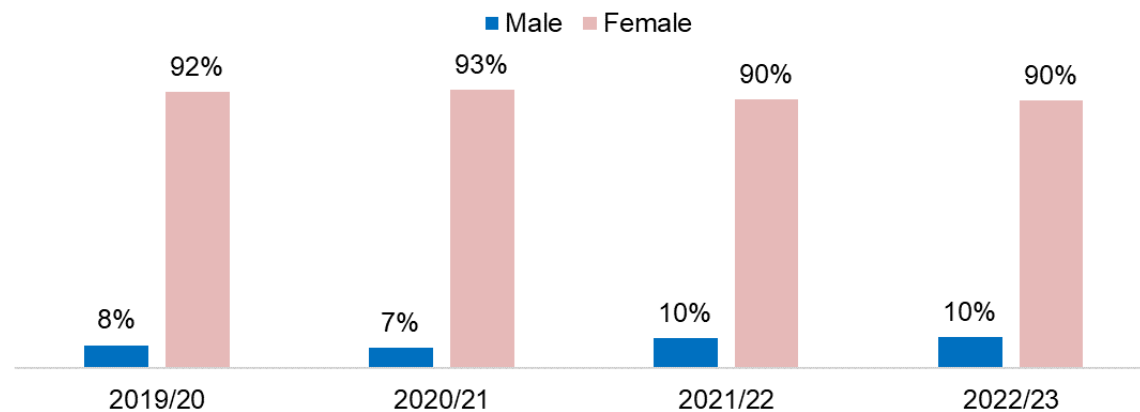


## Greenwich MARAC victim profile since the pandemic: Proportionate trends

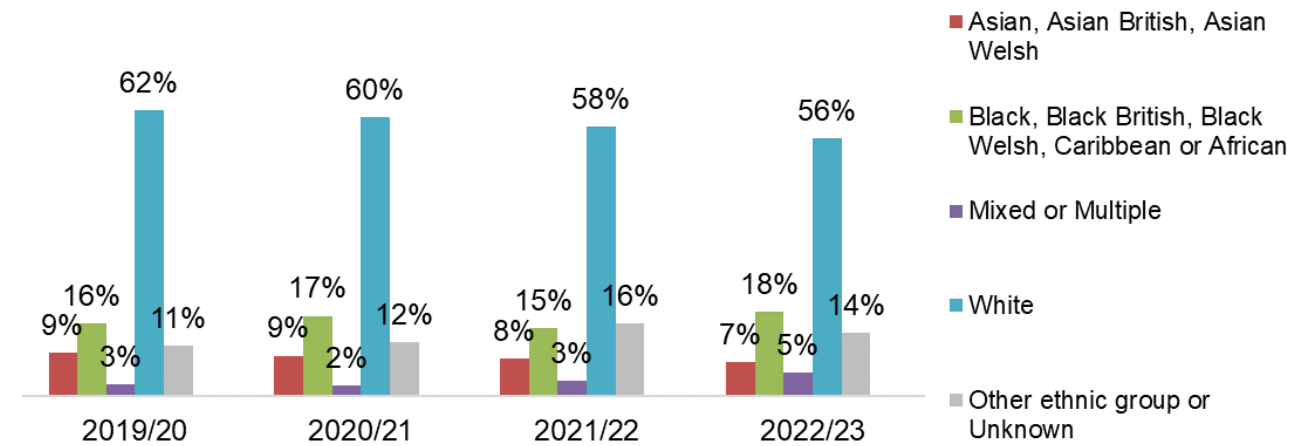
Number of referrals per year

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
577	675	741	729

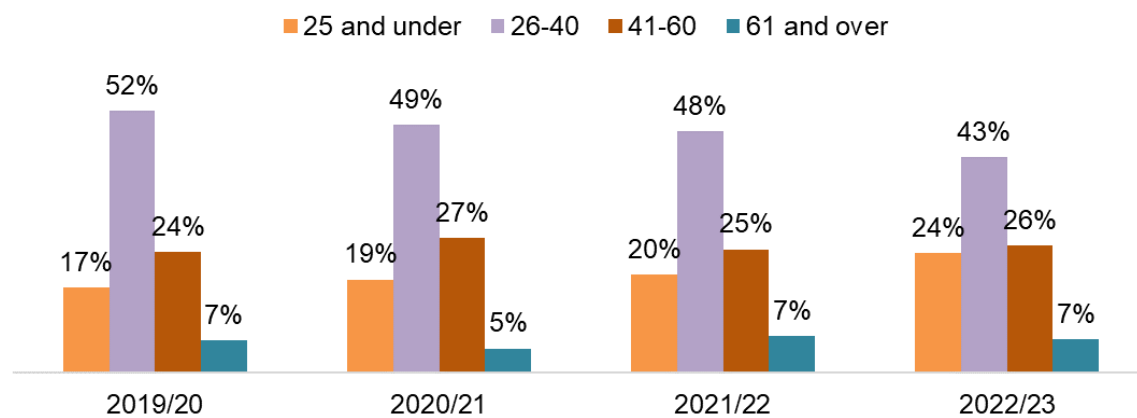
% of victims by *gender* at time of referral



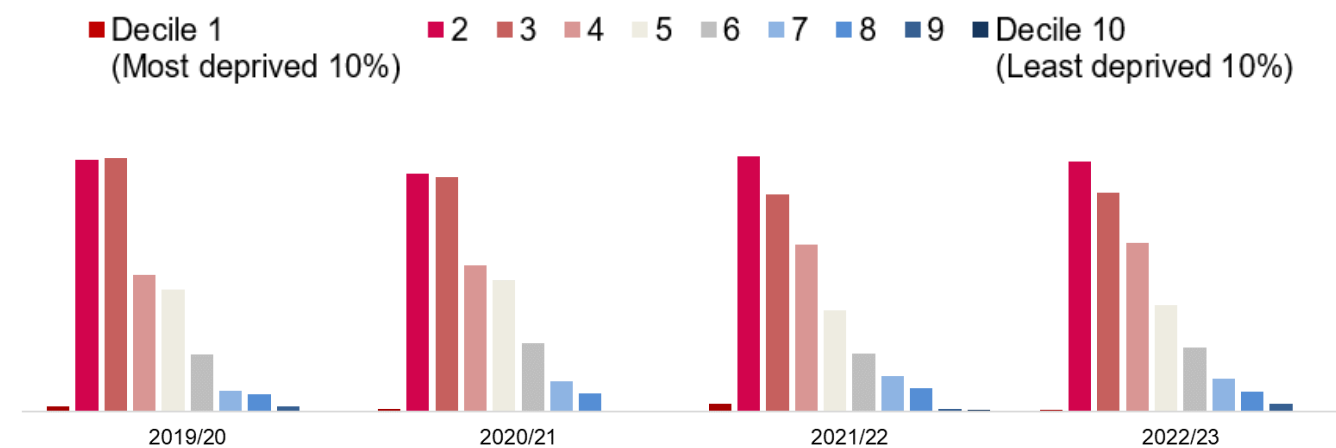
% of victims by *ethnicity* at time of referral



% of victims by *age band* at time of referral



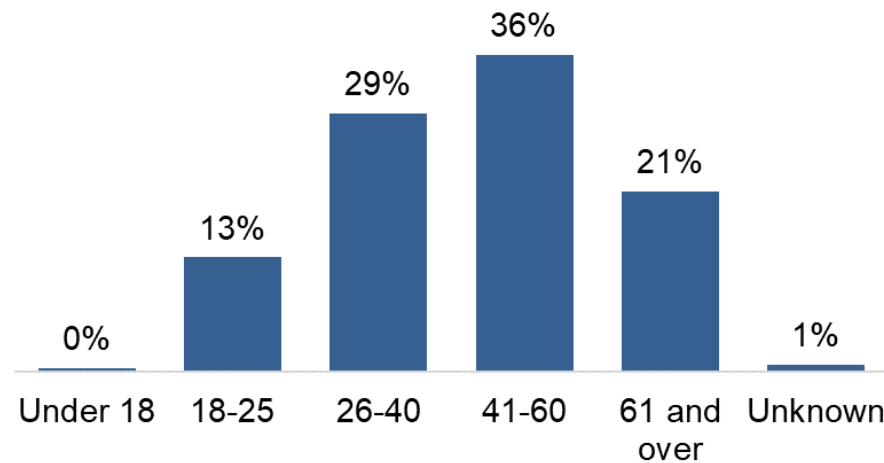
% of victims by *deprivation decile* at time of referral (IMD 2019)\*



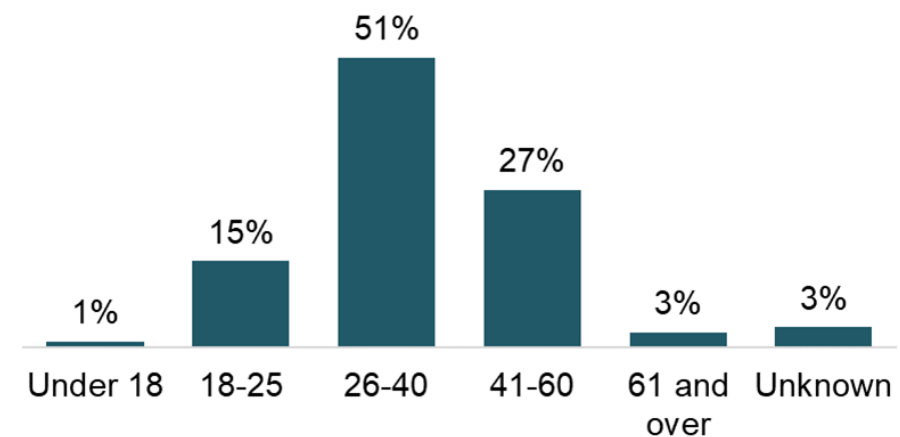
\*Based on referrals with a valid full postcode (2,369 total = 4 years combined, unknowns excluded)

## Royal Greenwich MARAC victim-perpetrator profile: Intra-demography comparisons (4 years combined, 2019-20 to 2022-23)

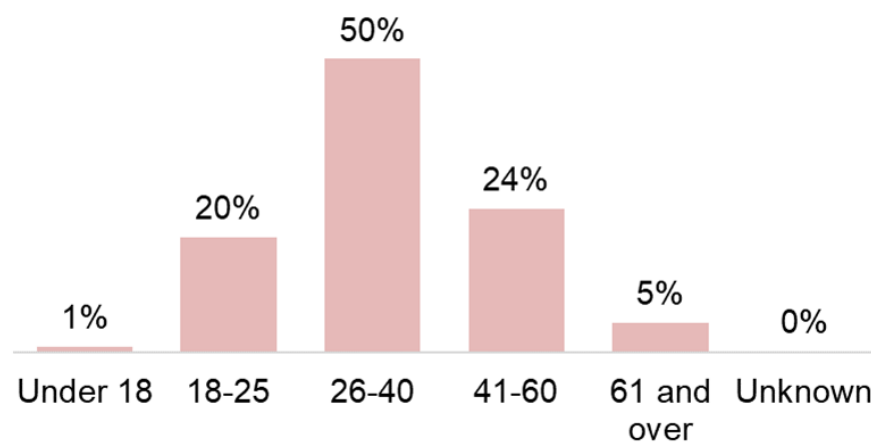
Age bands of **male victims (N=239)** at time of referral



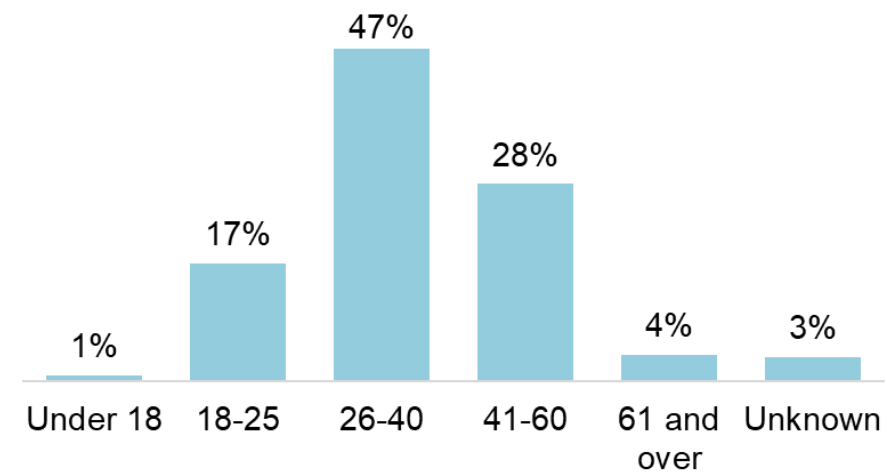
Age bands of **male perpetrators (N=2,474)** at time of referral



Age bands of **female victims (N=2,481)** at time of referral

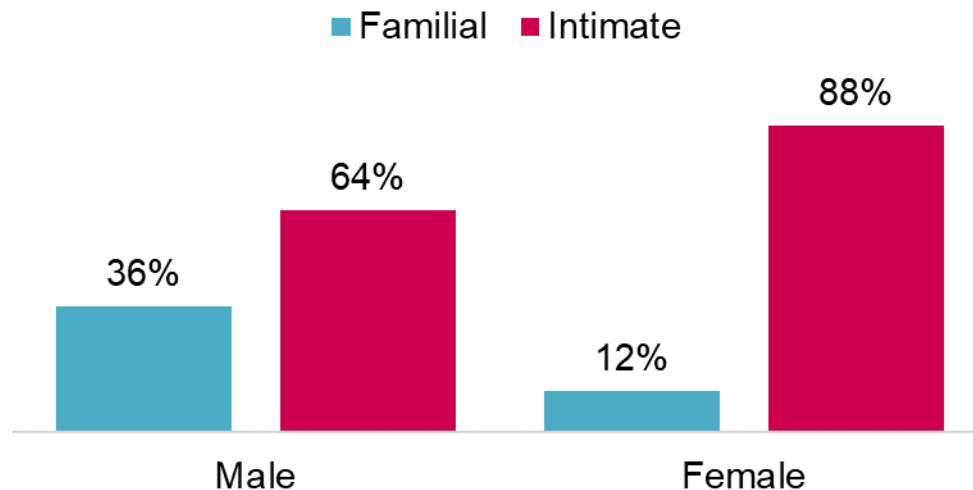


Age bands of **female perpetrators (N=239)** at time of referral



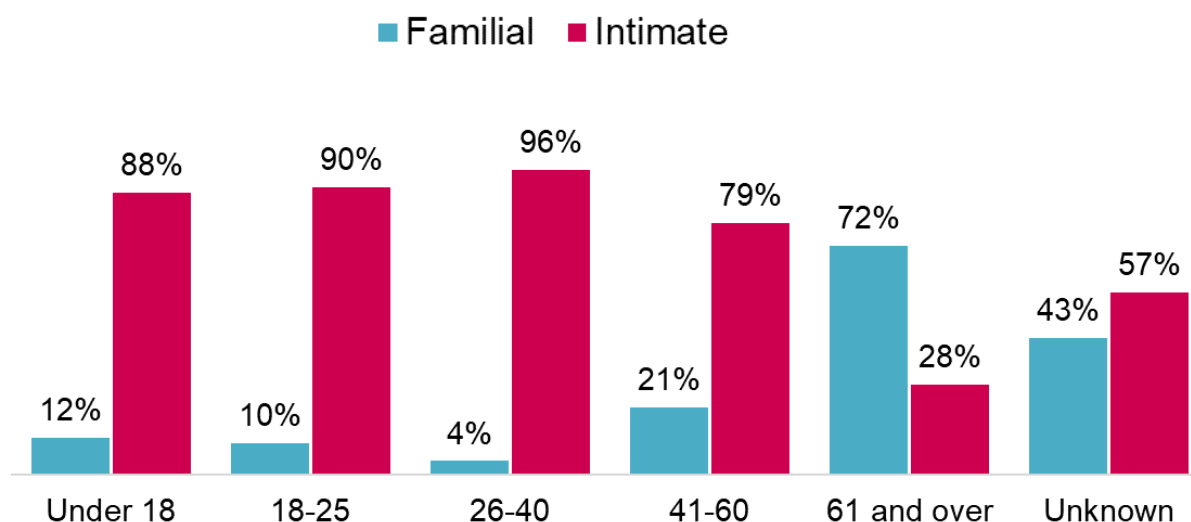
## Royal Greenwich MARAC victim-perpetrator profile: Intra-demography comparisons (4 years combined, 2019-20 to 2022-23)

Victim-perpetrator relationship type by *victim gender* at time of referral (N= 238 males, 2,479 females)



Victim-perpetrator relationship type by *victim age* at time of referral

Under 18	18-25	26-40	41-60	61 and over	Unknown
26	517	1306	688	174	7

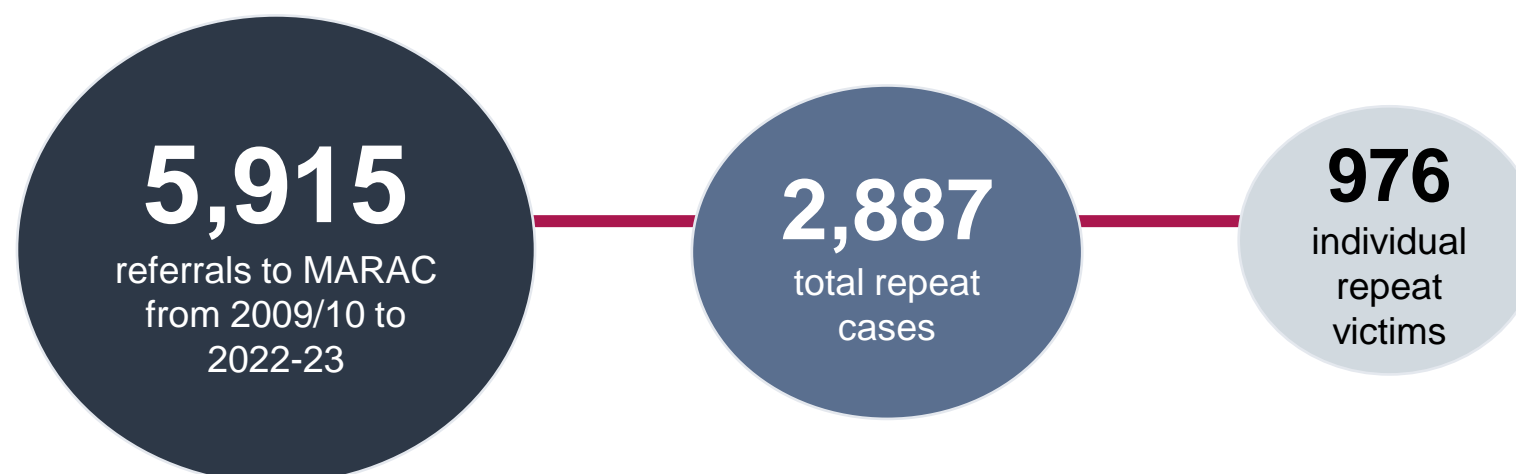


- Although numbers of victims by gender are disproportionately higher in females, there are notable differences in the age profile of male and female victims.
- Half of female victims were aged 26 to 40 at the time of referral, compared to 29% of males. Male age distribution was older, with 36% of victims aged 41 to 60, compared to 24% of female victims.
- Male and female perpetrators were similar in age, mostly of working age groups. 51% of male perpetrators were aged between 26 to 40, 47% in females.
- Proportionally, more female MARAC cases were in an intimate relationship with the perpetrator (88%), compared to 64% of male victims.
- Within all victims aged 60 or under, a greater majority were victims within an intimate partner relationship.
- However, within the 61 and over cohort, 72% of victims are familial.

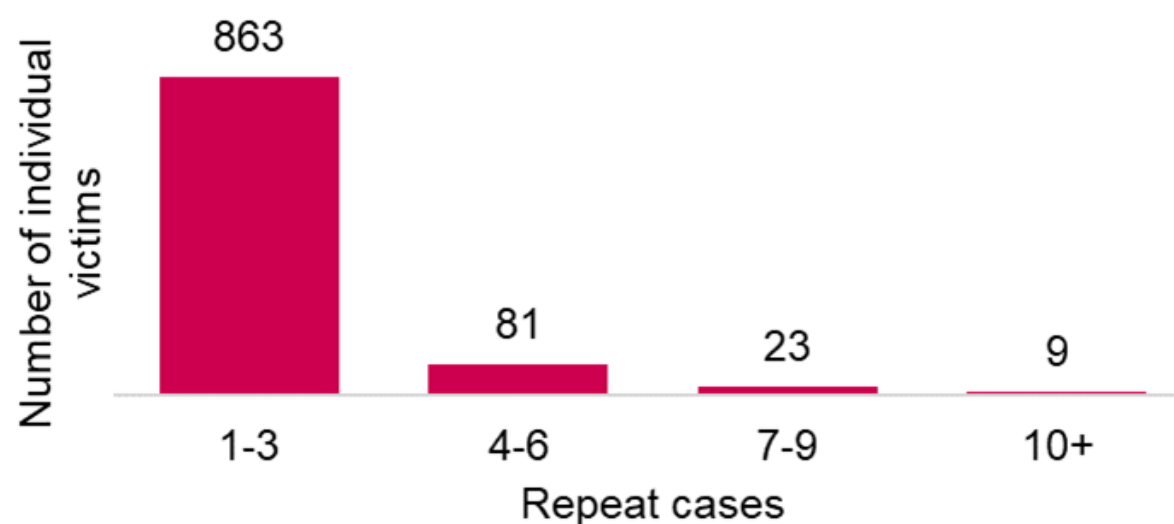


## Royal Greenwich MARAC repeat victimisation

Given the nature of repeat victimisation, numbers below were calculated based on individuals referred MARAC since 2009-10. Data extracted up to the end of March 2023.



Number of individuals by repeat case count.



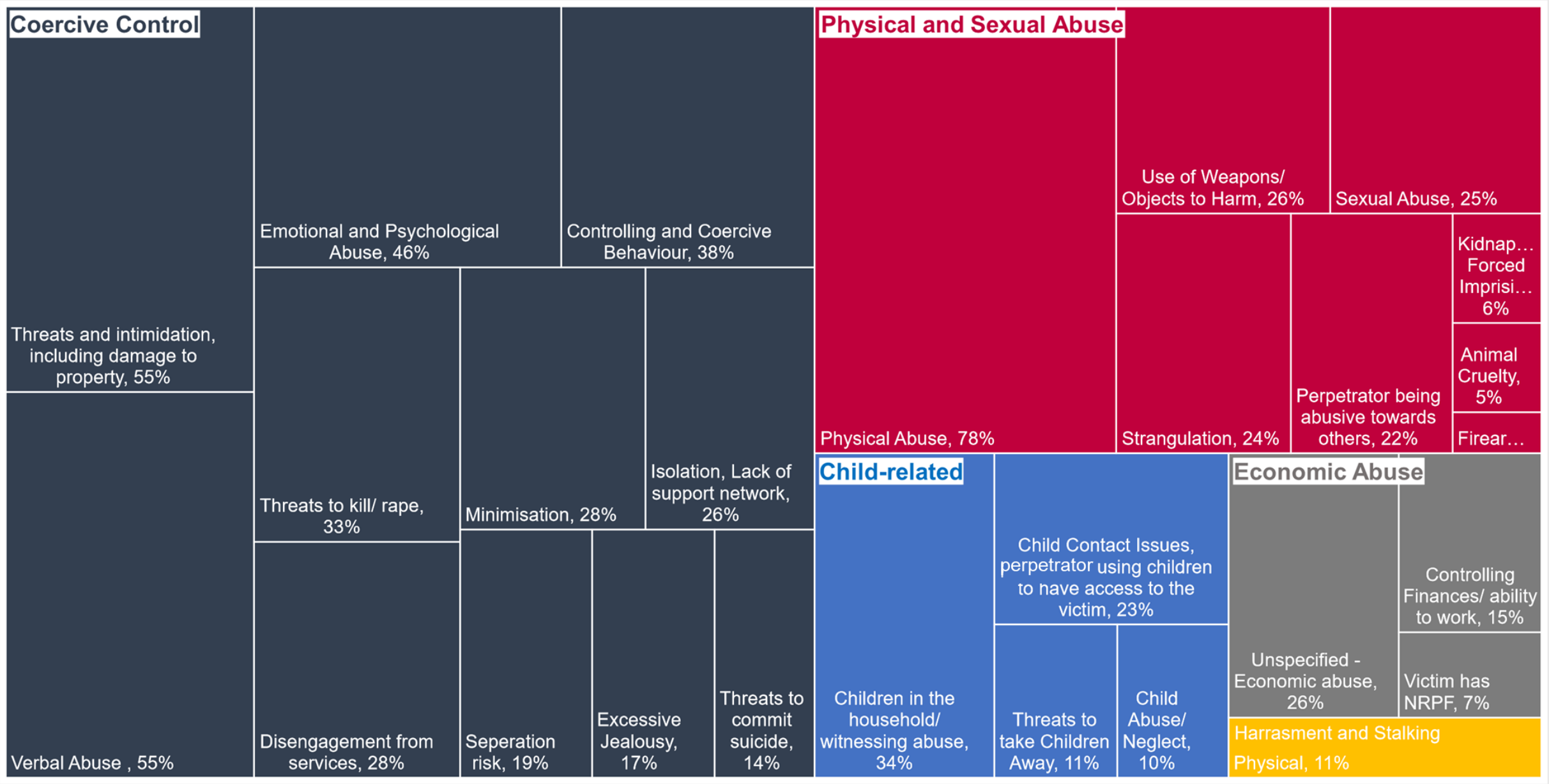
- The median age of repeat victims was 35
- The median number of days between repeat referrals was 224 days, equivalent to just over seven months

Of the 976 individual repeat victims after their initial referral:

- 88% of repeat victims had been referred MARAC between one and three times
- Eight percent of individuals had been re-referred between four and six times.
- Three percent had been referred seven or more times
- The range of repeat cases of any individual ranged from one to 18

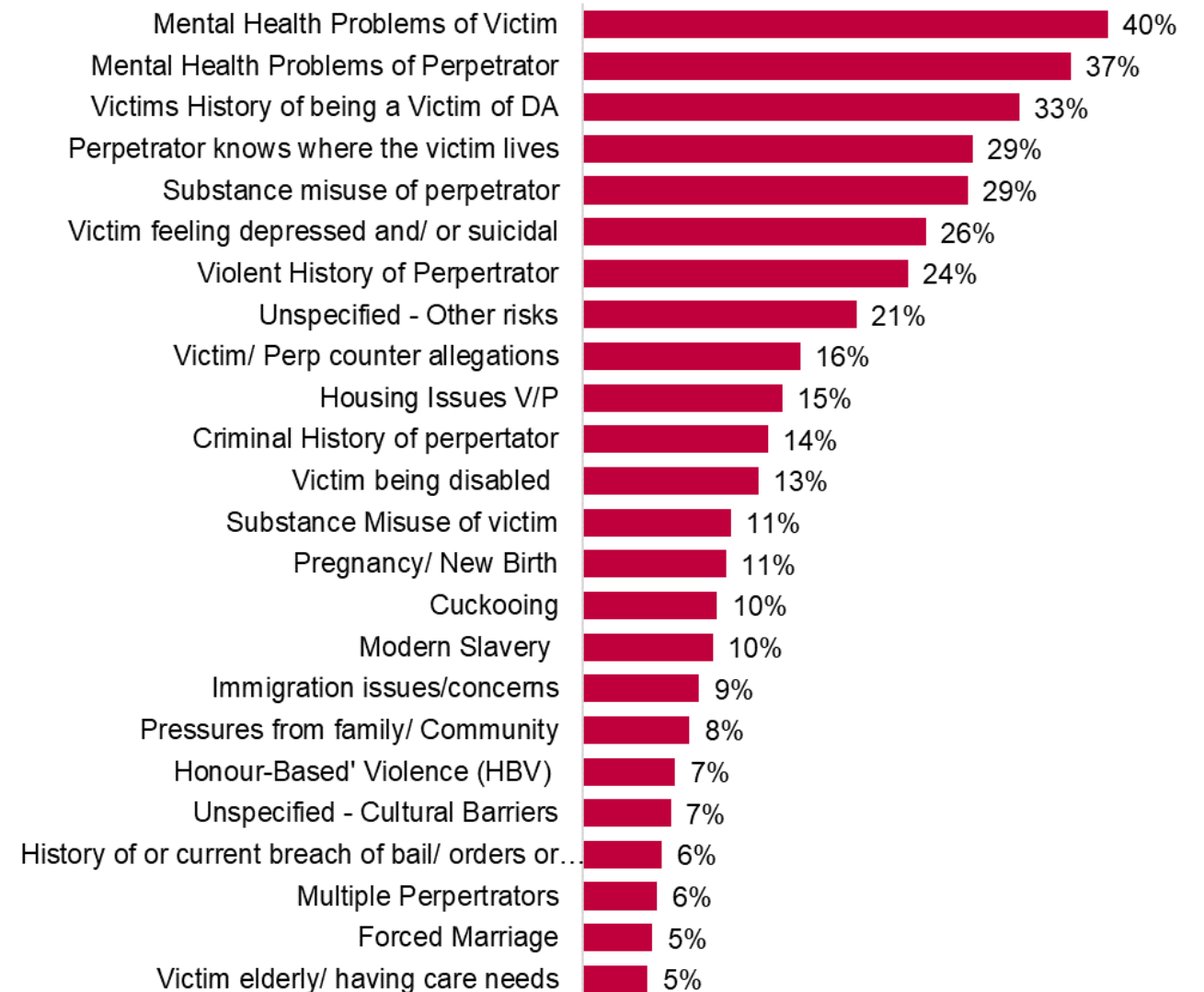
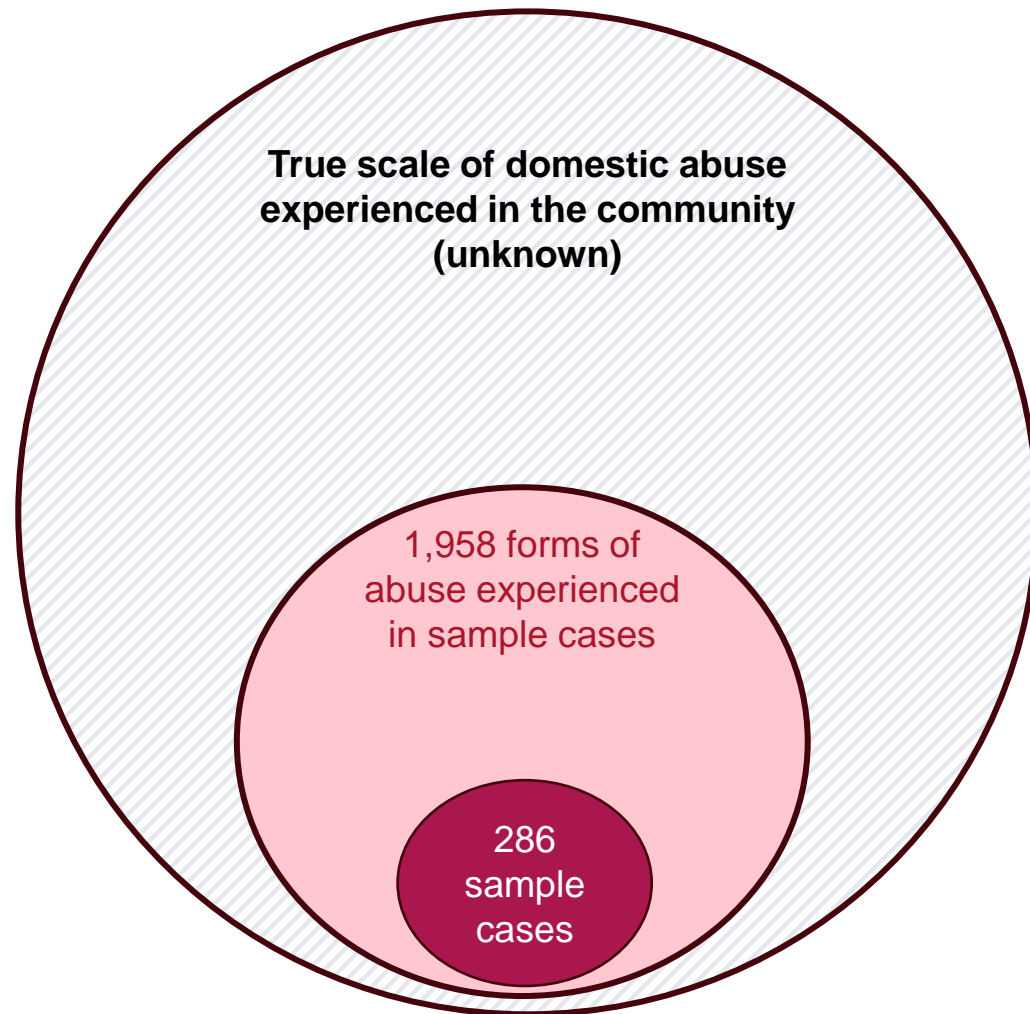
The scale of harm: Types of abuse in Royal Greenwich MARAC sample

Percentage of abuse types experienced by sample cases. Random sample of 2022-23 Royal Greenwich MARAC referrals (N= 286).



\*NRPF = No Recourse to Public Funds

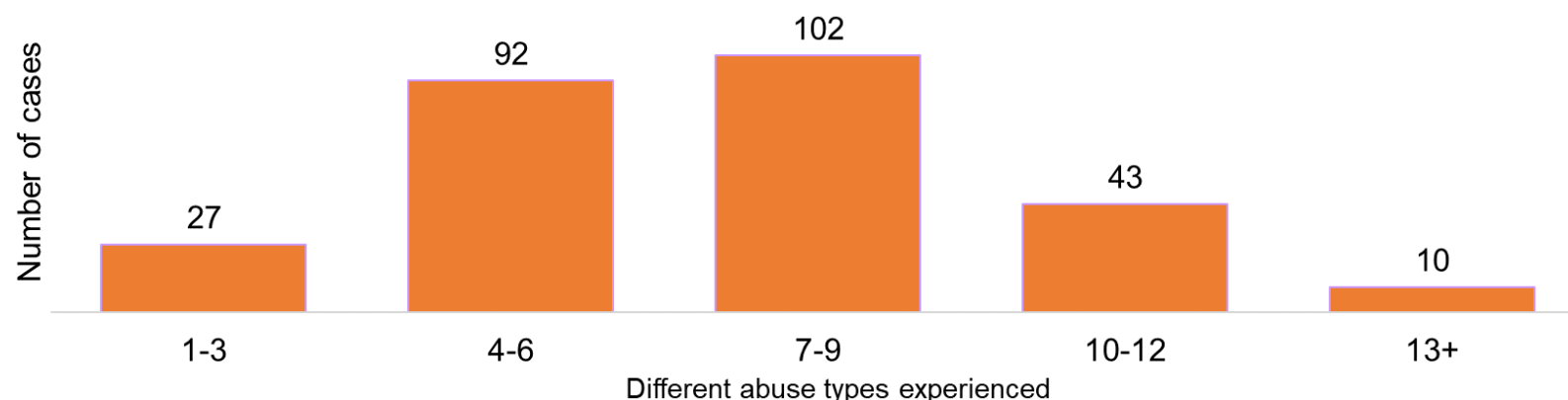
**% of sample cases experiencing risk factors/health needs**



Note: Mental health problems in both victims and perpetrators encompass a wide range of self-reported and clinical diagnoses. Therefore, mental health can be a risk factor prior to experiencing domestic abuse, and/or be aggravated after experiencing domestic abuse. Details of primary, secondary, and tertiary care needs are to be explored in further MARAC analysis.



Number of MARAC cases and frequency of victimisation. Random sample of 2022-23 Royal Greenwich MARAC referrals (N= 286).



- **Eight in every ten** survivors experienced physical abuse
- More sub-forms of coercive control were experienced of all major abuse groups:
- Median number of abuse types per case was seven
- 102 cases experience between seven and nine different forms of abuse

Using this sample, out of 100 victims

...of **non-fatal strangulation**, we would expect around **45** to be victims of a **threat to kill or rape**

...of **physical abuse**, we would expect around **42** to be victims of **coercive control**

...of **sexual abuse**, we would expect around **56** to be victims of **coercive control**

...of **strangulation**, we would expect around **54** to be victims of **emotional and psychological abuse**

## Domestic abuse: Insight from a Violence and Women and Girls Partnership group

In July 2023, a small number of local service stakeholders (N=9) were invited to participate in a brief online open-ended survey relating to issues related to domestic abuse. Inductive thematic analysis was undertaken to explore responses.

Q. Are there specific factors/challenges that contribute to domestic abuse offences in Royal Greenwich? If so, what are they?

Health and wellbeing		Awareness and Education			Cultural challenges		Capacity and demand			
Alcohol and Mental Health	Demographics Poverty Substance misuse Mental health	Awareness and Education	Lack of understanding		Minimisation		Cultural acceptance	Cultural diversity, some groups do not see DA as a priority for change	Capacity v capability v demand v priorities	Funding
Deprivation	High levels of deprivation in Royal Greenwich		Lack of commitment to making training mandatory	Not wanting help, not knowing any different or not following through reporting stages	Older people, especially who are experiencing familial abuse or by carers is often unrecognised	Underreporting	Intersectional values	Some pockets of cultural tolerance/ acceptance		
High levels of known causative factors such as mental health, substance abuse, misc deprivation issues	High levels of substance misuse and mental health	Service access							High level of victim non engagement	
Increase in mental health vulnerabilities and complex cases	Mental health and drug and alcohol use	Access to services	High level of victim non engagement		Intersectional barriers		Demography		Trust and confidence	
		Although increasing, perhaps still confidence in reporting, language barriers, childhood traumas, not being aware they are a victim, mental health	Language barriers		Need for early intervention Build on collaborative working across services		Diverse population- are services accessible to all	Ethnicity	Perception of professional services by 'perpetrators'	Seldom heard communities. Mistrust
							Women and young people	COVID-19 Pandemic	Family dynamics	Family pressures to stay in a relationship

Q. If COVID-19 affected your service in relation to domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence, please describe how and why it had an impact. N=28

Reduced direct contact with service users

Not being able to visit victims

Staff vacancies were high due to sickness so we had limited service offer nhs

Children were at home with parents , stress levels were increased

Increased stress on individuals and families

Increased difficulty of victim calling a service due to being at home with abusive person/s

Vulnerable people were reliant on their careers for support, this increased the risk of harm nhs

MARAC processes had to go virtual overnight

Increase in VAWG

Increase of high impact incidents in public spaces.

Lack of face to face contact  
Unable to effectively manage risks  
Unable to see visible signs of abuse

Lockdown made it difficult to safely meet victims which meant identification and risk assessing was difficult

DA reports suppressed - risk to victims - then surge in reports after lockdowns that were hard for services to cope with

Professional networks had to reorganise how they operated

Less ready access to resources and support

Victims and children isolated with perpetrators

Public sexual violence fell as lockdowns removed access to many situations/locations where it often occurs

Mental health needs increased due to anxiety, increase in those more vulnerable to harm

People didn't know who to go to, no meaningful relationships formed

No face to face agency meetings, ms teams developing, lack of communication between agencies



## Barriers to disclosure

Challenges posed to different groups can intersect societal norms, family structures, cultural beliefs, language barriers, representation in healthcare services, racial and/or gendered tropes, awareness, and much more.

The below points are a summary of the key findings from research and service work with victims of domestic abuse in Royal Greenwich:

- Fear of **losing everything** e.g. if going into refuge)
- The **impact on children** (“he is a good dad”)
- **Lack of awareness** in recognising more ‘covert’ forms of abuse such as coercive control
- **Community/family pressures**. E.g. an expectation of marital subservience
- Lack of knowledge of services and support options (e.g. immigration issues, people might not be aware of support)

## Challenges to disclosure within GP Practices

**1. Time:** Most GPs only have ten minutes for each appointment which may not be enough time to discuss the domestic abuse experiences in detail. This does not mean that they do not care. However, most GPs are happy to run over the appointment time given the seriousness of this issue to help the patient or book a follow up appointment. Most GPs in Royal Greenwich also have undergone new local domestic abuse training so should be well informed and faster in helping.

**2. Training:** The training most GPs receive for domestic abuse during medical school and their foundation and vocational training is not very comprehensive. However, more GPs are now well trained in how to help best.

**3. Referral:** Previously when a GP identified a patient experiencing domestic abuse in Royal Greenwich there was no direct referral pathway so they would just give out a self-referral email/phone number to contact. However, now they can directly send a referral form to a domestic abuse specialist in the borough.

**4. Perseverance:** It can sometimes take multiple appointments with the GP and being asked directly about domestic abuse before patients will disclose their abuse. This can be disheartening for GPs when they suspect someone is experiencing domestic abuse. However, through new GP training, GPs understand how patients may present, why this is, and accept that disclosure is a process.

**5. Empathy:** A lot of the time when domestic abuse is disclosed to the GP, the patients are not ready to leave the abusive relationship just yet.

## Royal Greenwich Primary Care Domestic Abuse Service: Practice Case Study

### 60+ YEAR-OLD PATIENT

- ↓ New patient at GP surgery since February 2022. On Fluoxetine (antidepressant) for depression and anxiety
- ↓ First contact with GP reporting unsteadiness and joint pains. They had three further appointments for this
- ↓ GP not sure. Eye test, bloods and imaging all normal. Referred to Neurology consultant
- ↓ Neurology did more bloods, more imaging all normal. Advised painkillers and physiotherapy
- ↓ Then had ENT (Ears, Nose, and Throat) symptoms and multiple appointments for this. Referred to ENT
- ↓ ENT investigations all normal and given allergy medications and nasal spray
- ↓ Two more GP appointments after ENT review saying treatment did not help
- ↓ Then contacted regarding mental health
- ↓ Five appointments with different GPs. Denying any trigger for mental health even specifically domestic abuse. Eighth appointment disclosed domestic abuse.
- ↓ Accepted referral to Identification and Referral to Increase safety (IRIS) then asked to cancel due to fear of cultural stigma.



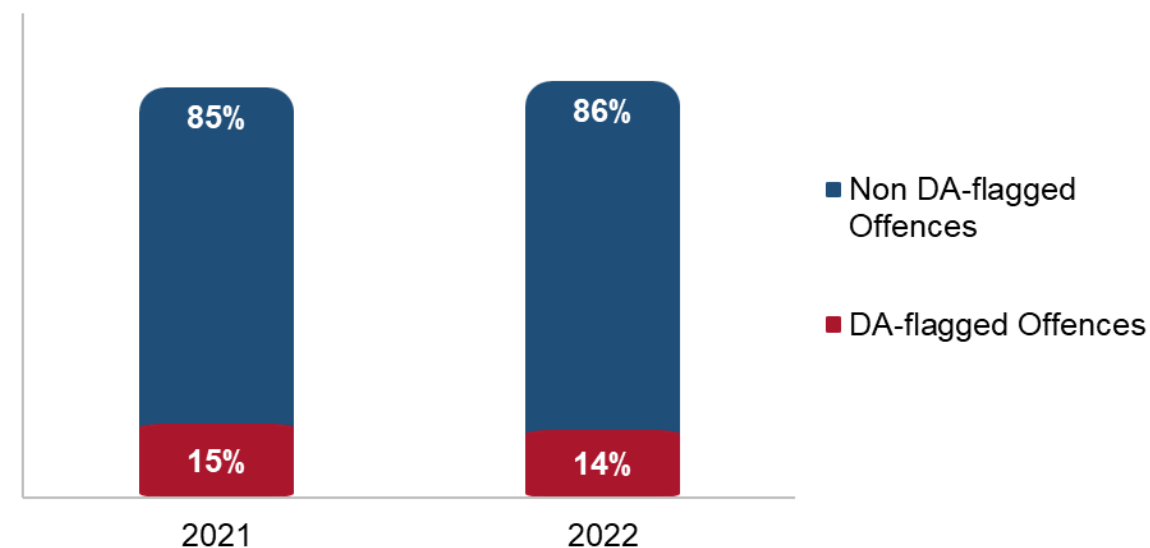
## Domestic abuse offences

### Key findings

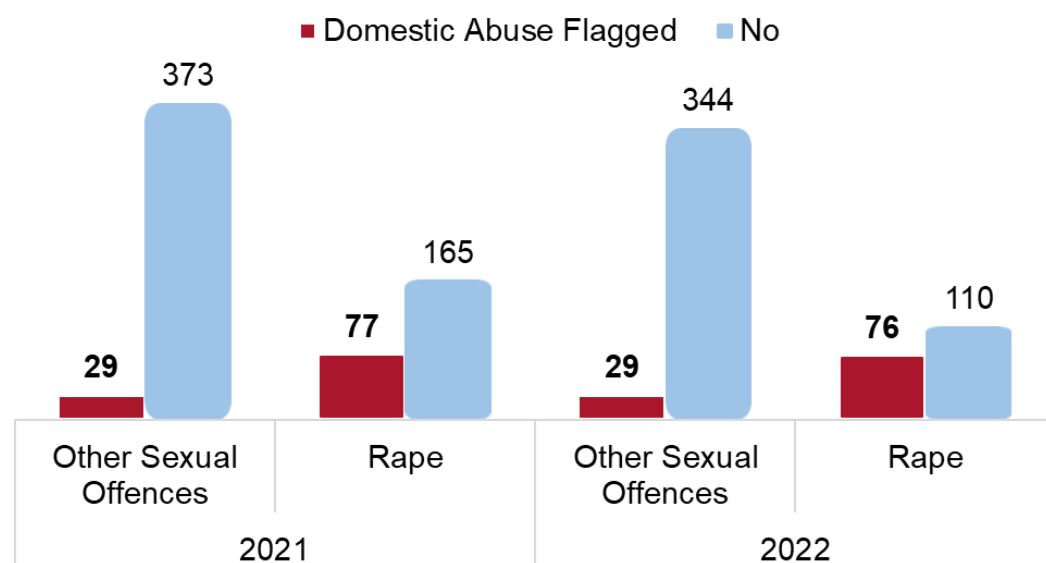
Across 2021 to 2022:

- One in seven total notifiable offences was domestic abuse flagged
- The most prevalent crime group was violence against the person offences, assault without injury, and Actual Bodily Harm being the most prevalent
- 18% of sexual offences were domestic abuse flagged. Compared to 36% of rape offences, and 7% of Other Sexual Offences.
- Stalking was the fourth most prevalent offence type in both 2021 and 2022. It is likely non-physically violent offences are prevalent amongst the top ten offences due to their often insidious and less detectable nature.
- 38 cases of non-fatal strangulation and suffocation were committed in 2022. Due to national legislative changes, there is no retrospective comparison with 2021.

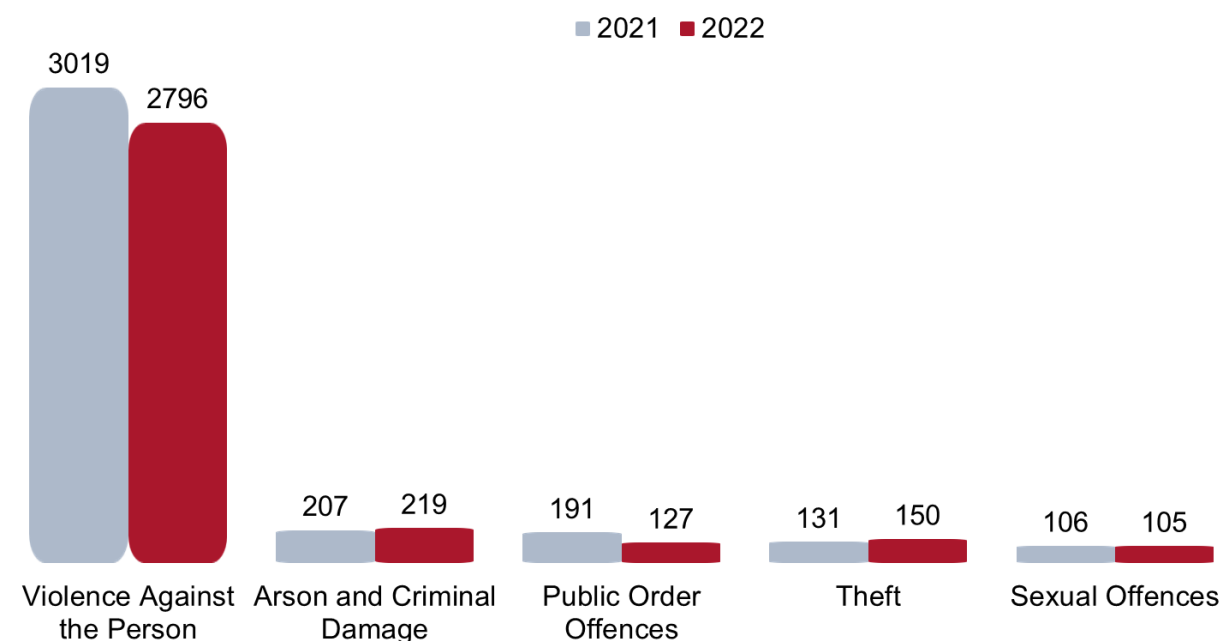
Percentage of domestic abuse offences of all offences per year



Domestic abuse flagged sexual offences

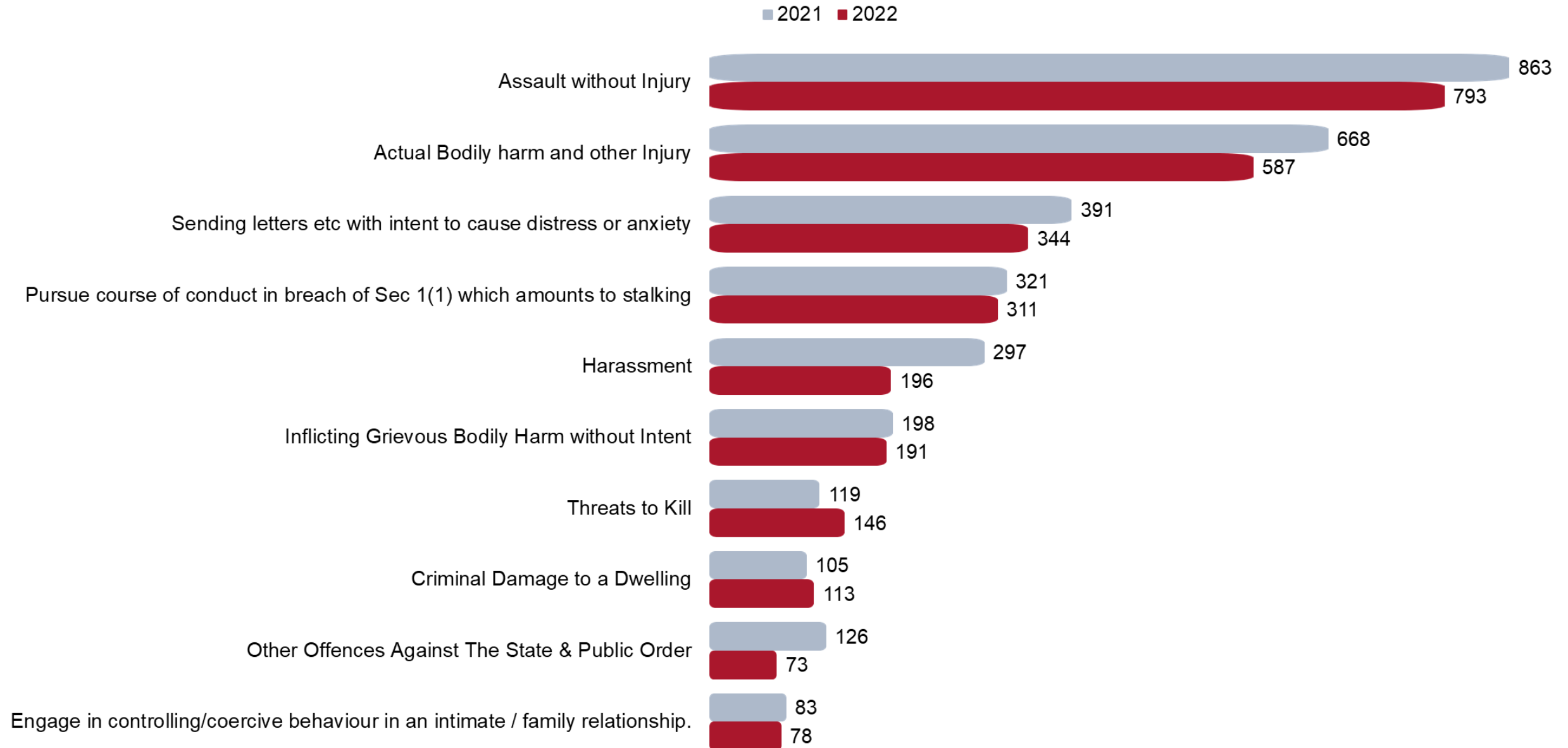


Domestic abuse offences per year and crime group

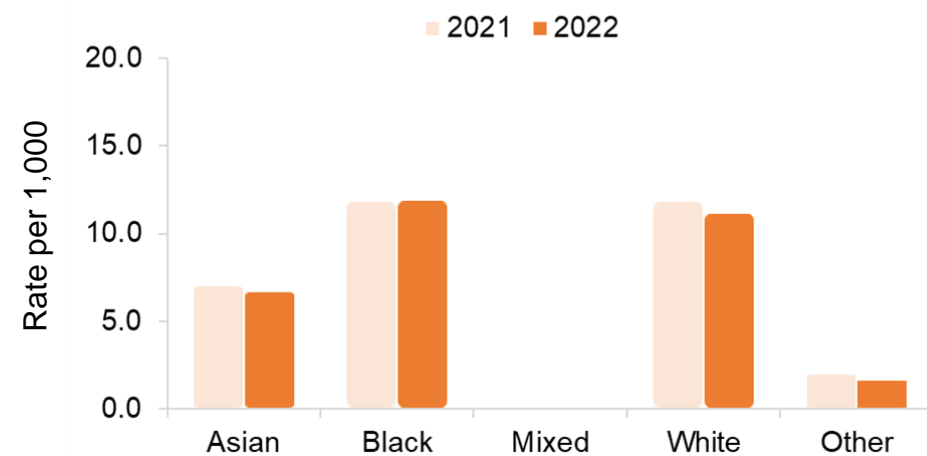
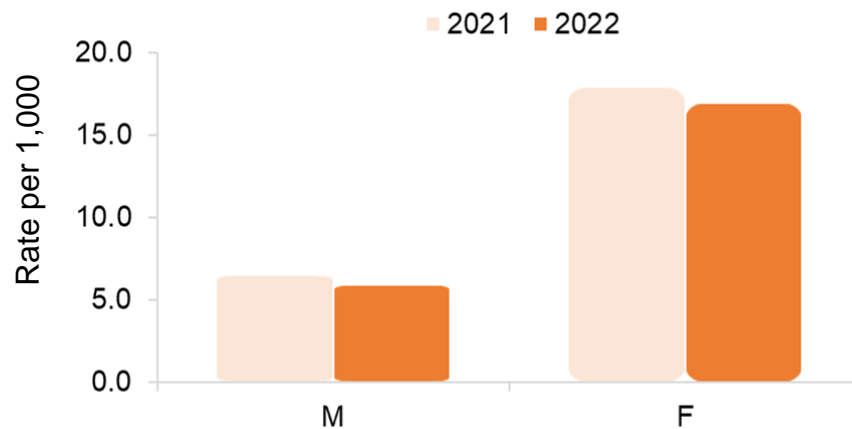
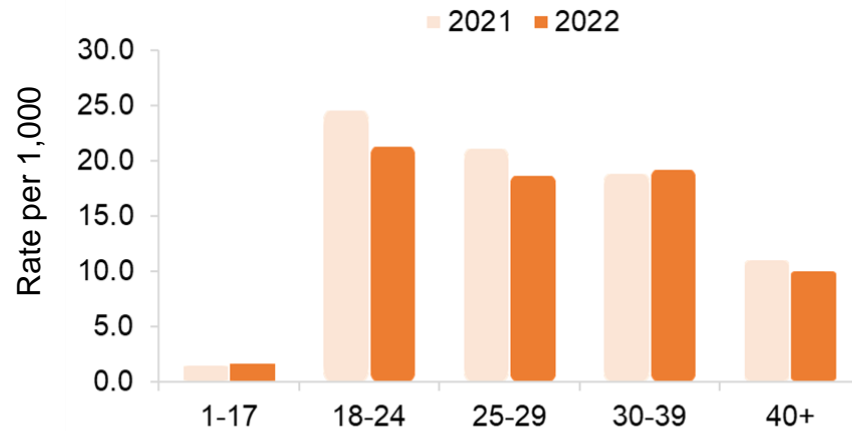




## Domestic abuse offences: Most prevalent ten offences per year

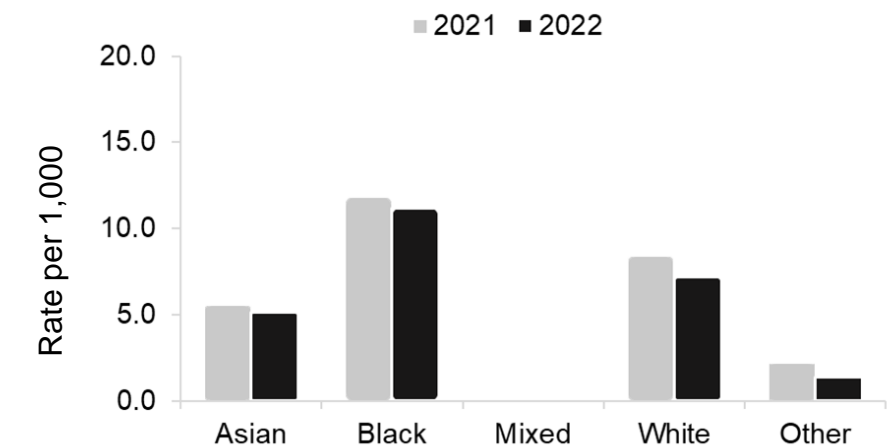
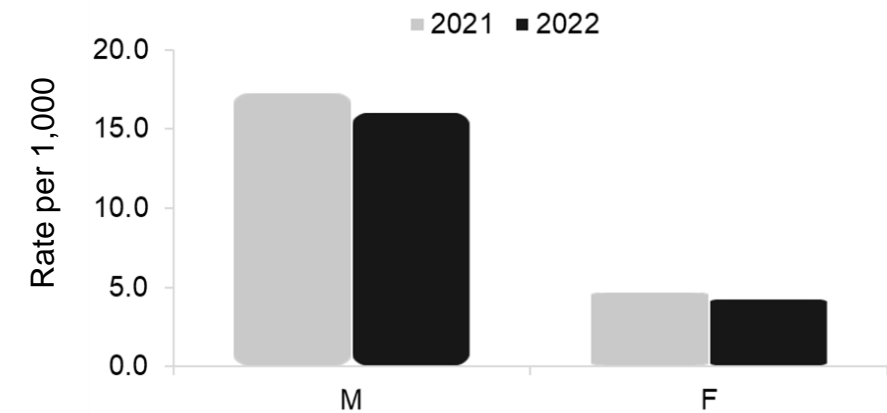
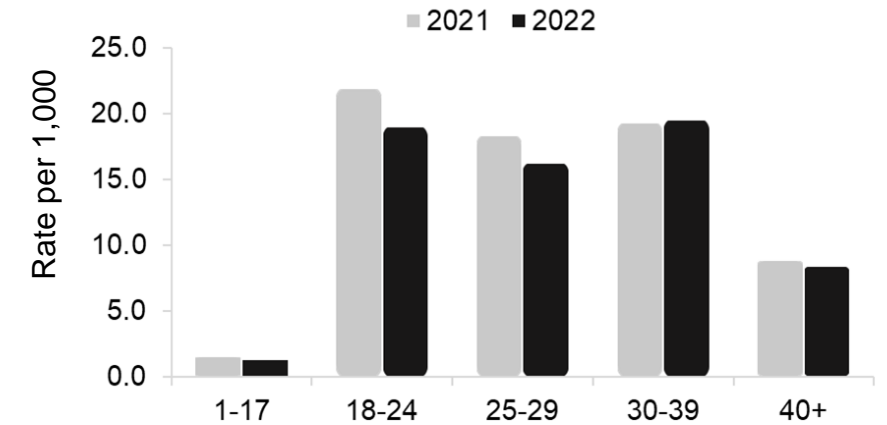


## Victim Demography

Domestic abuse offences  
(Rates per 1,000 population)

- Higher rate of victims of working age populations.
- Victims were three times more likely to be female.
- Higher proportion of female victims across all ethnic groups.
- Despite a higher rate of female victims, the most prevalent five offences for both men and women were the same: Assault without injury, Actual Bodily harm and other injury, Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm without Intent, Harassment.
- Similar rate of victimisation between Black and White ethnic groups.
- Similarity between suspect age distribution and victim profile.

## Suspect Demography

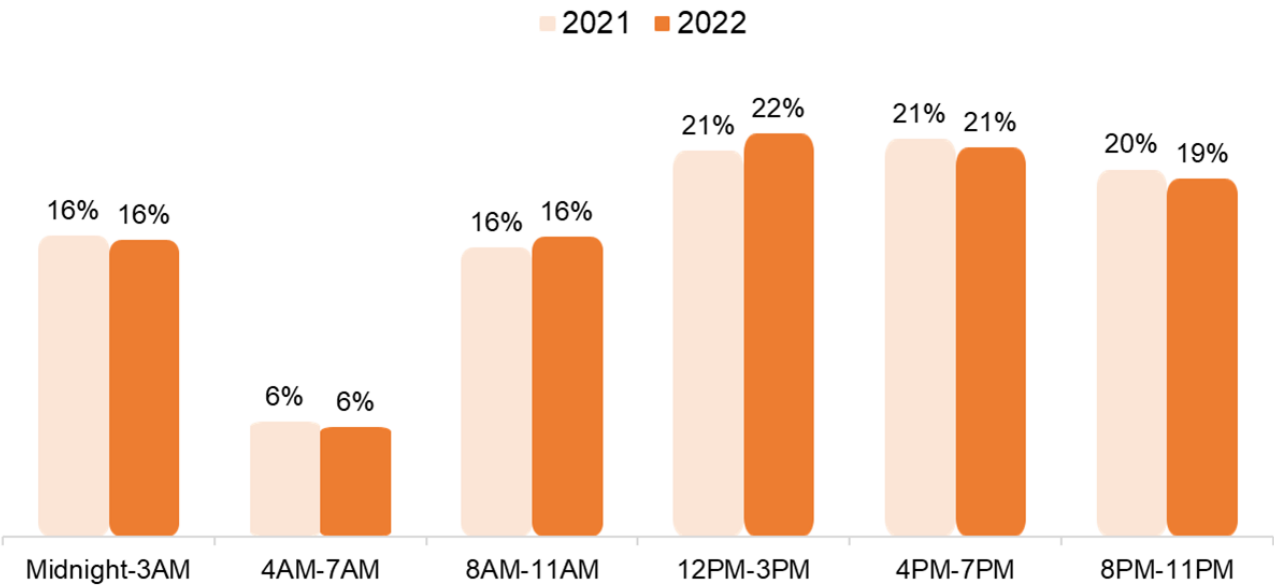


Domestic abuse offences by hour committed

Offence breakdown by hour per calendar year

Calendar Year Committed	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
2021	374	110	80	52	67	52	55	63	107	133	199	153	285	170	164	171	217	181	213	204	207	178	208	159
2022	323	107	68	65	41	32	60	76	108	156	144	161	264	149	163	190	171	162	223	183	178	181	170	150

Offence breakdown by four-hour grouping per calendar year



- Similar proportion of offences committed from midday to 11pm in both years.
- Hour groups between midday and 3pm and 4 and 7pm had the highest proportion of offences in both years.
- In both years, four in ten domestic abuse offences were committed between 4 and 11pm.



## CHAPTER 6:

# SEXUAL VIOLENCE

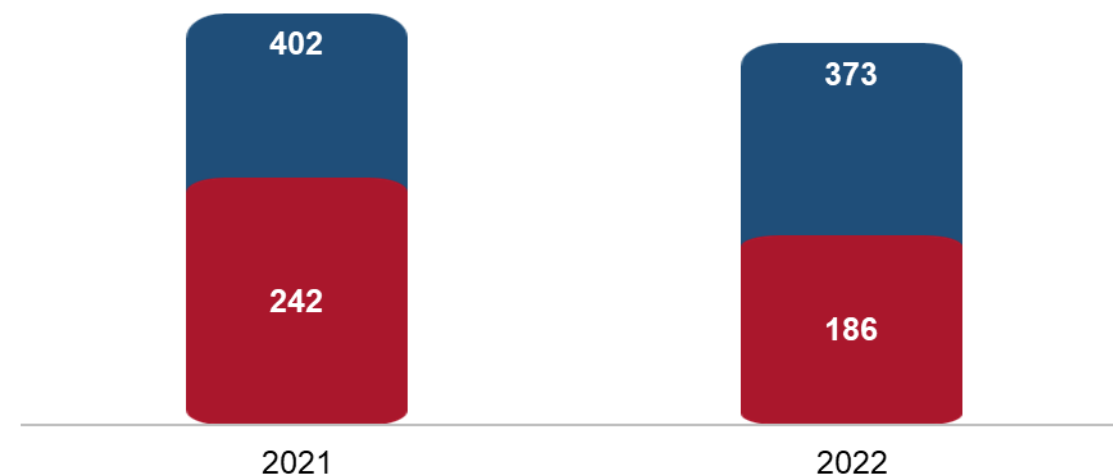
## 6. SEXUAL VIOLENCE

### Sexual offences

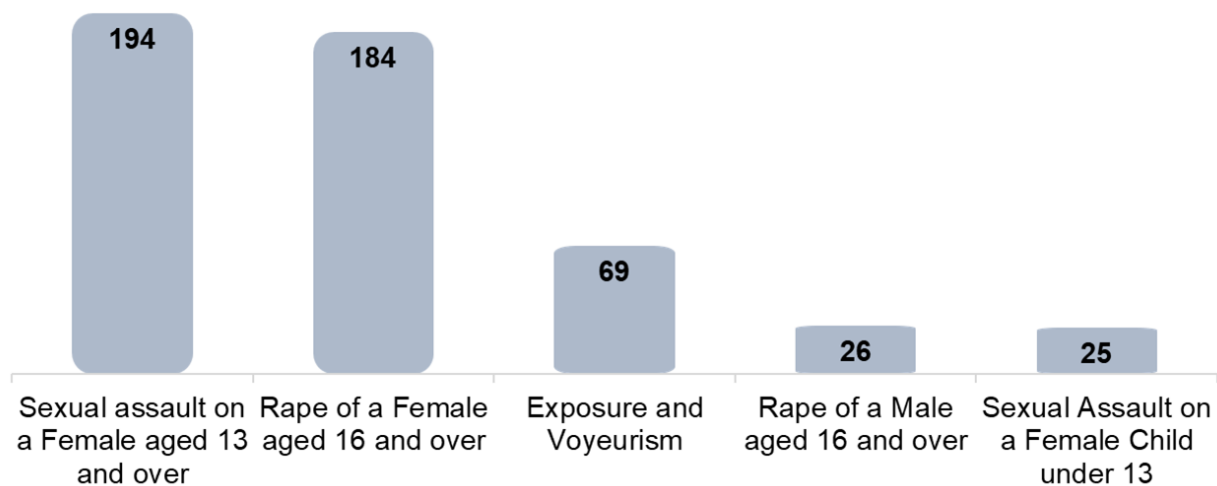
#### Key findings:

- Slight decrease in overall number of sexual offences but similar proportions by crime group year on year
- In 2021, 62% of offences were Other Sexual Offences, 38% Rape Offences
- In 2022, there was a five percentage point increase in Other Sexual Offences (67%), and 33% Rape Offences
- Similarities in specific offence types in both years, with Sexual Grooming within the top five offence types in 2022

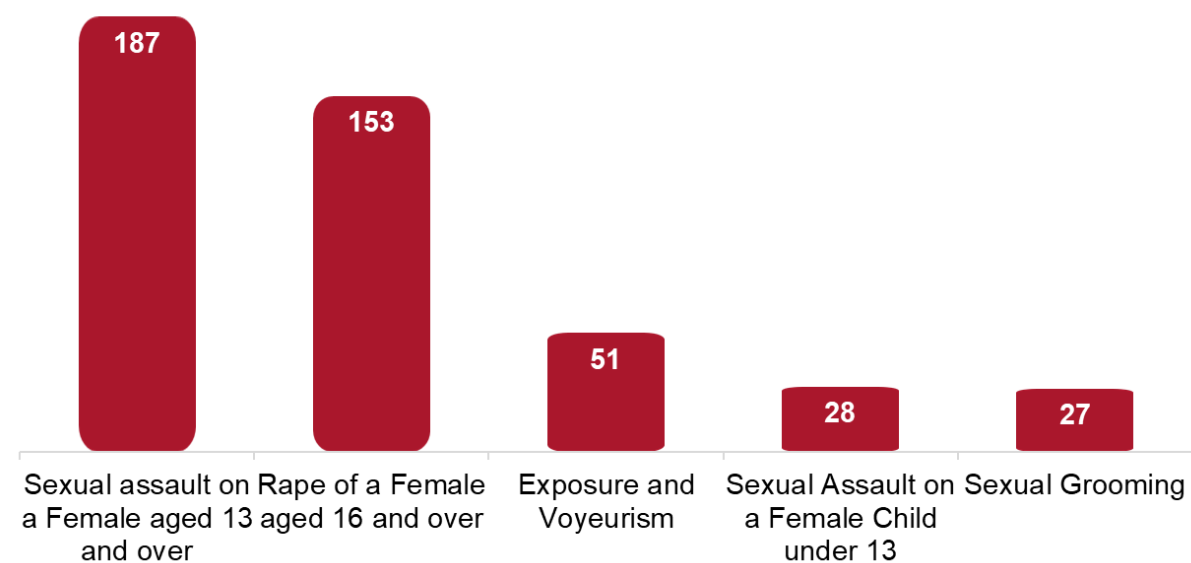
■ Other Sexual Offences ■ Rape



#### Top five Sexual Offences in 2021

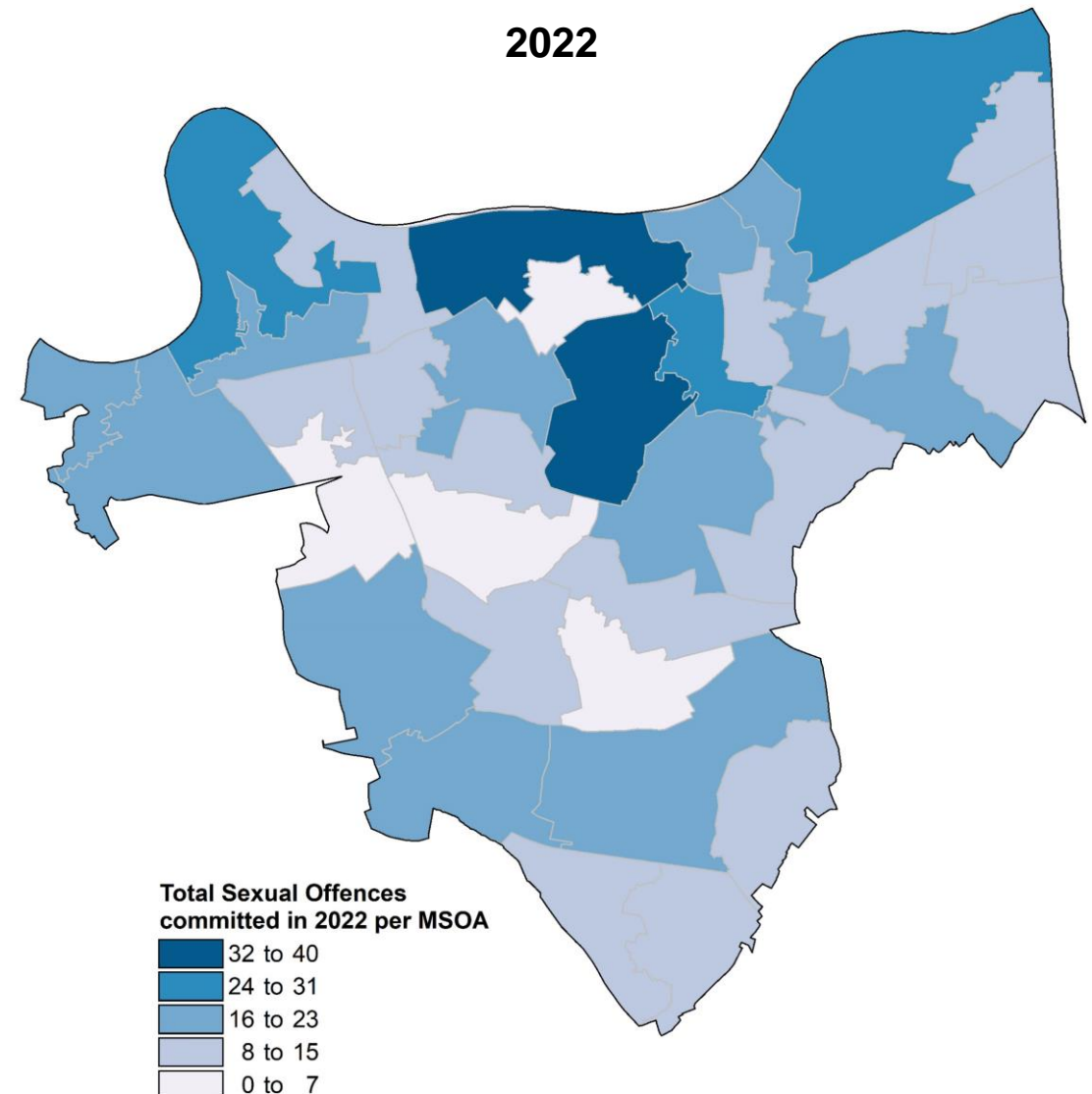
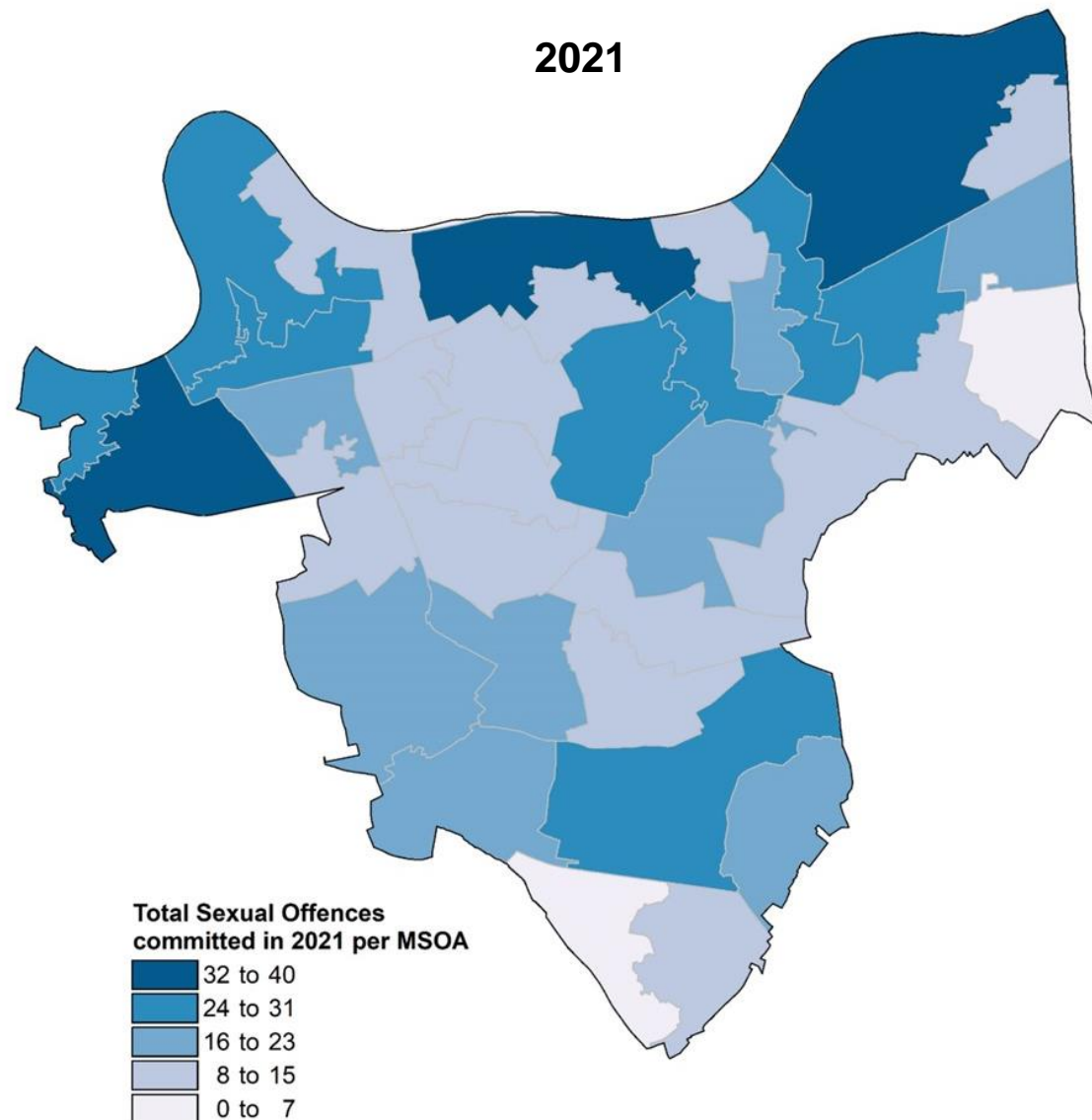


#### Top five Sexual Offences in 2022





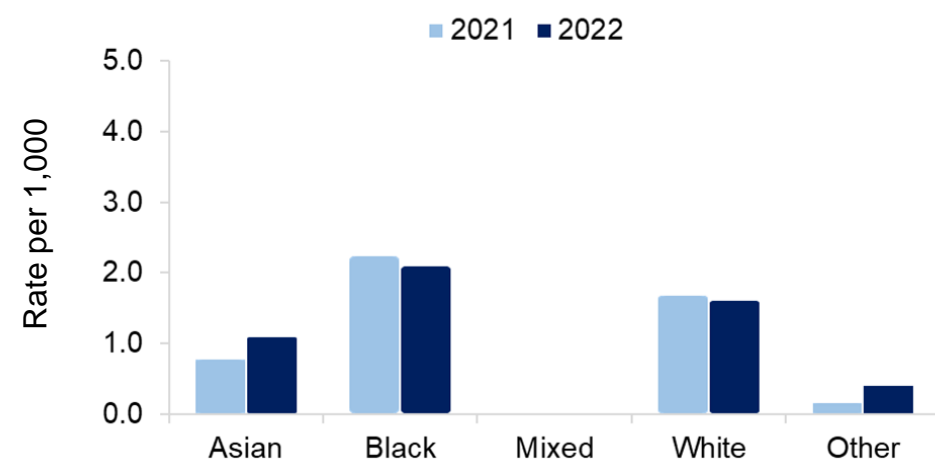
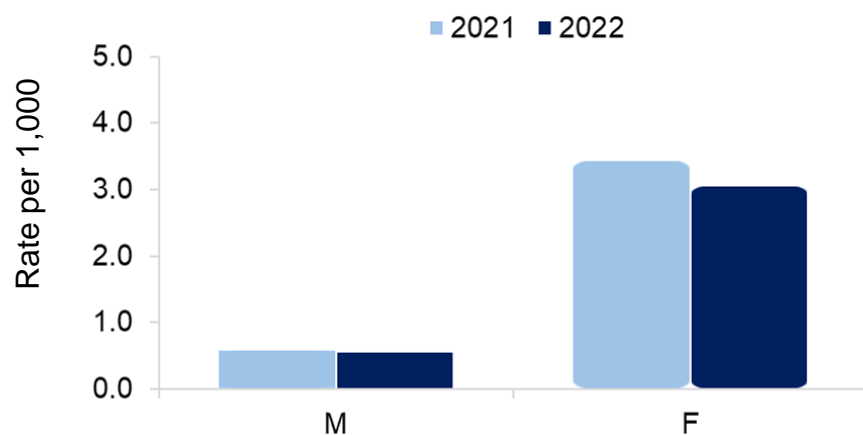
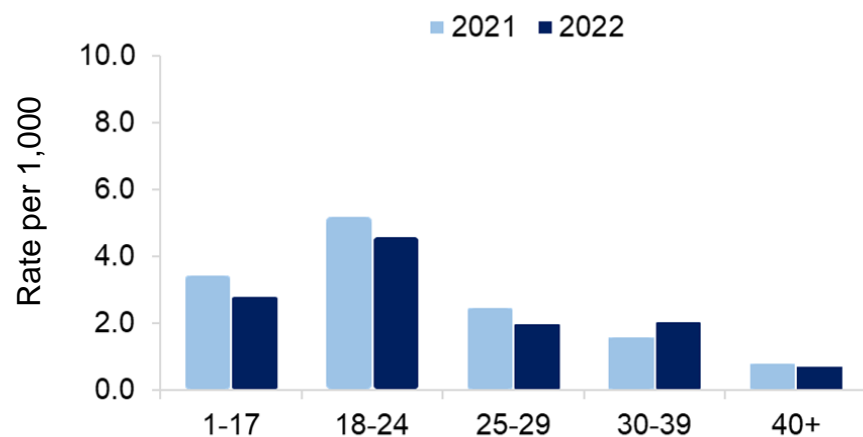
## Offence locations: Sexual offences



- The maps above show Metropolitan Police recorded crimes of sexual offences aggregated to neighbourhood level that happened in Royal Greenwich.
- The median number of incidents per neighbourhood in 2021 was 16, with little change to 15 in 2022.
- The quintile range of offences has not changed from 2021 to 2022 but the neighbourhoods within the top ten percent have changed, except for the neighbourhood within the Woolwich Docklands area.
- Areas surrounding Town Centres, which have a busier nighttime economy present as a risk for sexual offences in the evening. The variation in the most prevalent areas suggests due to the nature of the offence, public spaces such as parks, and woodlands are areas of concern in addition to busier residential areas.



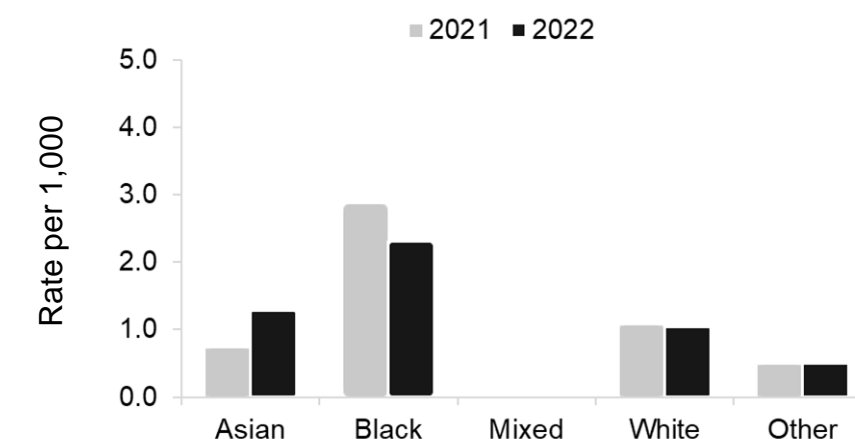
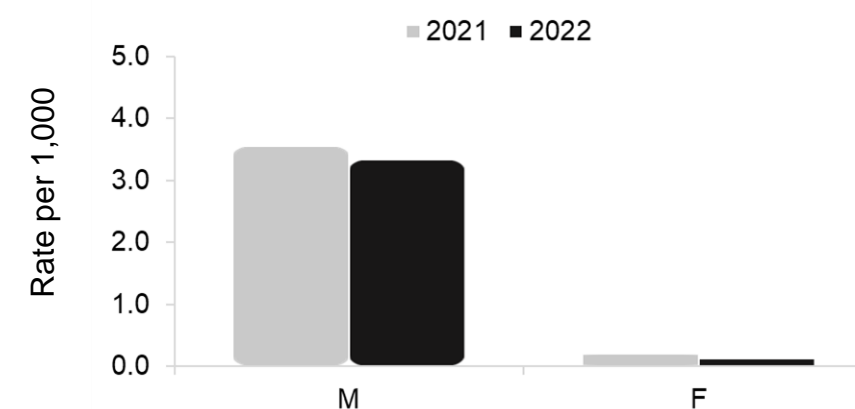
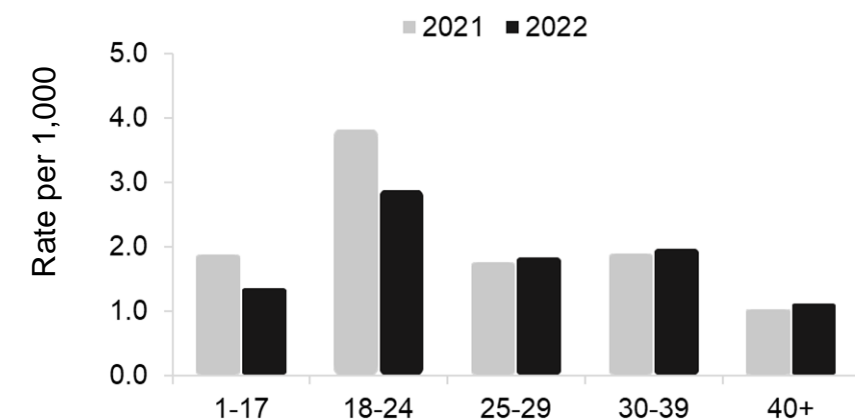
## Victim Demography



## Sexual Offences

- Over the two years, 55% of victims of sexual offences were under 25. Two in every five victims of sexual offences (excluding rape) were under 18.
- Nine in ten victims were girls or women.
- Between 2021 and 2022, victims of sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over, and rape of a female aged 16 and over accounted for 75% of all sexual offence victims.
- Of victims where ethnicity was recorded (excluding *Unknowns*), there was little change in victims by ethnicity between 2021 and 2022. Overall, 58% of victims were White, and 32% were Black.
- There is a disproportionately higher percentage of Black women and girls who are victims of sexual offences compared to the usual resident female Royal Greenwich population.
- Between 2021 and 2022, one in two suspects of sexual offences were aged 30 and above. Other sexual offences had a slightly older suspect cohort compared to rape offences. Suspects aged 30 and above made up 49% of suspects for rape offences, compared to 51% in other sexual offences.

## Suspect Demography

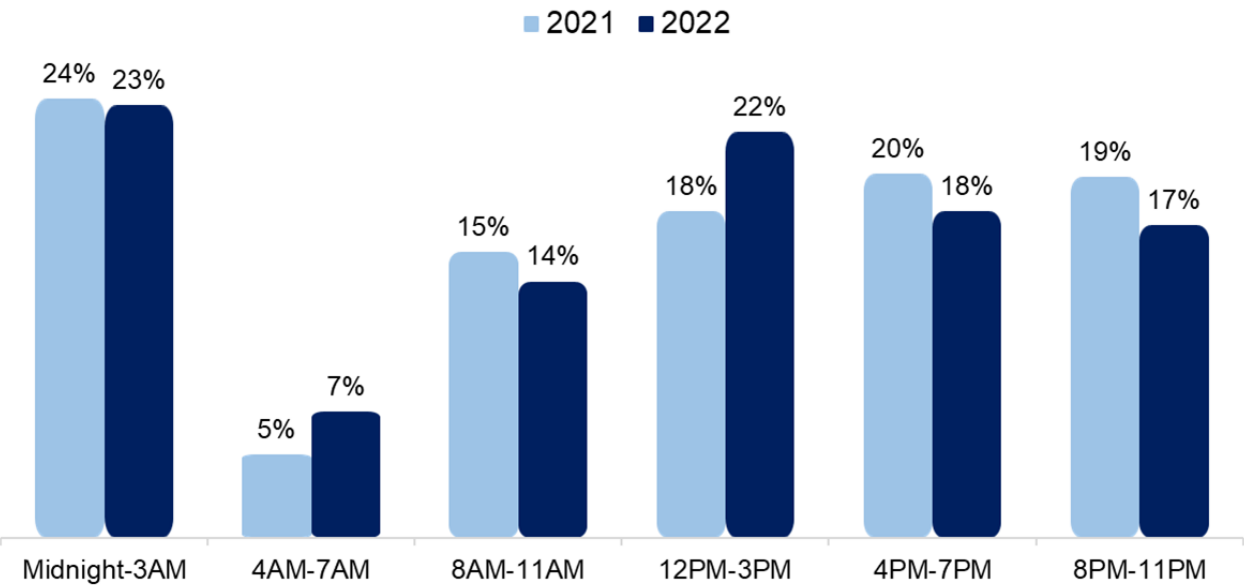


Sexual Offences by hour committed

Offence breakdown by hour per calendar year

Calendar Year Committed	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
2021	117	14	9	12	6	10	8	5	22	34	26	17	48	18	13	34	28	35	35	28	54	25	25	21
2022	90	16	14	10	9	5	6	18	20	21	19	17	45	13	30	34	29	19	24	26	18	23	25	28

Offence breakdown by four-hour grouping per calendar year



- Higher variance in when sexual offences occur compared to other serious violence offence types
- The hour of midnight saw the highest prevalence of offences in any given hour
- Sexual offences committed between 8pm to midnight represented 54% of all sexual offences in 2021, compared to 41% in 2022
- Greater proportion of daytime hour offences are Other Sexual offences such as sexual assault, exposure and voyeurism



- ▶ **Underreporting:** Many sexual offences go unreported due to factors such as fear, shame, or mistrust of the justice system. This makes it difficult for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute these crimes.
- ▶ **Evidence obstacles:** Sexual offences often occur in private settings without witnesses, making it challenging to gather substantial evidence. Victims may also delay reporting, which can further impact the availability and reliability of evidence.
- ▶ **Consent and credibility:** Cases involving sexual offences often hinge on the issue of consent. Establishing consent can be challenging as it relies heavily on the credibility of the victim and the accused. Factors such as intoxication, prior relationship, and societal biases can complicate the determination of consent.
- ▶ **Victim blaming and stereotypes:** Victims of sexual offences may face victim-blaming attitudes, where their credibility is questioned, or they are held responsible for the assault. Stereotypes and misconceptions about sexual assault can influence how these cases are perceived, potentially impacting the prosecution process.
- ▶ **Trauma and historical reporting:** Victims of sexual offences may experience trauma that affects their ability to recall details or provide consistent statements. This can be misconstrued as inconsistency or lack of credibility, affecting the prosecution process.
- ▶ **Re-victimisation:** The process of reporting and going through the criminal justice system can be re-traumatising for victims. Insensitive or invasive questioning during investigations or court proceedings can discourage victims from participating fully in the legal processes.





- ▶ **A trauma-informed approach** acknowledges the impact of trauma on survivors and prioritises the creation of safe and supportive environments throughout the criminal justice process.
- ▶ In contrast to questioning survivors' credibility, a **victim-centred** approach places emphasis on supporting their needs and empowering them throughout the process.
- ▶ **Promoting collaboration** among different agencies involved in sexual offence cases, such as police, prosecutors, victim advocates, medical professionals, and counsellors, allowing for a holistic approach to support survivors and strengthen the investigation and prosecution of cases.
- ▶ **Specialised training** for professionals involved in sexual offence cases enhances their understanding of the dynamics of sexual violence, victim responses, trauma-informed interviewing techniques. For example, the Greenwich Primary Care Domestic Abuse Service programme for GPs and Practice staff.
- ▶ **Restorative justice** focus on repairing the harm caused by sexual offences by involving the survivor, the offender, and the community. For example, the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Group.
- ▶ **Technology** has opened new avenues for gathering and preserving **digital evidence** in sexual offence cases. This includes the examination of electronic devices, social media content, and communication records. Improved technology and digital forensic capabilities enhance investigations and strengthen the evidence base in such cases.

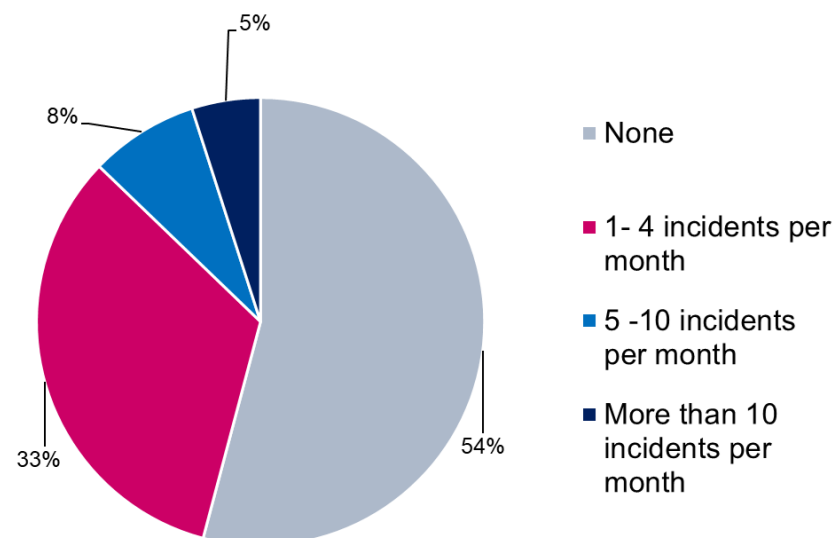
# CHAPTER 7: COMMUNITY VOICE



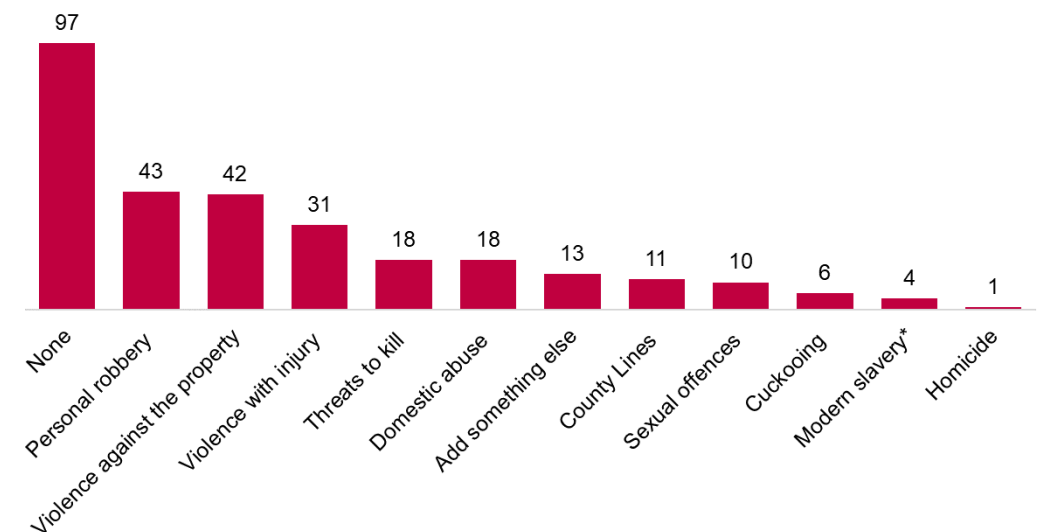
## 7. COMMUNITY VOICE

The Serious Violence Public Consultation (11 to 30 September) aimed to gauge residents' thoughts on serious violence in Royal Greenwich and how it impacts the community. The information from the consultation will be used to influence activity within the overall serious violence strategy. *N= Number of responses*

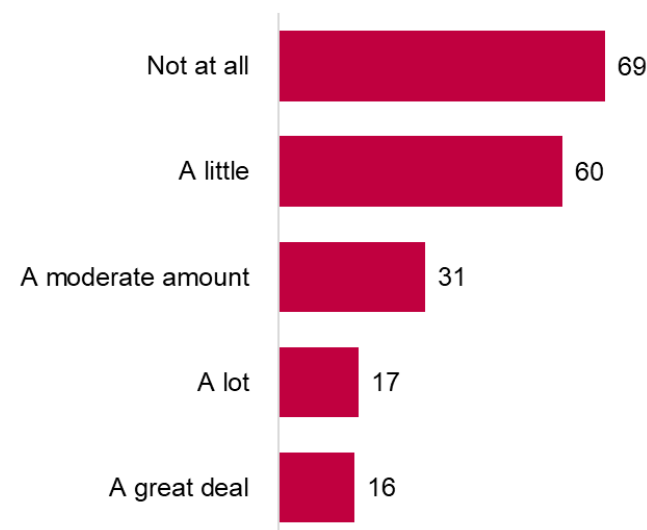
Q1. How often do you witness serious violence in your community? (N=242)



Q2. In the last three months, which types of serious violence incidents have you witnessed? (Multiple responses, N=294)



Q3. How often are you impacted by serious violence incidents in your community? (N=193)



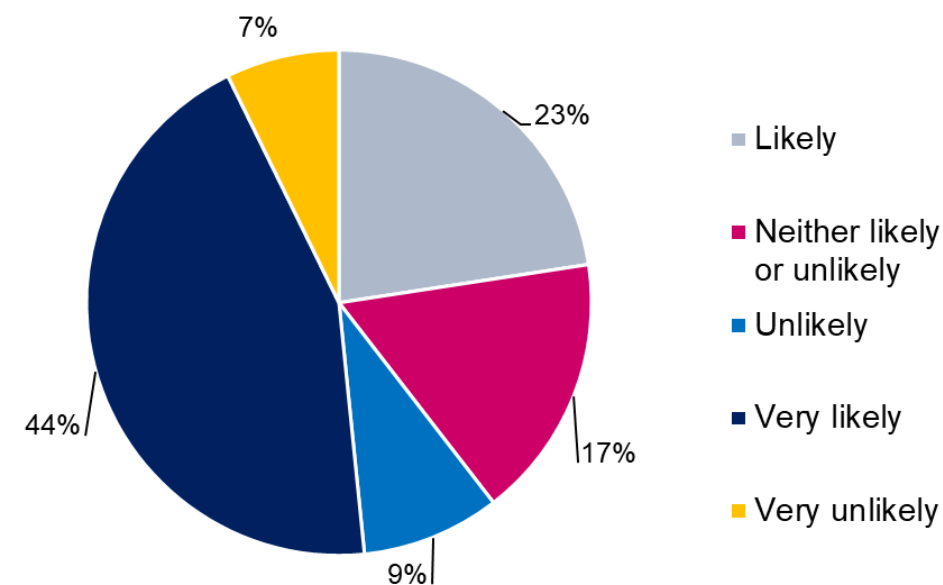


## Serious Violence Public Consultation findings

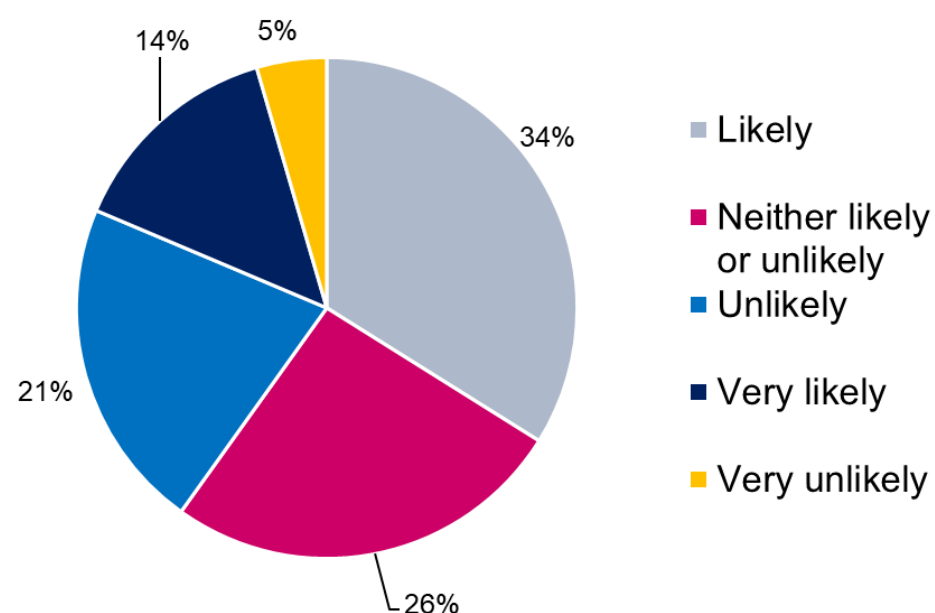
Q4. Where do you believe most serious violence in your community takes place? (Multiple responses, N=451)



Q5. How likely are you to share information with the Police and/or local authority around serious violence concerns? (N=248)



Q6. How likely do you think that you and/or members of your community could be a victim of serious violence? (N=177)



# Serious Violence Public Consultation findings

Q7. How safe do you feel in your neighbourhood/local area in relation to serious violence? (Percentage of responses, N=172)



## Women and girls' safety: Where do women and girls feel unsafe?

Following the murder of Sarah Everard, the Council held an online event as well as an initial survey to understand where and why women feel unsafe in the borough in 2021.

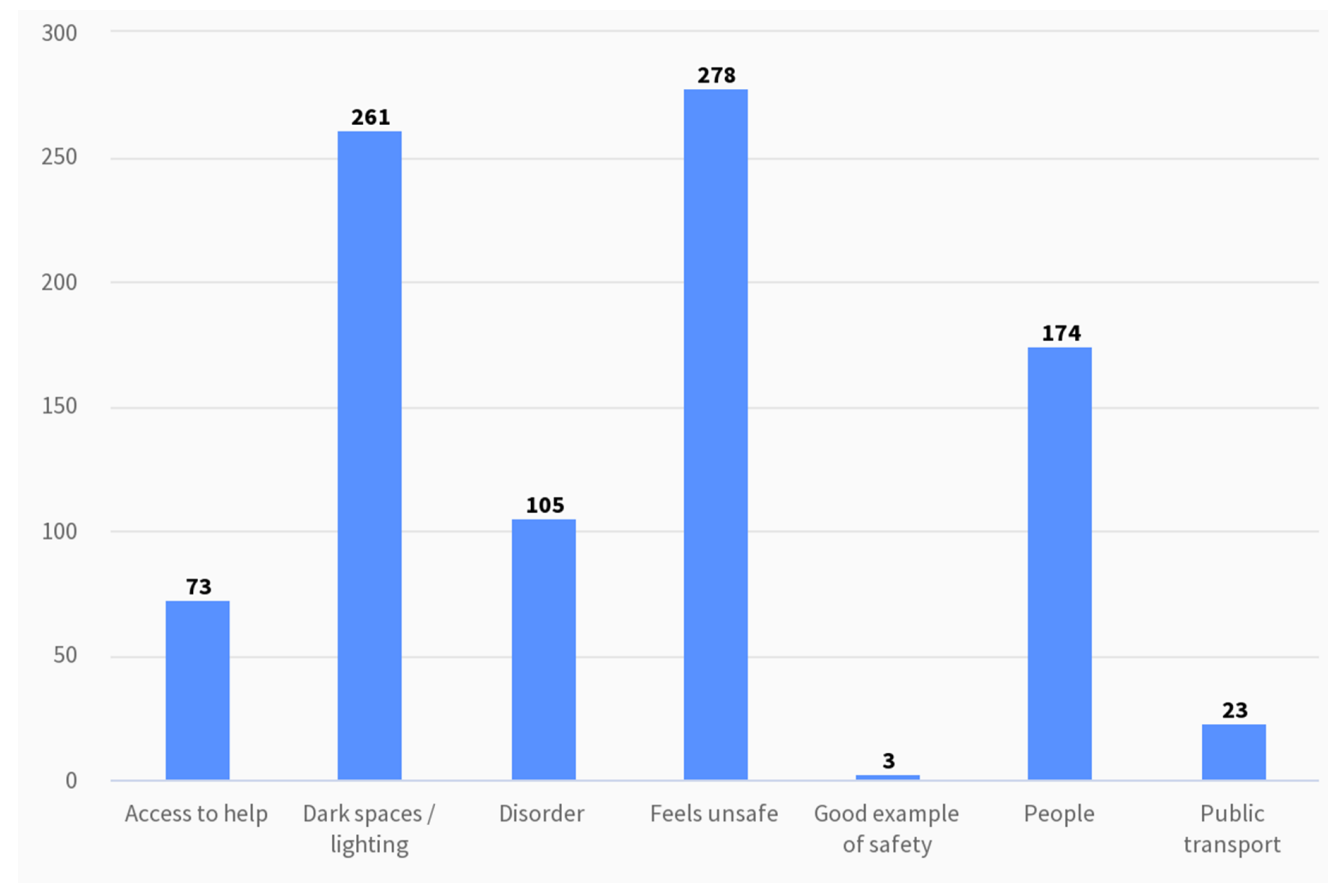
1,463 people took part in Royal Greenwich's consultation online and in-person.

A formal women and girls safety taskforce was then established, overseeing development of new projects to tackle gender-based violence under four key themes. These were broadly focused on the areas of domestic abuse, public space safety, educating people, and equalities and equity.

The Council also continued to seek the views of the public, particularly local women and girls. To ensure resident views were at the heart of any plans, we embarked on a month-long public consultation process from mid-December 2021 to mid-January 2022.

The consultation consisted of an online women and girls' safety survey which focused on public spaces and locations of concern, and people's perceptions of women's public safety in the borough. This saw 1,463 contributions from residents. Analysis of the initial survey results in mid-January 2022 revealed that further consultation was needed to engage our 'need to reach' communities whose voices often go unheard.

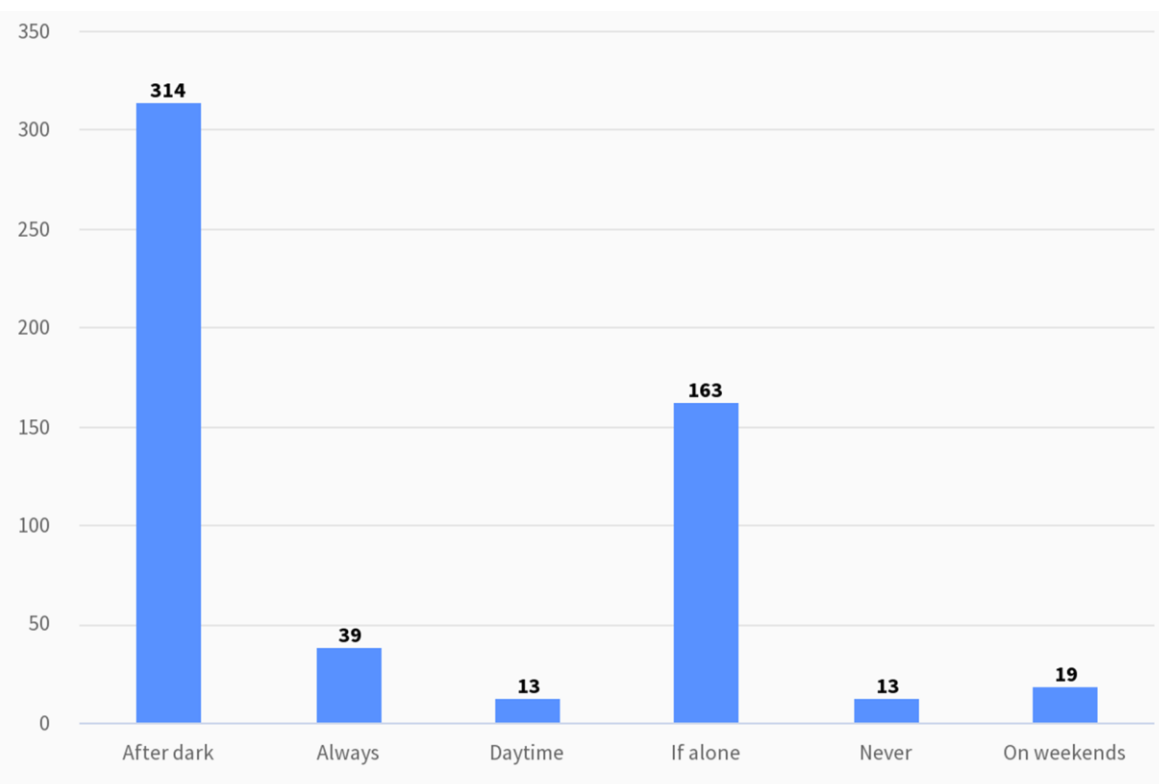
Q. What is it about this place that you are commenting on? Number of responses



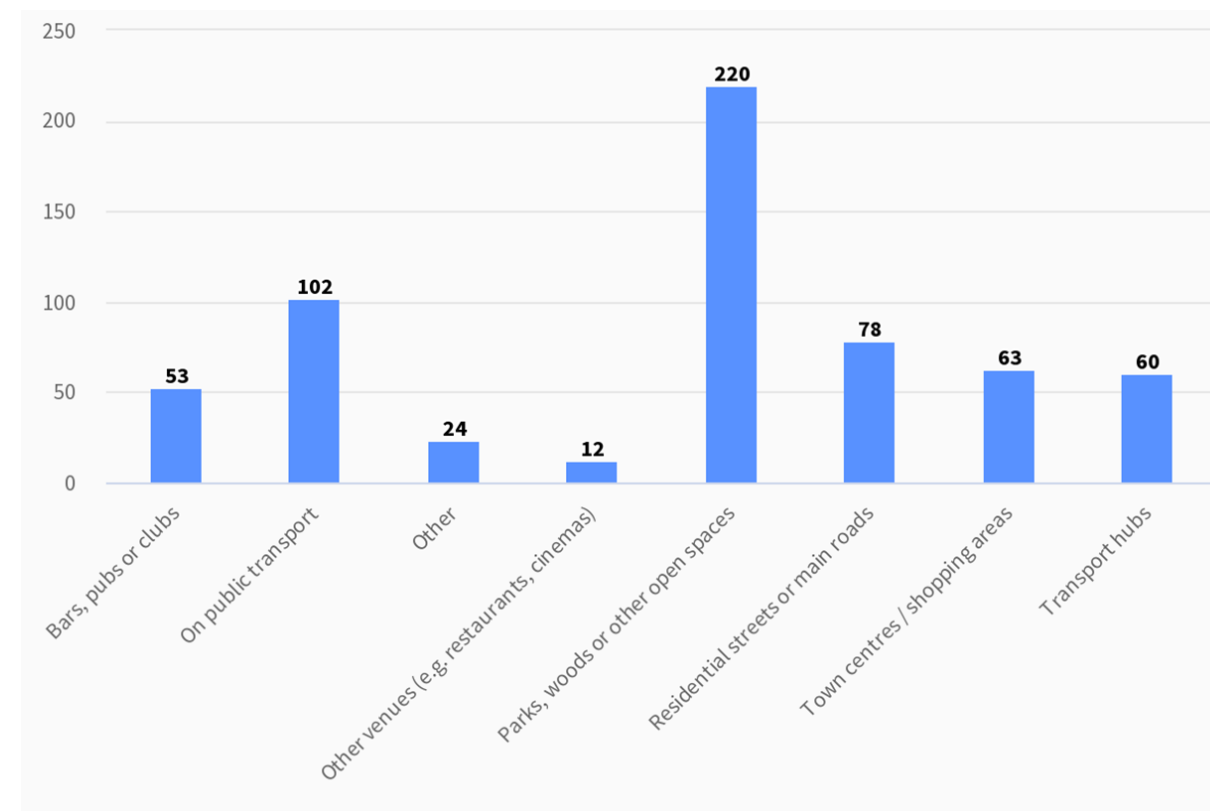
[Source: Greenwich Women's Safety | Commonplace](#)



Q. When would you avoid this area? Number of responses [multiple choice]



Q. Are there new issues here since the coronavirus pandemic? Number of responses [multiple choice]



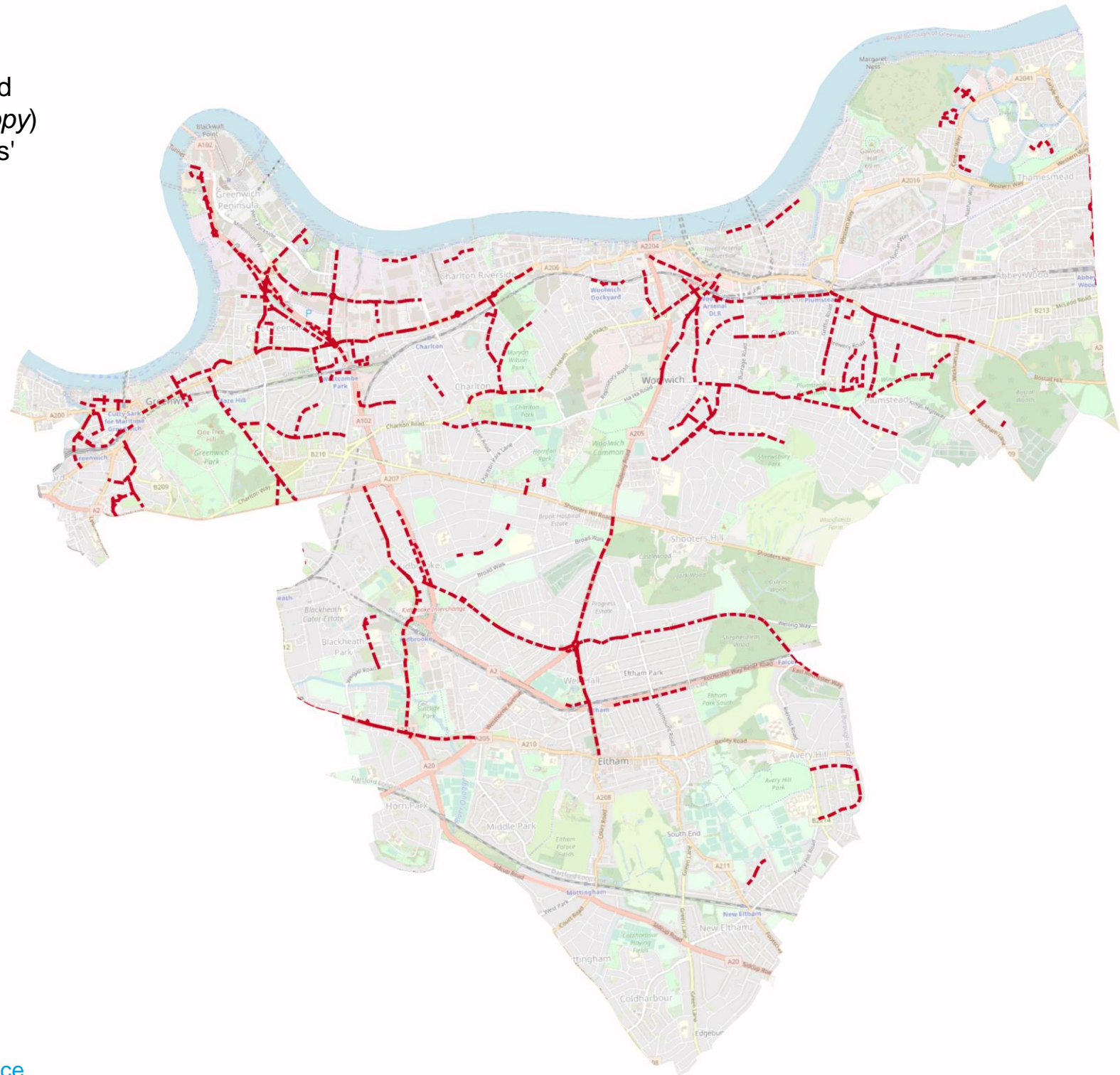
**61%** were happy with the Council **re-prioritising or expanding the Street Lighting Upgrade Programme**, making best use of resident feedback and data to inform decision-making (N=60)

**72%** were happy a Council-led public campaign to **deter poor male behaviour and raise public awareness** (N=70)

**77%** were happy with **campaigns in educational settings and workplaces** to educate boys and men (N=76)

[Source: Greenwich Women's Safety | Commonplace](#)

Roads and streets women and girls reported unsafe (response of '*Dissatisfied*' or '*Unhappy*') per road (N= 210) from the Women and girls' safety survey



Source: [Greenwich Women's Safety](#) | [Commonplace](#)

## Critical incident response to serious violence in Royal Greenwich: a community centred model



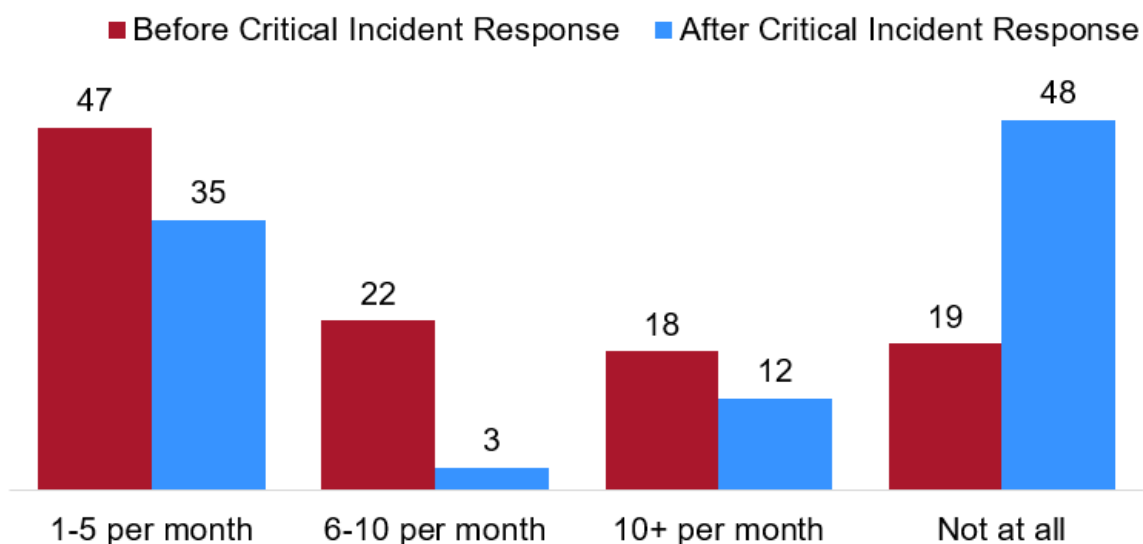
- The Critical Incident Community Response model has been developed to assess impact on local communities and identify appropriate follow up support, following critical incidents. It provides local communities with a “voice” on their needs and concerns and directs local resources in their area.
- Since 2021, there have been eight Critical Incident Community responses delivered in incident locations across the borough. This included areas within Abbey Wood, Eltham, Greenwich Peninsula, Thamesmead, and Woolwich.
- This model delivery has helped shaped funding bids to support crucial ongoing work in critical incident locations. The borough has successfully been awarded £40,000 Critical Incident grant funding and just over £177,000 Capacity Building grant funding.
- The funding has supported delivery of a wide range of activities to assist in building resilience, strengthening community engagement, improving community cohesion and residents' access to support services.
- The Critical Incident Community Response model and Violence Reduction Unit Capacity Building activity delivery is being showcased as best practice Pan London by the Violent Reduction Unit.



Data extracted from comparable survey questions between 2021 and 2023 of critical incident responses for Greenwich Peninsula, Lionel Road, Brookhill, Sewell Road/Titmuss Avenue.

## Q. How often do you witness serious violence and/or exploitation incidents in your community per month?

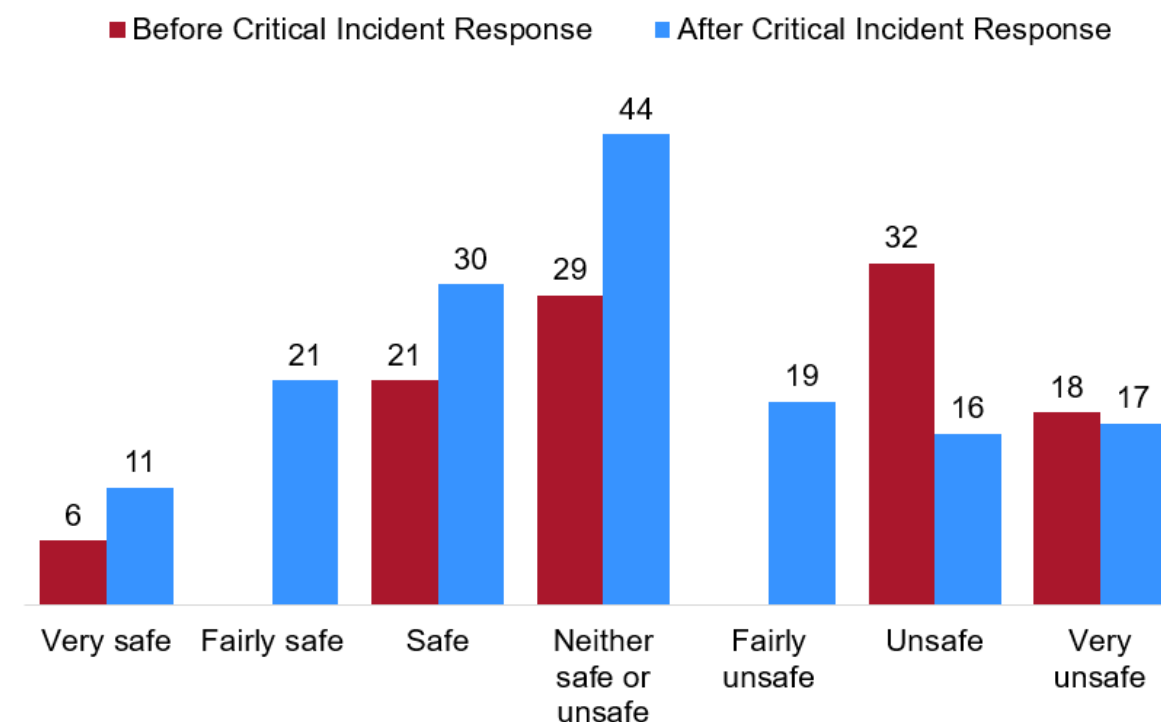
(Number of individuals who responded, N=204)



- Respondents across the total critical incident responses reported an overall reduction in witnessing serious violence in their community.
- Most notably, 21% of respondents before the response reported seeing between 6-10 incidents per month, compared to 3% afterwards.

## Q. How safe do you feel in your community?

(Number of individuals who responded, N=264)



- Respondents across the total critical incident responses reported an overall reduction in witnessing serious violence in their community.
- Most notably, 21% of respondents before the response reported seeing between six to ten incidents per month, compared to 3% afterwards.



Q. What would make you and your family feel safer in your community?

Data extracted from survey questions between 2021 and 2023 of critical incident responses.







## Responses to Critical Incident Response Surveys: Greenwich Peninsula Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Project

- ▶ In 2021, a murder took place in the area, which was witnessed by residents and footage posted online. This incident caused significant alarm and distress throughout the local community.
- ▶ A Critical Incident Community Response was delivered in the location to assess impact on residents and identify appropriate follow up support.
- ▶ The Critical Incident Community Response delivery helped shape the successful VRU capacity building funding bid.
- ▶ Project activities were identified through community and stakeholder engagement and results from the resident's survey.
- ▶ Key aims of the project were; a) bridging the divides and building community and b) increasing community knowledge, confidence and capabilities.
- ▶ These were integrated into wider aims of the partnership and VRU project which were:
  - *To strengthen community engagement, build resilience and improve community cohesion following critical incidents.*
  - *To ensure that the relationship between the community and relevant services is maintained.*
  - *To deliver collaborative communications to the local community, which promotes ongoing targeted work in the location, community events, awareness and prevention messaging.*
  - *To improve residents access to information and services.*
  - *To increase reporting of incidents in the community.*

- ▶ A Peninsula Community Engagement Plan was implemented, setting out key outcomes and holding services to account for the delivery of actions.
- ▶ A partnership newsletter has been developed and is sent out quarterly to all residents on the Peninsula. This covers a range of topics, including promoting ongoing targeted work in the location, community engagement events, crime prevention advice and access to service information.
- ▶ Recent residents survey completed to assess impact of partnership and VRU project activities being delivered to the local community.

There is an embedded partnership network (Royal Borough of Greenwich, Police, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), Peninsula developers, managing agents, security) who meet regularly to deliver collaborative messaging and community engagement events to ALL residents on the Peninsula. This was not always the case and there was a reluctance in the beginning to work in partnership, which was contributing to “us” and “them” (which came out strongly in the 2021 survey results towards social landlord residents).

The Peninsula project was a pilot for the Critical Incident Community Response delivery.

The work delivered in this location has shaped our best practice model, which is now being delivered across the borough (in response to critical incidents).



# CHAPTER 8: REVIEWING EXISTING EVIDENCE



## 8. REVIEW OF EXISTING EVIDENCE

### Key findings from the previous community safety strategic assessment

*Note: Findings taken from the Serious youth violence and exploitation Strategic needs assessment (2021)*

- Prior to the pandemic, Royal Greenwich was ranked amongst the highest London boroughs for Serious Youth Violence.
- Males dominated the gender profile in all crime types as both victims and perpetrators.
- Most knife crime offences involved those under 25-years-old are knife-enabled personal robbery.
- Royal Greenwich accounted for over half of SE-BCU county lines data, however, has proportionately less individuals on County Lines Intelligence Collection Matrix (CLICM), coming second after Lewisham.
- Most impacted towns for county lines were Margate and Thanet in Kent, Bournemouth and Weymouth in Dorset.
- Typical Royal Greenwich representative on the CLICM was a black male aged 18 to 25 and whose involvement classified as “workforce”.

### Key findings from a recent Tactical Tasking and Coordinating Group (TTCG) analysis on serious violence

*Narrative provided in March 2023*

- Cannabis factories linked to Organised Crime appear to be re-emerging with sophisticated grows being uncovered.
- The expanding public transport network means that people intent on criminality are finding it ever easier to move about resulting in individuals coming to notice on the borough from other places are becoming more prominent. These locations are becoming more widespread. This also has the reverse effect with individuals known appearing in other locations.
- The use of face coverings naturally still occurs but as carrying these is more common this can result in it being harder to pre-empt crimes when individuals are spotted.
- The demographics are relatively static, but it is noted that suspects are becoming younger with regards to violent and gang crime. Of note is the COVID-19 pandemic period had little impact on the demographics but did see a reduction in certain crime types due to the lockdowns.
- The use/threat of knives in robberies appears to be on the increase with both victims and suspects often being of school age. Therefore, it appears knife carriage ages are on the decrease.

## Key findings from serious case reviews involving children

### Child A

There were early indications that Child A was involved in criminal exploitation (age 12), however, the support lost focus on this. Information sharing between agencies was not good enough at times and meant robust safeguarding assessments were not carried out. Services were slow to respond in the weeks prior to Child A's death, when significant events escalated.

#### Learning and recommendations:

- Child A's situation mirrors other similar reports that young black boys of African/Caribbean heritage are more at risk of being susceptible to criminal exploitation. They are also overrepresented in school exclusions and the criminal justice system. This highlights the gender and ethnicity structural inequalities to be addressed. The family moving across boroughs frequently led to limited meaningful access to services and support.
- Early signs of criminal exploitation were not explored fully by agencies. All agencies require an understanding of criminal exploitation to promote more effective early intervention as well as the use of and impact of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) should be fully understood by staff as it had no impact on this case.
- A multi-agency strategy meeting did not take place following an incident where Child A had drugs in his mouth, and it could have provided an opportunity to intervene at an earlier stage.

### Child E

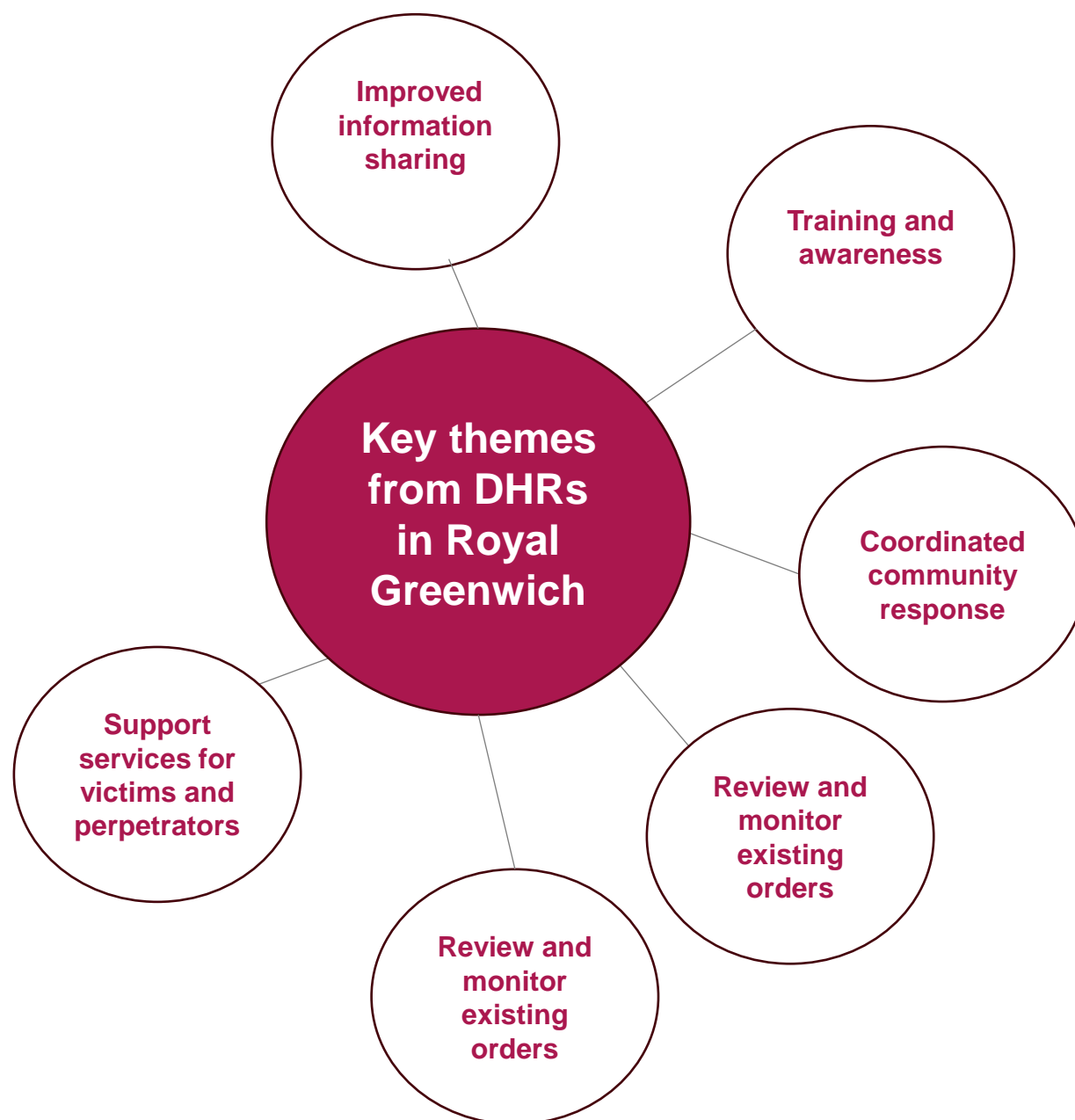
Child E was fatally stabbed within seconds of two groups approaching each other in Woolwich Town Centre in July 2021. Nine days before the death of Child E, there was an altercation between two groups of young people out of borough whereby a young person was non-fatally stabbed. Neither group are believed to have been associated with a gang and Child E was not present at this incident.

Following this, threats were made between the groups on social media, and this escalated to the incident in which Child E was killed. It is not clear why Child E was present during the second incident, nor would he have known what was likely to occur.

#### Learning and recommendations:

- Test whether the referral and assessment of adolescents who are at risk respond effectively to the rapid escalation in risk
- Promote school attendance and reduce exclusion rates for high-risk young people
- Review the effectiveness of responses to families from black and minority ethnic communities to consider how best to promote a greater ability to understand and discuss their experiences, values and perspectives
- Increase awareness of the vulnerability of children who have been moved overseas by their families
- Increase awareness of the role that social media may play in heightening risk to young people, including in relation to serious youth violence and include social media use in assessments of risk and need
- Maintain oversight of the effectiveness of services to safeguard children from exploitation and extra-familial harm, including the coordination of multi-agency activity.
- Test the effectiveness of the response made by practitioners to the needs of those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including speech and language difficulties) to ensure that the heightened vulnerability to exploitation is recognised and a strong, timely response is provided

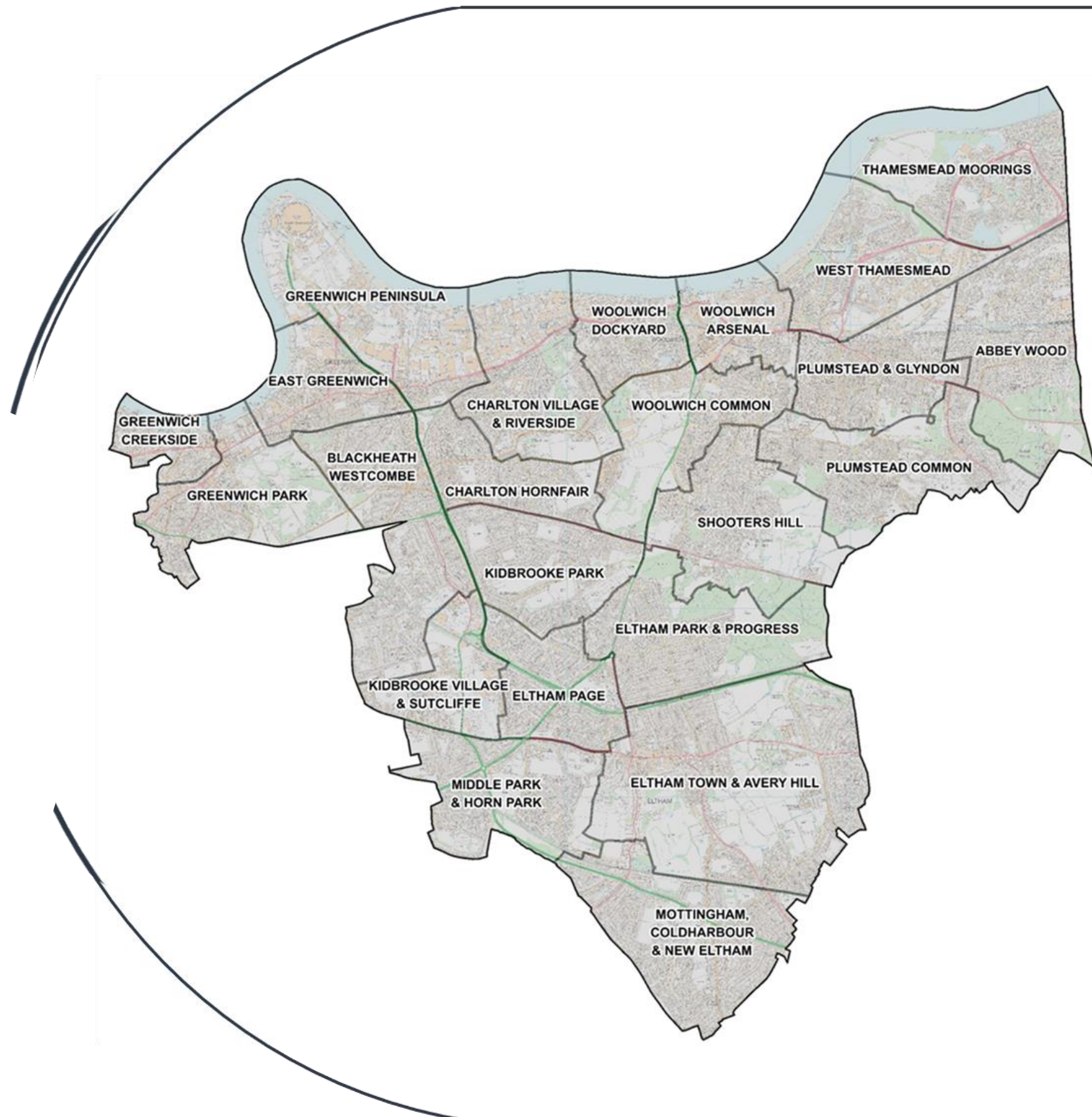
## Key findings from Royal Greenwich Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)



- Agencies, such as the police, health services, social care, and specialist domestic abuse services, must have systems in place to facilitate more effective sharing of information regarding high-risk domestic abuse cases.
- Implement a centralised database or platform where all relevant agencies can access real-time data and information.
- Regular training should be mandated for all professionals who may work with victims, including GPs, social workers, police officers, and housing officials. This ensures they can spot the signs of domestic abuse and understand the best actions to take.
- Domestic abuse awareness campaigns should be run in communities to help the public recognise signs and report concerns.
- Establish a coordinated approach, often referred to as a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), where multiple agencies work together to support high-risk victims.
- Ensure that high-risk victims have a clear and safe pathway to access support and services.
- Regularly review the effectiveness of orders such as restraining orders, non-molestation orders, and other protective measures. Ensure they are being adhered to, and that breaches are responded to swiftly and robustly.
- Consider the use of electronic monitoring for perpetrators in high-risk cases.
- Ensure that support services, such as shelters, counselling, and helplines, are adequately funded, accessible, and well-publicised.
- Offer intervention programmes for perpetrators to address and change their behaviour.



# CHAPTER 9: MAPPING CURRENT PROVISIONS





# LIVE YOUR LIFE. ***DROP THE KNIFE.***



In the last **two years**, 12 lives  
were taken by knives in **Greenwich**\*

**LET'S LIVE  
#KNIFEFREE**

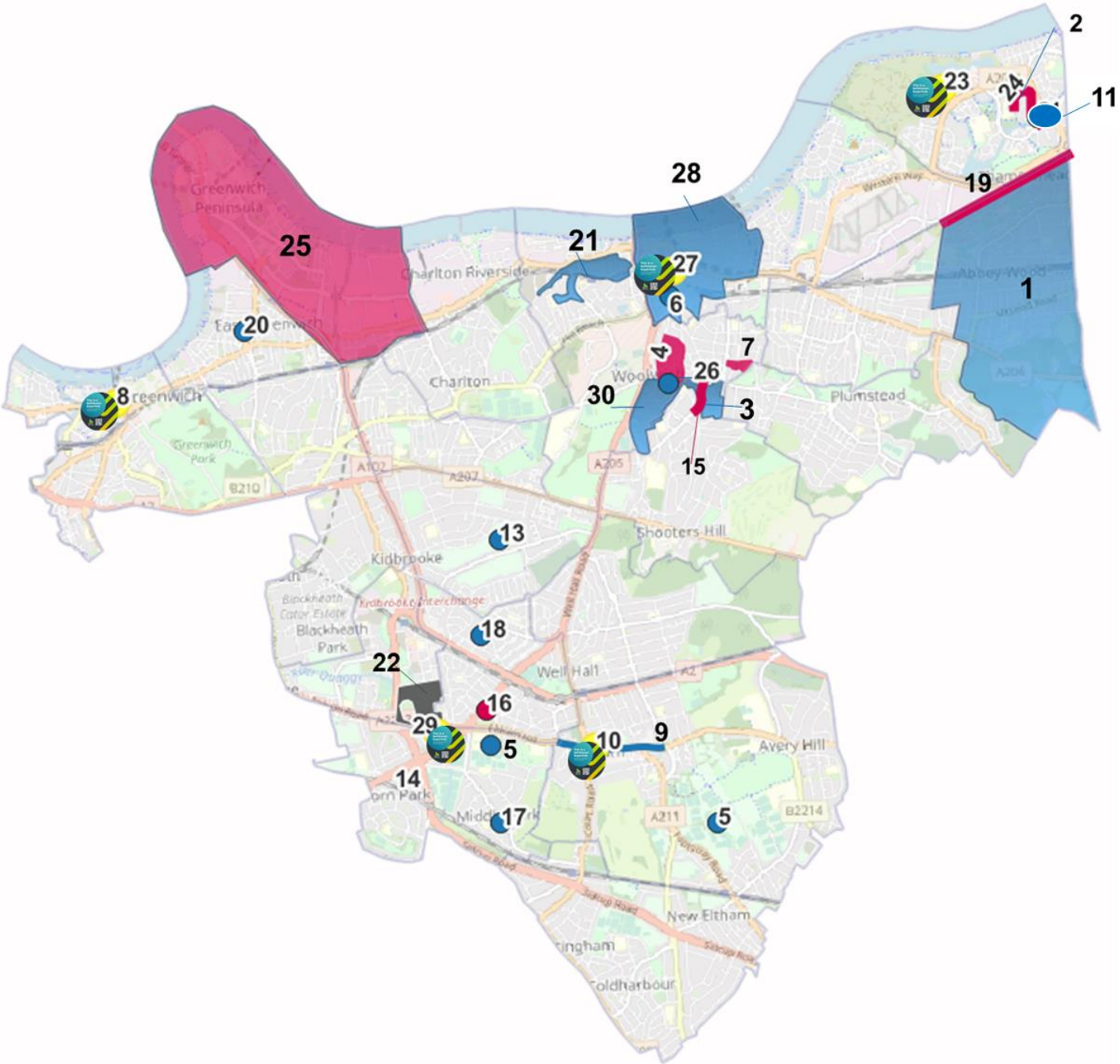




9. MAPPING CURRENT PROVISION

Place-based serious violence delivery in Royal Greenwich between 2022/23 and early 2023/24: Critical incident responses have shaped the successful funding bids to support ongoing delivery of activities in these locations. The VRU Community Capacity Building funding is delivering a range of project activities on the Peninsula and Abbey Wood.

Contextual Safeguarding	Abbey Wood	1
	Arnott Close	2
	Barnfield Estate	3
	CACT Detachment Youth Engage	5
	CACT Detachment Youth Engage	6
	Eltham High Street	9
	Gogi's	11
	Haddo Estate	12
	Halley Academy	13
	Harris Academy	14
	Middle Park	17
	Newhaven PRU	18
	St Mary Magdalene School	20
	St Mary's Estate	21
	Woolwich Common Youth Club	26
	Woolwich Town Centre	28
Critical Incident Response	Brook Hill Close	4
	Congleton Grove	7
	Herbert Road	15
	Lionel Road	16
	Sewell Road	19
	Titmuss Avenue Peninsula	24
Safehaven Superhubs	Cutty Sark McDonald's	8
	Eltham High Street McDonald's	10
	Thamesmead McDonald's	23
	Woolwich McDonald's	27
Park Safety Improvement Project	Yorkshire Grey McDonald's	29
	Sutcliffe Park	22





## Service delivery overview of Growing Against Violence via the London Crime Prevention Fund and Violence Reduction Unit

### Who is the service for?

This service will be available to all Royal Borough of Greenwich primary, secondary and alternative education provisions in the borough and delivered to Year 6 through to Year 10 pupils, from all backgrounds.

This service will be delivered in close partnership with the Safer Communities Team to ensure the programme is delivered as part of a set of interventions to support schools in tackling serious violence and exploitation.

All primary schools in the borough will be offered the Year 6 element of the programme which will aim to support our early intervention and preventative work to stop young people being involved in gang and criminal activity.

### What is it achieving?

- **...enabling** a minimum of 3,150 pupils per year to have an increased resilience against becoming a victim of violence and exploitation.
- **...aiming** to reduce the appeal of violence to young people and improve their confidence in the Police.
- **...alerting** the Royal Greenwich Serious Violence team to any issues (including safeguarding concerns) to ensure that relevant schools and individuals receive follow up support.
- **...assisting** with identifying any emerging themes in primary, secondary and alternative education provisions, which may require a Council partnership response.
- **...supporting** the borough's critical incident community response, co-ordinated by the Safer Communities Team and will be offered as part of a support package to local schools in critical incident locations.

- The Royal Borough of Greenwich will provide £25,000 per year from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) London Crime Prevention Fund for Growing Against Violence to deliver the preventative education programme.
- The service will be sufficiently flexible to modify provision when issues are identified through performance monitoring. In particular, the service will be required to work with the Council and its partners to identify any changes that may need to be made to provision.

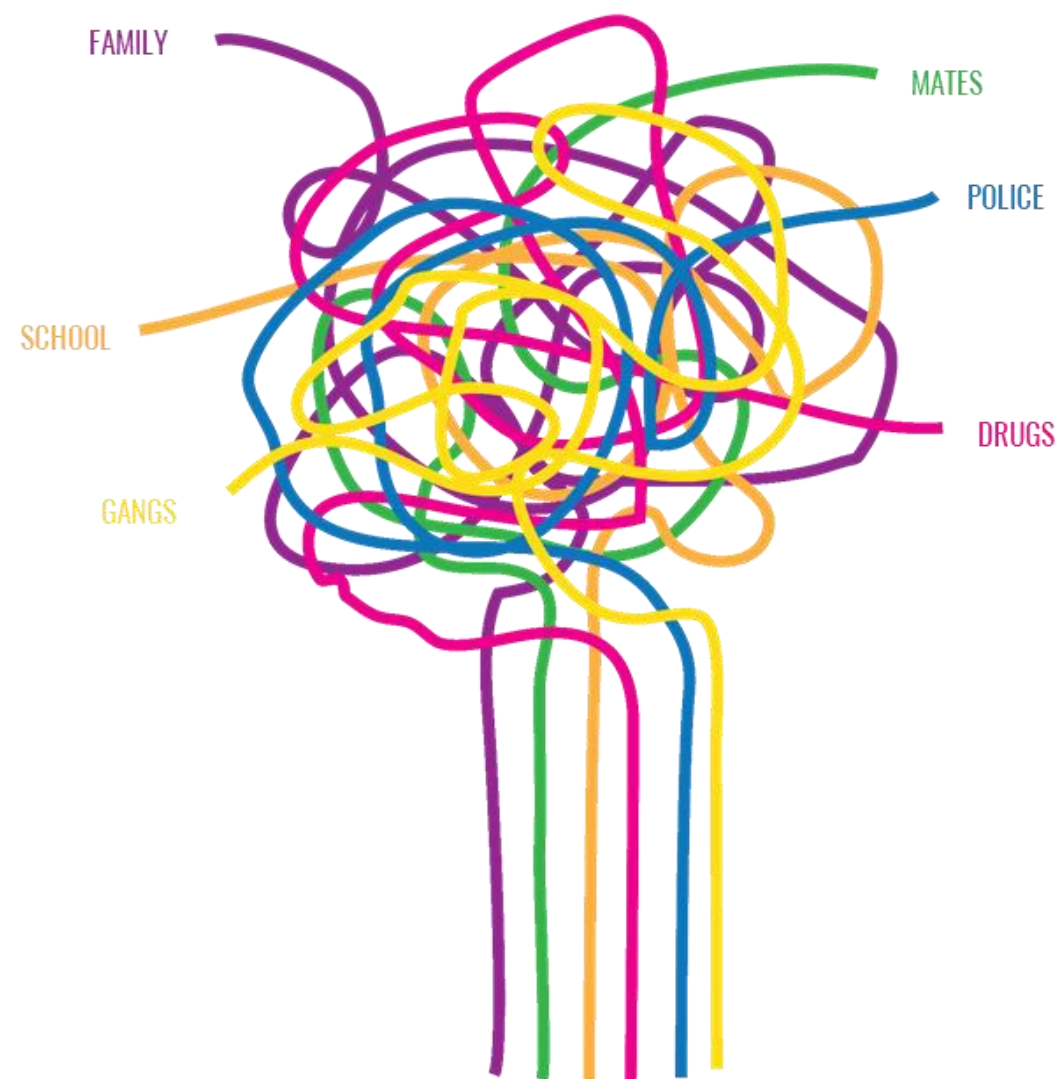
## SHiFT Greenwich

SHiFT Greenwich opened as SHiFT's second pilot practice, in partnership with the Royal Borough of Greenwich in July 2021. In September 2022, Royal Greenwich successfully secured additional funding from the Greater London Violence Reduction Unit to pilot SHiFT's approach in partnership with two local schools. This enabled the practice to recruit two further guides and appoint a senior guide to work with an additional 10 to 12 children.

In March 2023, the practice started working with a second group of children and families.

- SHiFT has high aspirations; they see beyond children's problems
- They reach and support young people everywhere, regardless of barriers like age or borders
- They guide them through transitions; there's no cut-off at 18
- They help young people reshape self-perception and challenge others' views, believing in them until they do
- SHiFT assists in changing behaviours by supporting children and their families
- SHiFT guides offer focused, effective support by simplifying relationships and making systems more coherent for families to navigate

SHiFT exists to break the destructive cycle of children and young people caught up in, or at risk of, crime. The diagram below represents the array of areas young people may require support with.



For more information, please visit: <https://shiftuk.org/what-we-do/shift-difference>

## Charlton Athletic Community Trust: Street Violence Ruins Lives

Charlton Athletic Community Trust's (CACT) risk and violence reduction work has grown out of traditional social inclusion activities, alongside the development of specific prison-based programmes and work with statutory services.

The aim is to engage young people who are either at risk of becoming involved or are already involved in the criminal justice system. Staff report to the Street Violence Ruins Lives (SVRL) Committee, established in 2008 following the tragic murder of 17-year-old Rob Knox.

Rob's parents, Colin and Sally, are members of the SVRL Committee, with Sally being employed as a CACT life coach. Her life testimony actively supports work in schools and in targeted areas of high youth crime.

- **Community initiatives** – Organised within estates and recognised areas of criminal activity
- **Detached youth engagement** in violent hotspots, and critical incident locations
- **On-the-ground outreach** – Teams are sent to specific sites where serious offences have occurred
- **Positive youth programmes** – Activities designed to offer young people constructive alternatives to adverse behaviours
- **Select residential excursions** – For youths involved in crime prevention schemes
- **Support in schools** – For young individuals who've become disengaged with the educational environment
- **Topic-specific workshops** – Concentrating on areas like county lines, raising awareness about exploitation, and trauma training
- **Dedicated assistance** – For youngsters signposted by affiliated organisations, such as social services
- **Personalised mentoring** – Tailored for those deeply entrenched in negative patterns, like gang ties or known weapon possession





## National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework: New investment in drug and alcohol treatment

To support its 10-year drugs plan – From harm to hope, and incorporating the recommendations of the Dame Carol Black review, the government has committed over £3 billion of new investment in drug and alcohol treatment over three years.

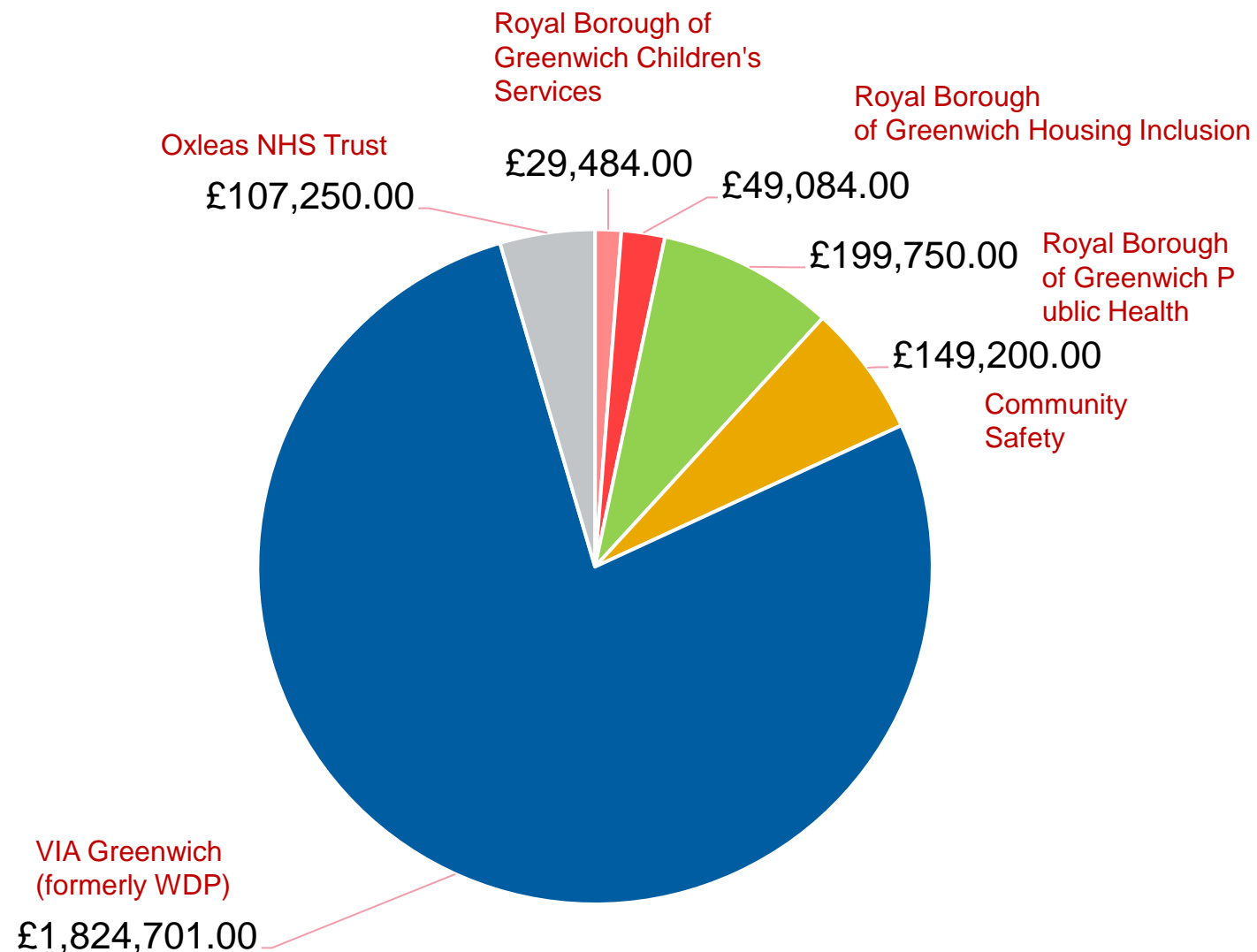
**Royal Greenwich** has been successful in bidding for two grant funds totalling **£2.8m** over three years from 2022 to 2025, with further grant funding to be agreed in 2024\*

**£2.1m** Supplementary substance misuse treatment and recovery grant (SSMTRG)

**£741,741** Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG)

This additional investment means that there will be a significant enhancement across the local drug and alcohol treatment system, through workforce investment and the development of wraparound support targeting those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

The chart opposite demonstrates how this investment is being allocated across the local partnership.



RSDATG Year 3 funding subject to review in Year 2, payments to be determined by outcomes. Source: Greenwich Combatting Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment<sup>xxviii</sup>

# National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework

## New investment in drug and alcohol treatment

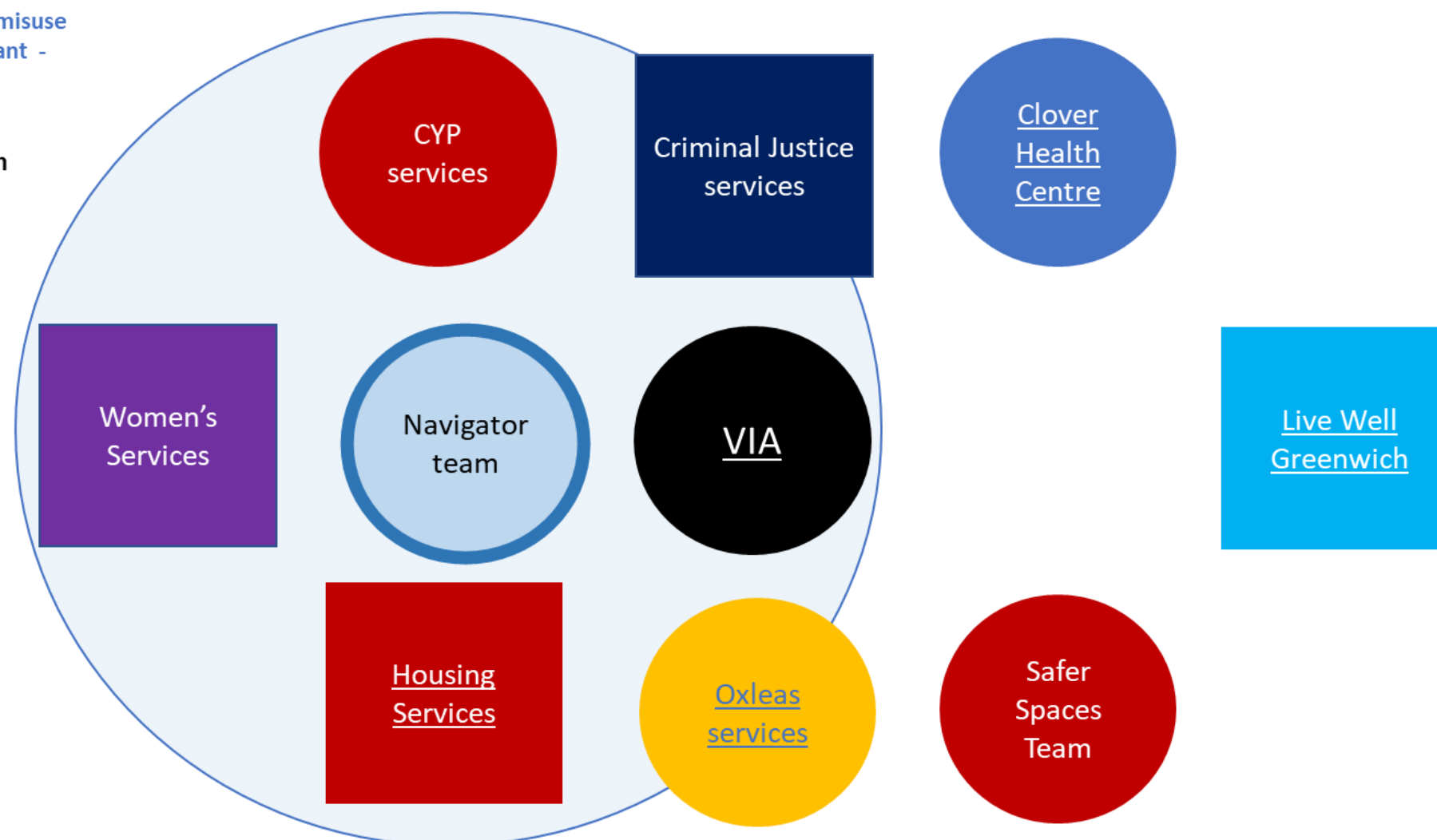
### SSMTRG

#### OHID

Supplementary substance misuse  
treatment and recovery grant -  
SSMTRG

Three year funding from  
2022/3 to 2024/5, £2.1m  
in total\*

- To enhance service provision
- Improve joint working
- Improve pathways
- Reduce attrition rates
- Prevent Drug related deaths
- Improve access for marginalised – hard to reach cohorts
- Investment in workforce development
- Improve treatment outcomes



\* Additional SSMTRG funding = 500k in 2022/23, 600k in 2023/24, and 1m in 2024/5

■ Denotes service area/resources ● Denotes dedicated team

RSDATG Year 3 funding subject to review in Year 2, payments to be determined by outcomes. Source: Greenwich Combatting Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment<sup>xxviii</sup>

## Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) in Royal Greenwich schools

All schools (primary, secondary, academies, and independent) should be following the statutory guidance for Relationships, Health and Sex Education.

### Mental health and wellbeing grants:

£850,000 has been funded to 92 educational settings (including nurseries and alternative providers) for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing support.

The projects covered have a focus on increasing specific mental health support (counselling, therapy etc) but also include support or resources that will promote respectful relationships between pupils, build their personal and social skills, resilience and self-confidence. Examples include:

- Social skills training/support for managing emotions in 15 settings
- PSHE programme/resources/training in 18 settings
- Play equipment/training on how to interact positively with others in 14 settings
- Safer space resources in one setting
- Peer mediation/conflict resolution/restorative approaches training and support in 17 settings
- Knife crime education in one setting

### Promotion of Positive Relationships:

All schools have a duty under the Equality Act of 2010 to:

- ▶ Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act
- ▶ Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- ▶ Foster good relations across all characteristics between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- ▶ All schools will (should) have an equalities statement published on their website, which explains this duty





## Domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Royal Greenwich

### ► GREENWICH PRIMARY CARE DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

The Royal Borough of Greenwich, supported by the Her Centre, introduced the Identification and Referrals to Improve Safety (IRIS) project locally just before lockdown in September 2020. The IRIS project, now Greenwich Primary Care Domestic Abuse Service, trains GPs and other doctor surgery staff in how to spot and respond to the victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse, including how and where people can get the help they need. They also have a crucial role in ensuring that victims are referred for specialist support and in preventing homicides. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, a growing number of GP surgeries have been fully trained and more are signing up.

► **SAFECORE.** The Council developed SafeCORE to support children and families experiencing domestic abuse or family conflict who do not always need social care. SafeCORE works with families for up to six months and focuses on engaging fathers and male partners while making sure the 'voice of the child' is always heard. The programme aims to address underlying issues for families and works to prevent future escalation of conflict. Key elements of SafeCORE includes:

- intensive, relationship-based interventions with families
- compassion focused approach to service delivery
- building sustainability and resilience with families.

### ► DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR GROUP

► In early 2021, the Council secured repeat funding from the Home Office to launch a domestic abuse perpetrator project, to improve our response to high-risk domestic abuse with a focus on repeat offenders. As well as closer monitoring and information sharing between partners including probation, the project offers an offender focused therapeutic and counselling programme, which is being provided by the Mary Dolly Foundation.



- Discrepancies between Police recorded ethnicity and self-identified ethnicity (SDE) groups was noticeable particularly within the SDE 'Mixed' group. Many SDE mixed victims and offenders were recorded as 'Black' by the Police.
- Community insight has been analysed using self-reported surveys, including online tools, as the primary method of data collection. There is limited content in this assessment via other qualitative methods such as focus groups and semi structured interviews specifically on serious violence as defined in this assessment.
- The data in this report is focused on Royal Greenwich residents, and Royal Greenwich-related issues based on location. It does not seek to draw possible comparisons to other boroughs due to the lack of standardised analytical and reporting methodology of similar data from either the same source, or similar. It is therefore advised not to compare this assessment with other borough's findings.
- A variety of datasets have been used, meaning time frames across different chapters cannot be aligned and therefore local, regional, and national context must apply when interpreting each finding.
- Data collection, analysis, and reporting has been undertaken with the intent to show most accurate picture of serious violence as defined in this assessment. Any discrepancies or amendments will be made clear as an update following the initial publication.
- Victim and suspect data has been used to compare demography of each group. This assessment does not include accused data, which is to be reviewed for inclusion in the next assessment.
- Ethnicity data across all datasets does vary and is inconsistent across the assessment. Some data has used strictly broader ethnic groups e.g. White, Asian, Black, Other. Where more granular ethnic groupings have been recorded, data has been analysed to differentiate between sub-ethnic groups, e.g. White British, White Irish.
- A more detailed understanding is needed of Sanction Detection (SD) rates of crimes in Royal Greenwich, not only as an investigating borough shown in public police datasets.

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Appendix A: Serious violence offence list (domestic abuse offences account for any Total Notifiable Offence with a domestic abuse flag).

Crime section	Crime group	Offence
Robbery	Robbery of Personal Property	Robbery of personal property
Sexual Offences	Other Sexual Offences	Exposure and Voyeurism Sexual assault on a Female aged 13 and over Sexual Assault on a Female Child under 13 Sexual Activity involving a Child under 16 Sexual Grooming Sexual Assault on a Male child under 13 Assault on a female by penetration. Sexual Activity involving a Child under 13 Abuse of Children through Sexual Exploitation Sexual Assault on a Male aged 13 and over Incest or Familial Sexual Offences Sexual Activity etc with a Person with a Mental Disorder 'Upskirting' Causing Sexual Activity without Consent Other Miscellaneous Sexual Offences
	Rape	Rape of a Female aged 16 and over Rape of a Male aged 16 and over Rape of a Female Child under 13 Rape of a Female Child under 16 Rape of a Male Child under 13 Rape of a Male Child under 16
Violence Against the Person	Homicide	Murder Manslaughter Infanticide
	Violence with Injury	Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm without Intent Actual Bodily harm and other Injury Wounding or Carrying out an act Endangering Life Wounding Amounting to GBH or Inflicting GBH (Inflicting Bodily Harm with or Without Weapon) on a Constable Possession of items to Endanger Life Assault occasioning actual bodily harm on Emergency Worker (other than a Constable) Assaults Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm on a Constable

Crime section	Crime group	Offence
Violence Against the Person	Violence with Injury	Racially or Religiously Aggravated Actual Bodily Harm and other Injury Attempted Murder Poisoning Unlawfully and Maliciously Wound / GBH an Emergency Worker (other than a Constable) with Intent to cause GBH Cause GBH with intent on Constable to resist/prevent arrest  Use of Substance or Object to Endanger Life Causing Death by Dangerous Driving Causing Death by Careless or Inconsiderate Driving Female Genital Mutilation Causing Death by Aggravated Vehicle Taking Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation
	Violence without Injury	Threats to Kill

## Appendix B. Crime data analysis methodology

All crime data used in this report has been provided by the HQ Strategy & Governance department at the Metropolitan Police.

1. **Which time periods have been used?** All data has been recorded between calendar years 2021 and 2022, with an offence *committed from date* between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2022.
2. **How has the location been defined?** This is defined where the Ward Borough venue location was recorded as Royal Greenwich.
3. **Counting offences:** Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs) only, no Incidents have been included in this analysis. Using data field '*Offence count*' in the dataset provided, this column displays the total number of offences per crime Unique Reference Number (URN). These numbers were summed to give a total of offences per crime group/offence type.
4. **Serious violence offences:** Using the agreed definition on page 7 in this document. The offence types is listed in the [Appendix A](#).
5. **Domestic abuse offences.** Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. These offences have been analysed as all offences with a Domestic Abuse flag.
6. **Sexual violence offences:** All forms of Sexual Offences are listed in [Appendix A](#). All Sexual Offences fall under the Serious Violence definition.
7. **Knife-flagged offences.** Any 'serious violence offence' which has one or more of the following flags; Knife Injury, Knife Threatened, and/or Knife Intimated.
8. **Victims and suspects.** Both have been linked to the crime URNs provided in the dataset. This means all victims and suspects account for the crimes defined in the time periods in point 1.

#### Limitations and considerations of Police data used

9. Due to the nature of the data supply, this data has been shared under GDPR compliance with Local Authority analysts and Metropolitan Police.
10. The raw data used for crime analysis report cannot be published in the public domain.
11. It is not recommended to compare this dataset with publicly accessible crime data. For example, the Metropolitan Police Service Crime Dashboard, as the methodologies and 'borough' definitions are different.
12. If there are six offences recorded in one URN, with a knife feature code, this means all six offences are knife-flagged offences.
13. At present, there is no standardised methodology between boroughs, so outputs are specifically undertaken for Royal Greenwich offences only.
14. As a consequence of point 5, rankings of crime groups by London boroughs has not been included.
15. A victim is a person who has suffered harm which was directly caused by a criminal offence. That includes physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss. A close relative of a person whose death was directly caused by a criminal offence is also a victim.
16. A suspect is a person who is believed or imagined to have committed a crime or done something wrong, often on slight evidence or without proof. A suspect can also be a person or institution who is accused or sued in a court of law.



Appendix C: Proposed recommended minimum dataset

Minimum dataset to be collected by all services	Expanded dataset
<div><b>Type of VAWG</b> <div>Physical, psychological, sexual (plus additional types) → Document all types of VAWG</div></div>	<div><b>Geography</b> Where incident occurred (Address/postcode)</div>
<div><b>Survivor</b> <div>Age (Date of Birth) → Birth Sex (M/F) → Ethnicity<sup>1</sup></div></div>	<div><b>Location</b> Type of location: home, public space, school, work, online, other</div>
<div><b>Survivor/perpetrator relationship</b> <div><div>Current intimate partner Former intimate partner Family member Guardian/care provider</div><div>Friend/colleague/peer/acquaintance Other (un)/known to survivor</div></div></div>	<div><b>Referral or service provided</b> Yes, no, survivor declined, N/A</div>
<div><b>Perpetrator(s)</b> <div>Age (Date of Birth) → Birth Sex (M/F) → Ethnicity<sup>1</sup></div></div>	

<sup>1</sup> In line with Census 2021 ethnicity groupings.