

# Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment Refresh 2022

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 KENT  
**ANALYTICS**

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# Contents

## Scope of report

Executive summary – Update of key metrics

Executive summary – Domestic abuse and children & young people

## Part 1 – Update of key metrics

Prevalence (from Crime Survey for England and Wales)

Kent Police recorded incidence

Kent Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences  
Safe Accommodation

Community support services (KIDAS & DAVSS)

Homelessness

## Part 2 – Domestic abuse and children & young people

Kent Police recorded incidence

Kent Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences  
KCC Children's Services

Children's safeguarding

Health

Safe Accommodation

Community support services (KIDAS & DAVSS)

Housing

Summary – C&YP affected by DA happening in adults around them

Summary – C&YP experiencing DA in their own relationships or behaving in an abusive way

Gaps in C&YP data and planned future developments

Support for C&YP affected by DA

Models of care

Voice of C&YP

Literature references

## Previous Needs Assessment Recommendation Updates

# Scope of report

Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires local authorities to **assess the need for support** for victims of domestic abuse and their children who may need access to **safe accommodation**.

A full DA needs assessment was conducted in 2020 and the 2021 refresh specifically focused on developing an understanding of available safe accommodation, exploring who is able to access support, how people are referred, why people cannot access support and any issues around 'moving on'. Both reports are available [here](#).

The two key objectives of the 2022 needs assessment refresh are:

1. To update key metrics around the profile of DA in Kent (excluding Medway)
2. To develop an understanding of DA in relation to children and young people (C&YP), exploring the prevalence, current service provision, models of care and what C&YP say they need in terms of support and education around DA.

# Executive summary

## Update of key metrics



- National DA prevalence for 2021/22, as reported to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), [has remained at around 6%<sup>1</sup>](#). However, there is evidence to suggest that the [10 year trend is downward](#).
- Since 2018, the number of [DA related crimes reported to Kent Police have remained relatively stable](#), at around 29,000 crimes per year.
  - There was a [slight decrease of -3.1% reported crimes in 2021](#), following an increase in reports in 2020 during the lockdowns.
  - [Most districts in Kent have a higher number of crimes per 1,000 population](#) than the national average, with the exception of West Kent districts.
  - Whilst the number of DA related crimes remains stable, the [proportion of repeat victims has increased](#) over the past 5 years to 43.7% in 2021, and the [proportion of crimes graded as high risk has gradually decreased](#) over the past 3 years to 6.9% in 2021.
- The [number of MARAC<sup>2</sup> cases is increasing](#), however the number of [cases discussed per 10,000 population remains below the number recommended by SafeLives](#).
  - [MARAC referrals](#) from the police have declined by 25% over the past 5 years, however they are increasing from other agencies, such as IDVAs, social care, mental health and substance misuse.

<sup>1</sup>Based on adults aged 16-59 (England & Wales). [2021/22 data should be interpreted with caution due to the low sample size of this wave of the survey](#).

<sup>2</sup> [Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference](#)

# Executive summary

## Update of key metrics



- In 2021/22, there were [262 survivors in Kent KIDAS refuges](#), an increase of 1 survivor compared to the previous year.
  - [Nearly two thirds of survivors in refuges were aged between 16 and 35 years old](#) (63.4%). However, there was an increase of 5 survivors in refuge aged between 56 and 65 years old compared to 2020/21 (+71.4%).
  - [64.9% of survivors in refuges identified as white British](#). There were an additional 13 white British survivors compared to 2020/21 (+8.3%).
  - [6.5% of survivors in refuges identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or pansexual in 2021/22](#), which was above the 2.9% reported nationally. There were an additional 5 survivors who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or pansexual compared to 2020/21 (+41.7%).
  - [14.1% of survivors in refuges had a disability in 2021/22](#). There were an additional 13 disabled survivors compared to the 2020/21 (+54.2%).
- In 2021/22, there was an [18% increase in survivors accessing community DA support services](#) provided in Kent by [KIDAS and DAVSS](#) (+672 survivors).
  - In West Kent and North Kent, there is some [disparity between the volume of DA related crimes reported to Kent Police and the number of survivors accessing DA community support services](#).
  - These services have also increased their demographic reach compared to 2020/21 ([+50 survivors aged 65+](#), [+38 male survivors](#), [+159 disabled survivors](#))
- In 2021/22, there was a [10% increase in Kent households owed prevention or relief duty due to DA](#) compared to the previous year\*.
  - [Most districts saw an increase](#), Swale showing the largest increase (+60%).
  - Data collated from 10 of the 12 District and Borough councils for the first 6 months of 2022 suggests 6 are showing an increase this year

# Executive summary

## DA and C&YP



- It is now widely accepted that living with DA can significantly affect children<sup>3</sup> and as a result of exposure to DA they can suffer from multiple physical and mental health consequences<sup>4</sup>.
- Modelled prevalence estimates [20,615 children aged 0 – 17 in Kent are living in households where a parent is suffering DA](#)<sup>5</sup>.
- In 2021, [40% of DA incidents reported to Kent Police had a child \(or children\) recorded as an involved party](#) (where they may have witnessed the abuse). This equates to around 1,500 incidents a month.
  - On average over the past 5 years, [almost three quarters of children recorded by Kent Police as being an involved party on DA incidents were aged under 11](#) (74.4%).
- In 2021/22, [DA was a key reason for family support in around 15% of KCC Early Help assessments and reviews](#) and a [factor in around 43% of social care Child & Family assessments](#).
- There may be some evidence that up to [about half of the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership active and published reviews since 2019 may have had some elements of DA](#).

<sup>3</sup> Millar, Annemarie, John Devaney, and Michelle Butler. "Emotional intelligence: Challenging the perceptions and efficacy of 'soft skills' in policing incidents of domestic abuse involving children." Journal of family violence 34.6 (2019): 577-588.

<sup>4</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/In\\_plain\\_sight\\_the\\_evidence\\_from\\_children\\_exposed\\_to\\_domestic\\_abuse.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/In_plain_sight_the_evidence_from_children_exposed_to_domestic_abuse.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/vulnerable-children/local-vulnerability-profiles/>

# Executive summary

## DA and C&YP



- In 2021/22, there were 182 children (aged under 18) in Kent refuges, which means that 0.9% of children affected by DA (based on modelled prevalence) are in Kent refuges.
  - 45% of survivors had accompanying children. 5.3% were pregnant and none had 4 or more children.
  - In East Kent, between April 2020 and March 2022, two thirds of children in refuge were aged under 5 (66.7%)\*.
  - 3.4% of survivors in refuge were aged 16 to 20 years old
- 64.7% of survivors accessing community support had children (61.3% KIDAS and 83.7% DAVSS) and 2.6% of survivors aged 16 to 20 years old accessed community DA support services provided by KIDAS and DAVSS.
- In 2021, almost 1 in 8 DA related crimes recorded by Kent Police involved either a victim or suspect aged under 21 (12.9%) and there were around 1 in 28 crimes where the victim and suspect were both aged under 21 (3.6%).

\*Age breakdown for children in refuge was not available from other KIDAS providers

# Executive summary

## DA and C&YP



- Through the [service mapping exercise](#) completed for this report, a number of organisations were identified as offering a range of types of support for C&YP aged under 16\* affected by DA in refuge and the community.
- However, the [reach of this support is relatively low](#) (just over 1,200 C&YP in 2021/22) in comparison to the estimated 20,615 children living in households where a parent is suffering from DA in Kent and the volume of DA incidents reported to Kent Police where a child may have witnessed the abuse (over 17,000 incidents in 2021).
- Potential [gaps in provision](#) identified through the service mapping exercise included:
  - Limited provision for under 5s.
  - Most interventions are only for up to 12 weeks/sessions.
  - Variance in reach of community services across the areas (South Kent higher / West Kent lower)
  - Variance in number of interventions/organisations delivering community support across the areas (North Kent higher / East Kent lower)
  - Limited joint family support for C&YP and the non-abusive parent.
  - C&YP IDVA only in Ashford, Canterbury and Swale.
  - Other than the iCan programme in South Kent, no specific support for boys.
  - Short term piecemeal funding.
  - Inconsistent sanctuary offer.
  - Some providers of prevention & early intervention work but not countywide.



# Executive summary

## DA and C&YP



- When available literature was explored\* on what [models of care are effective in supporting C&YP impacted by DA](#), it was documented that there is [limited evidence on the acceptability and effectiveness of interventions](#).
- However, themes from the literature were noted around the context for effective intervention:
  - [C&YP and non-abusive parent engaged in support](#).
  - [Non-abusive parent aware / acknowledges impact of DA on C&YP](#).
  - [C&YP feel able to discuss experiences freely](#).
  - [Perpetrator no longer has control / contact](#).
- Type of intervention:
  - [Early intervention / prevention as well as support following exposure to DA](#).
  - [Joint or parallel sessions between C&YP and non-abusive parent](#).
  - [Group based support](#).
  - [Advocacy / mentoring approach](#).
  - [Trusted relationship with someone outside of the home](#).

# Executive summary

## DA and C&YP



Through the [research conducted by Rising Sun](#) in late 2021 (on behalf of KCC), C&YP\* said they need the following support or education around DA:

- [Someone to talk to that they can trust.](#)
- [Longer term one to one support](#), with [an element of group support](#) available.
- Support to [include the family on some level](#) (non-abusive parent and/or siblings).
- [Early identification](#) of C&YP who may need support.
- [Training \(particularly for school staff\) to identify and understand the impact of DA on C&YP.](#)
- [Raising awareness](#) of healthy relationships and signs of DA.

\*8 C&YP were interviewed, 2 adults were interviewed who had experienced DA as a child (mothers of the children interviewed) and perspectives of Rising Sun keyworkers were also gained through a questionnaire

# Part 1 – Update of key metrics

- Prevalence reported by CSEW
- Police recorded incidences
- MARAC
- Safe Accommodation
- Community support services (KIDAS and DAVSS)
- Homelessness

# Part 1 data information sources

The analysis in part 1 of the update draws on the following key information sources:

**Crime Survey for England and Wales:** Prevalence

**Kent Police:** Storm calls, recorded crimes and incidents, victims, suspects, satisfaction and MARAC

**KIDAS commissioned service data returns:** Referrals, take up of community and safe accommodation services, survivor demographics, locality

**DAVSS commissioned service data returns:** Referrals, take up of community services, survivor demographics

**HCLIC:** Households owed prevention or relief duty due to DA

# Prevalence (from Crime Survey for England and Wales)

# Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) – Statistical Update July 2022

March 2020 saw the suspension of the CSEW as face to face interviewing could not take place due to Covid restrictions, this was, however, replaced by a telephone operated survey (TCSEW). The telephone survey excluded questions on domestic abuse and sexual assault, therefore there has been no reliable prevalence data on DA since 2020.

In October 2021 face to face interviews resumed, and six months worth of DA prevalence data has now been collected (October 2021 to March 2022). These are not yet accredited statistics and there are quality concerns around the data in relation to the short collection period and lower volume of surveys carried out. **Therefore, caution should be exercised when using these figures, they are a guide only and should not be used as the foundation for decision making.**

The next release of prevalence data for year ending March 2023 is due in July 2023.

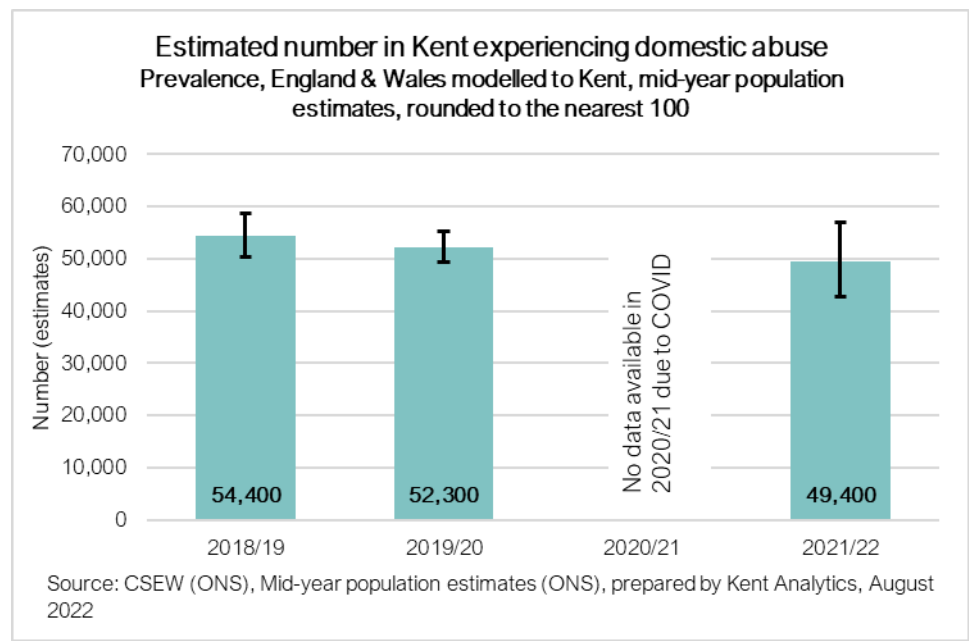
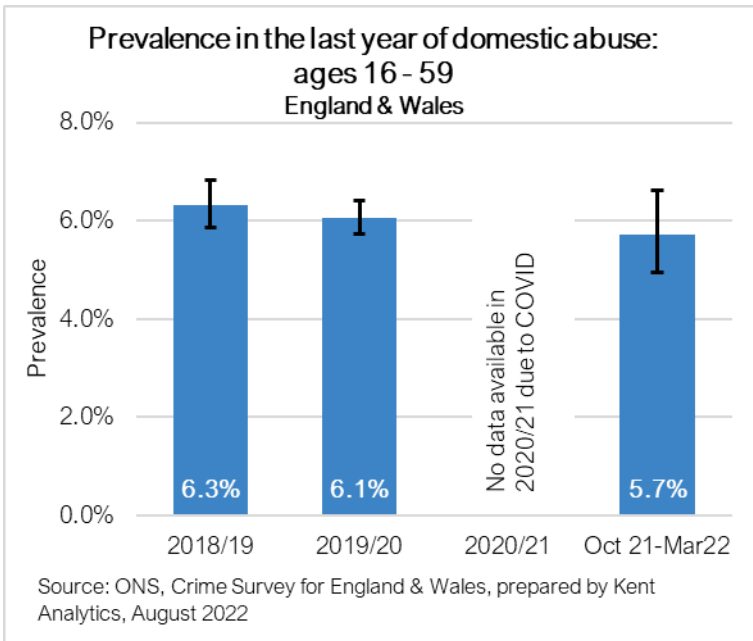
Care is needed in the interpretation so as not to confuse 'disclosed prevalence' with 'true prevalence'. We know that DA is common, however this is often difficult to accurately quantify as it is largely a hidden crime and victims are often reluctant to report abuse to the police<sup>6</sup> or via crime surveys.

<sup>6</sup>[www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/increasingly-everyones-business-domestic-abuse-progress-report.pdf](http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/increasingly-everyones-business-domestic-abuse-progress-report.pdf)

# Prevalence trend: As reported to CSEW

Between October 2021 and March 2022, 5.7% of adults aged 16 to 59 years old experienced domestic abuse in the last year\*

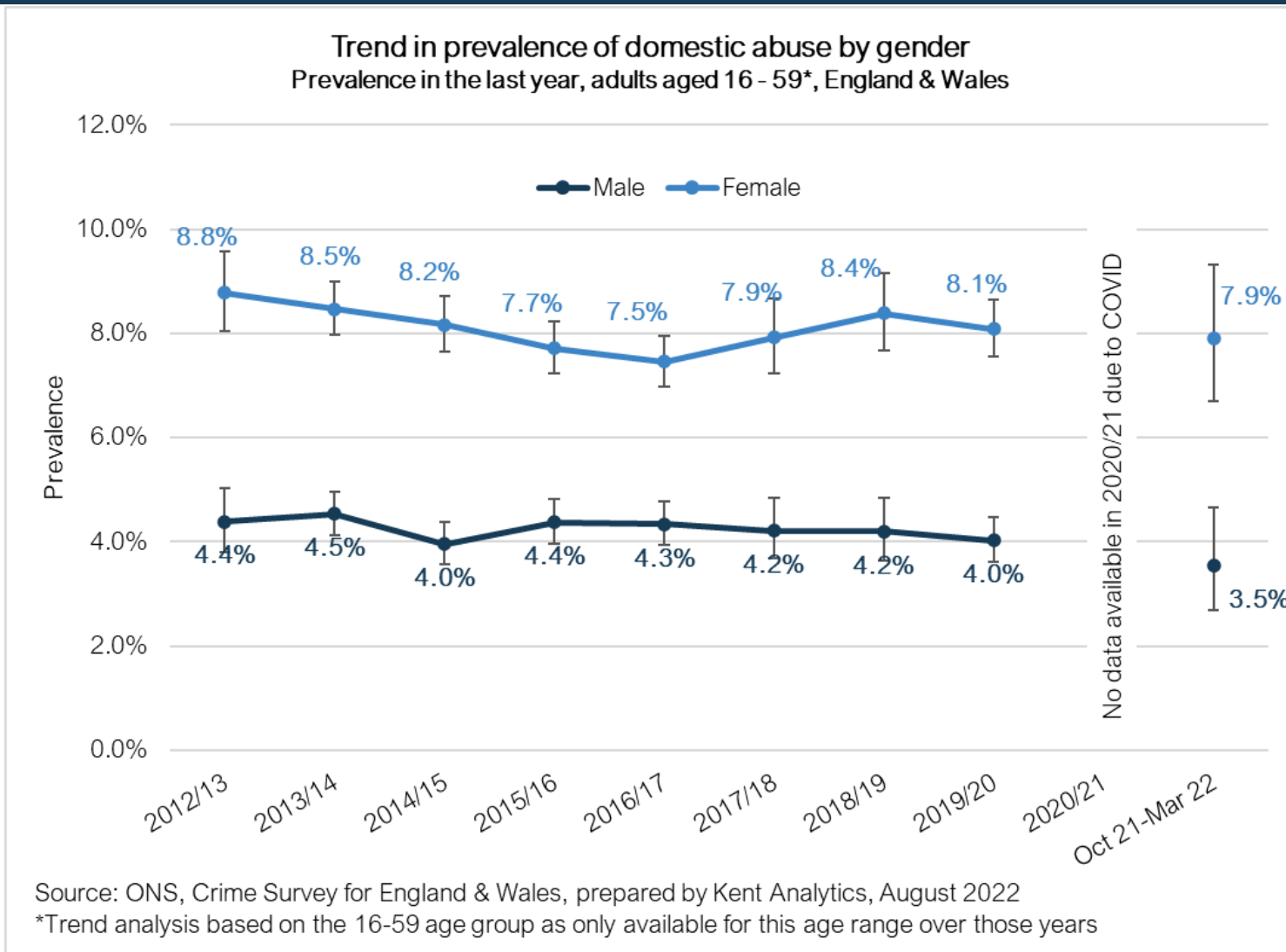
There has been no significant change in prevalence in recent years (since 2014), where it has remained around 6%<sup>7</sup>. However, there is evidence to suggest a slight downward trend over the past 10 years.



\*A lower sample size means the confidence intervals will be larger for this period

<sup>7</sup> <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2022/07/21/a-better-understanding-of-the-scale-of-domestic-abuse-during-the-pandemic/>

# Prevalence trend: As reported to CSEW





# Kent Police recorded incidence

- DA related calls to the police
- Recorded crimes and non-crimes
- DA related crimes by district
- DA related crimes by area
- Crimes by DA risk level
- Controlling and coercive behaviour
- Intimate and non-intimate partner crimes
- Repeat victims and suspects
- Victim gender / age / ethnicity
- Victim satisfaction with the police

# Introduction

All data is taken from the Kent Police Athena LIVE system as of 10:00 hours on Monday 1st August 2022 and therefore subject to change. The date period is based on the mid-point committed date between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

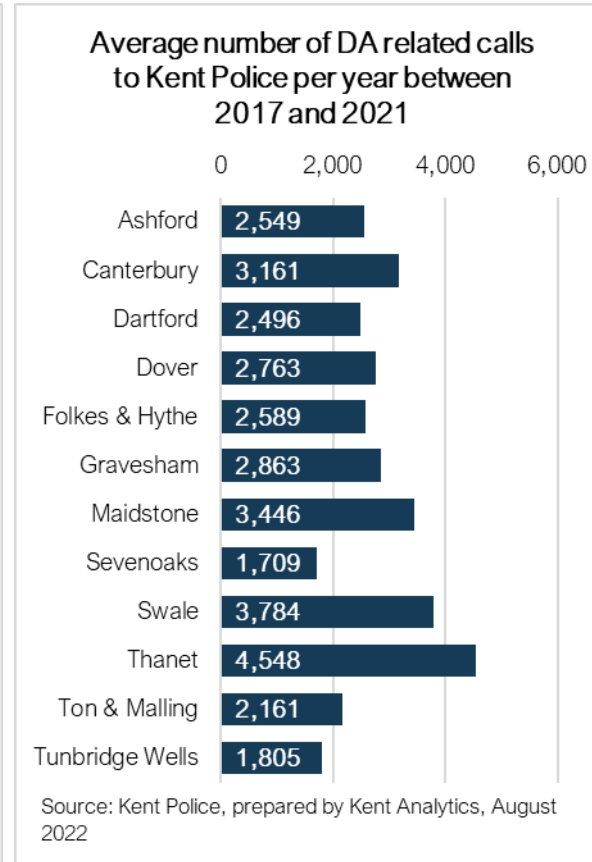
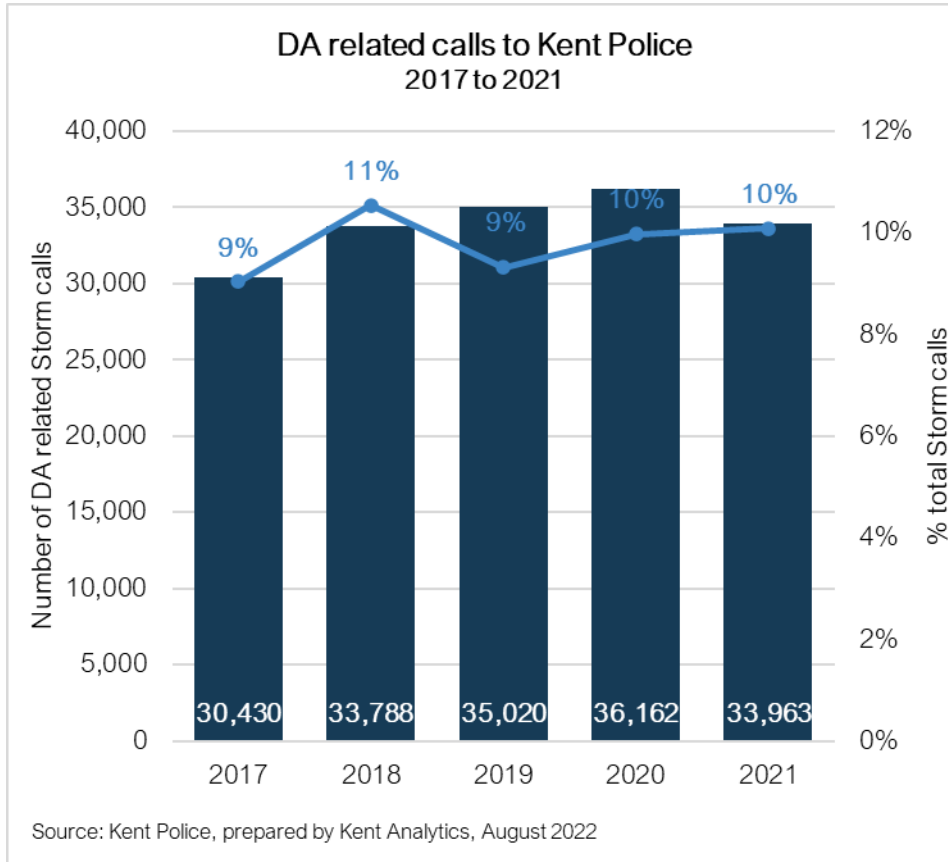
Incidents are broken down into crimes (where a notifiable offence has been committed, such as an assault) and non-crimes (which are recorded for information, or where an incident is reported by a third party and no victim is identified).

DA related crimes and non-crimes are recorded on Athena based on the crime ASB keyword of AG FAC Domestic Abuse or AG FAC Rep Domestic Abuse. They can also be an included offence on the primary crime report and identified using CCCJS code NCI/27.

The data excludes reports where the crime venue is Medway.

# DA related calls to the police

An average of nearly 34,000 calls per year were made to Kent Police relating to DA over the past 5 years, which equates to around 10% of all calls



In 2021, there were 26.5 calls per 1,000 population (aged 16+)

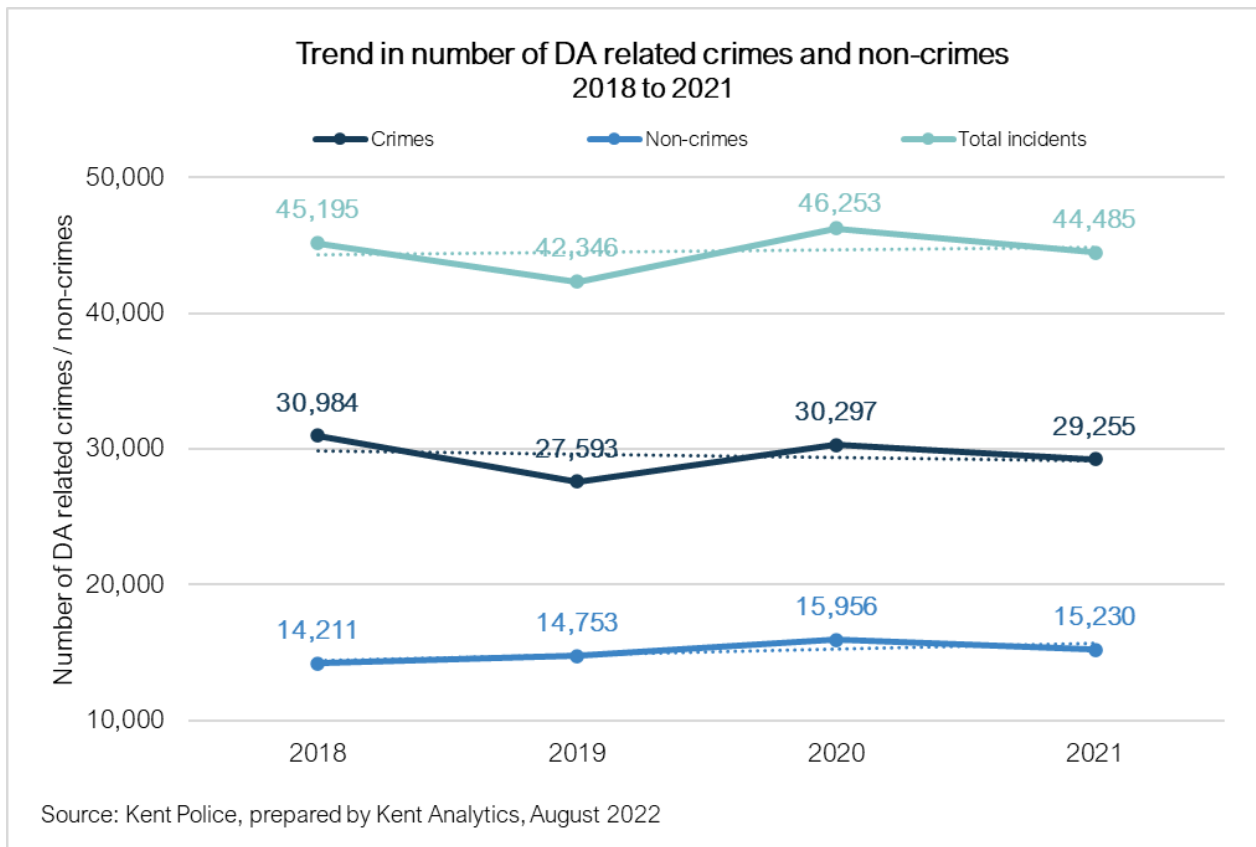
Over the past 5 years, Thanet had the highest average calls (4,548) and Sevenoaks had the lowest (1,709)

Storm CADs are any calls made to the police and recorded on the incident recording system. This could include calls from the public as well as other police forces, hospitals etc

# DA related recorded crimes / non crimes

Although the number of DA recorded crimes has fluctuated over the past 4 years, the trend remains stable at around 29,000 per year

The number of non-crimes also remains stable at around 15,000 per year

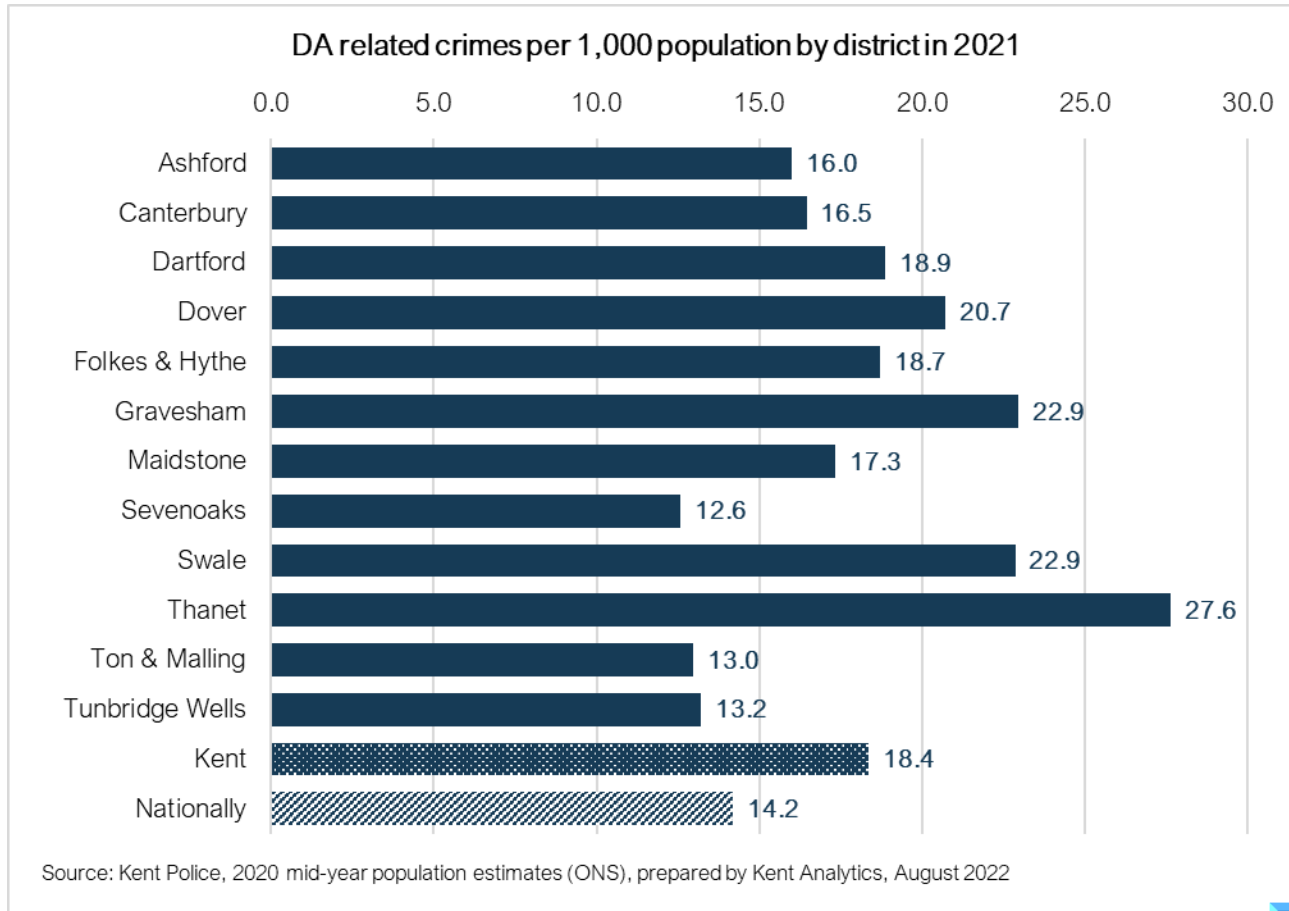


In 2021, Kent had 18.4 crimes per 1,000 population compared to 14.2 nationally in 2020/21<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2021)

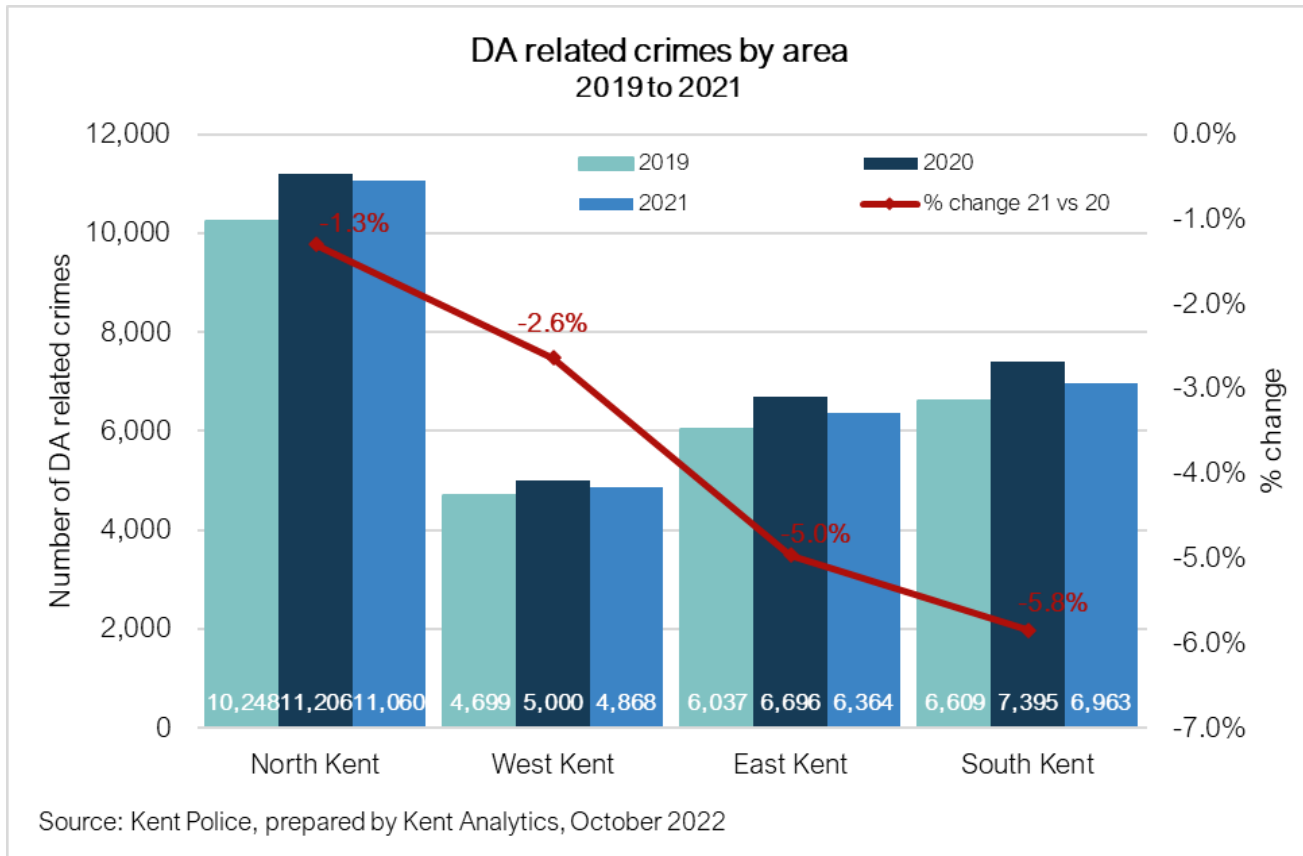
# DA related recorded crimes by district

Most districts, with the exception of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells, have more DA related crimes per 1,000 population than the national average, with Thanet showing the highest at 27.6 crimes per 1,000 population



# DA related recorded crimes by area

In 2021, there was a -3.1% decrease in DA related crimes in Kent compared to the previous year (following a 9.8% increase in 2020 during the lockdowns). All areas\* showed a decrease, with South Kent having the largest decrease at -5.8% and North Kent the lowest at -1.3%.



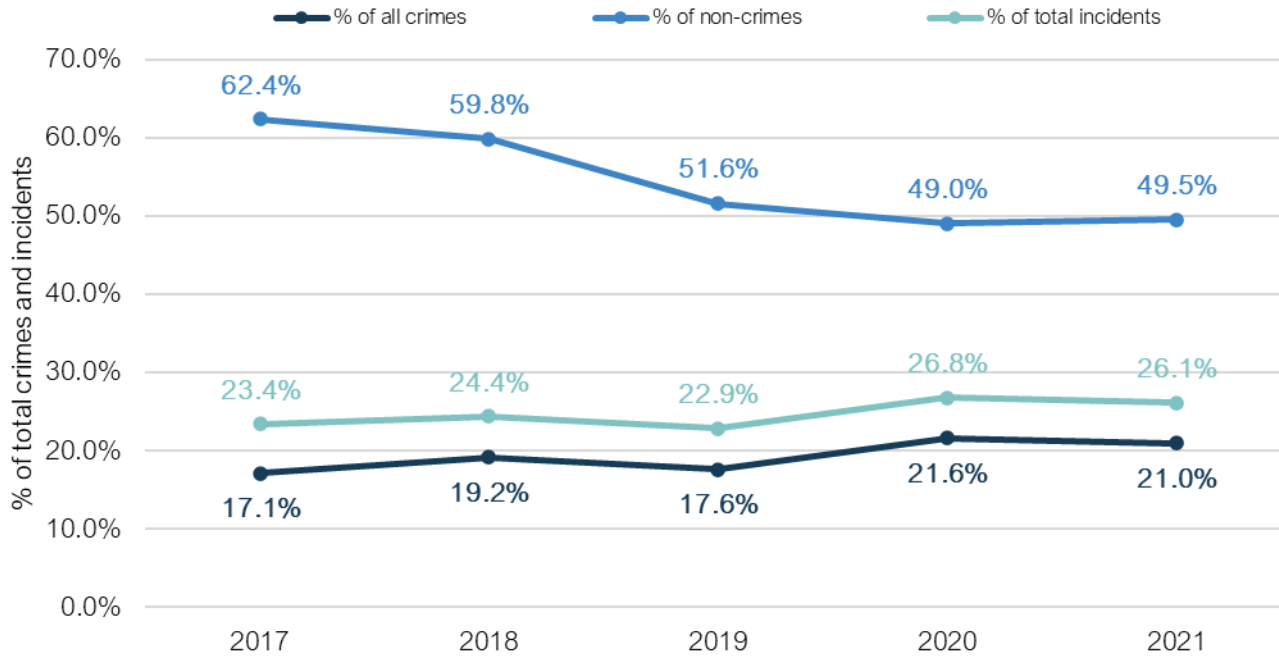
Nationally, there was a 6% increase in DA related crimes in 2020/21<sup>9</sup>

\*Districts have been grouped by the Kent Integrated DA Service areas:  
**North Kent** (Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone, Swale)  
**West Kent** (Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells)  
**East Kent** (Dover, Thanet)  
**South Kent** (Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe)

# DA related recorded crimes / non crimes

DA related crimes make up 21% of total recorded crime in Kent and around half of all non-crimes

Trend in % of total crime and incidents that are DA related  
2017 to 2021



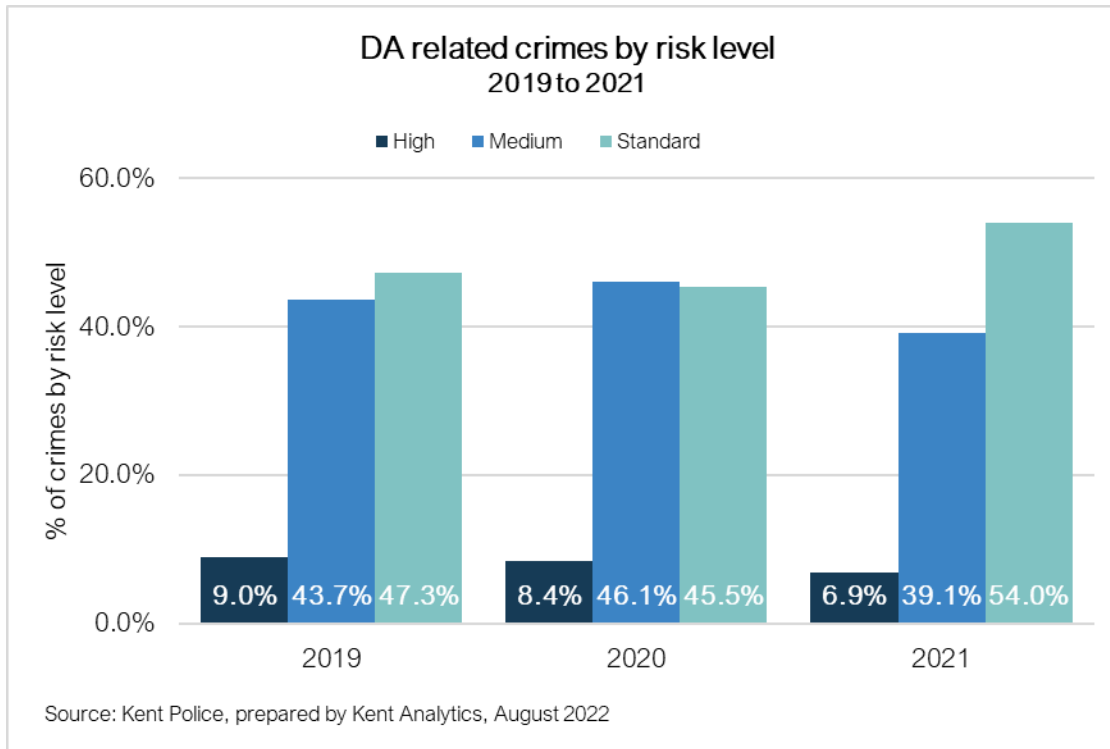
Source: Kent Police, prepared by Kent Analytics, August 2022

Nationally,  
18.3% of all  
crimes were DA  
related in  
2020/21<sup>10</sup>

# DA related crime by risk level

The proportion of crimes graded as high risk has gradually decreased over the past 3 years

54% of crimes were graded as standard risk in 2021



**High risk:** There is an extreme level of control of one person by another and/or very frequent and severe physical violence. There is a serious threat of harm posed to the victim by the perpetrator. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

**Medium risk:** There appears to be a pattern of abuse/control of one person by another, and/or frequent physical violence. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, such as the victim attempting to leave.

**Standard risk:** There appears to be no pattern of abusive behaviour, or control of one person by another. Current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm.

Risk level data prior to January 2019 is not available due to back record conversion from Genesis to Athena

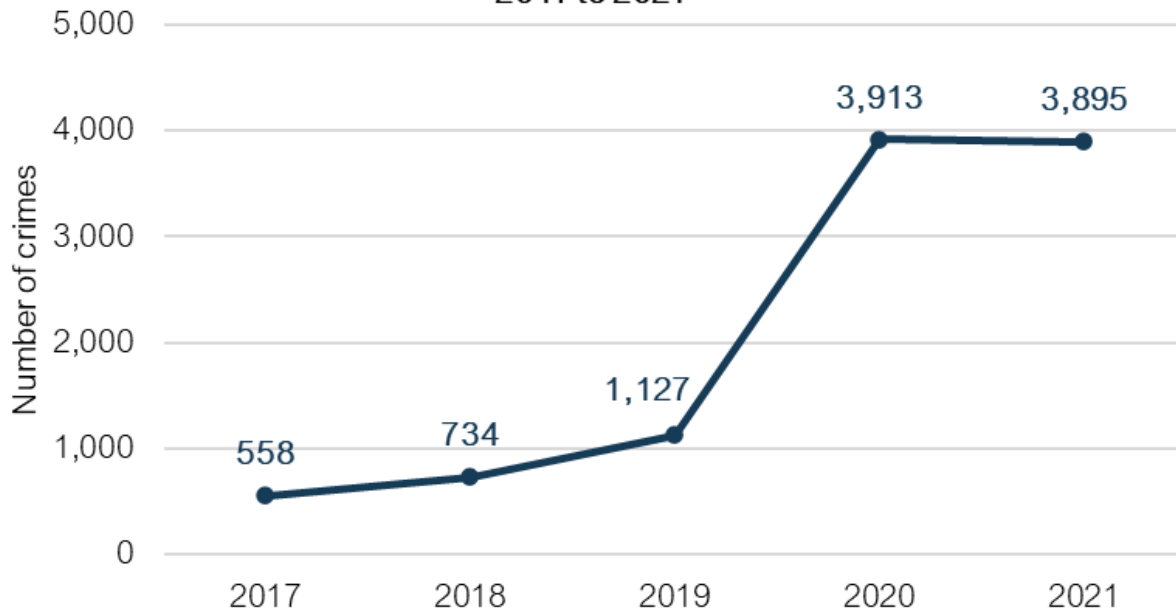


# Controlling and coercive behaviour

In 2020 and 2021, nearly 4,000 crimes of controlling and coercive behaviour were recorded, which equates to 3.0 per 1,000 population (aged 16+)

Thanet recorded the highest volume of crimes (401) and Sevenoaks had the lowest (182)

Trend in controlling and coercive behaviour crimes  
2017 to 2021



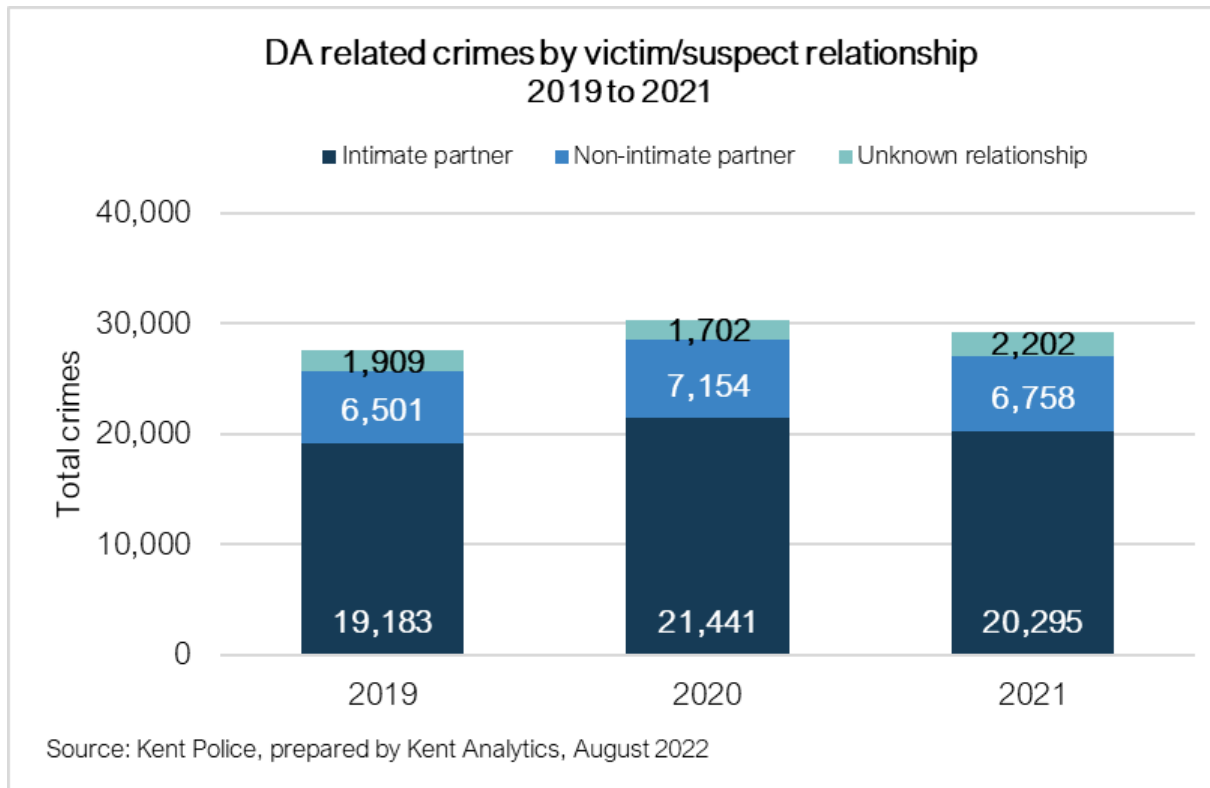
Source: Kent Police, prepared by Kent Analytics, August 2022

Controlling and coercive behaviour was introduced as a crime under the Serious Crime Act 2016

Home Office crime recording changes were made to this offence in 2019 and a question relating to controlling and coercive behaviour was also added to the Kent Police DA risk assessment in October 2019, which will account for the steep increase in 2020

# DA related crimes by victim/suspect relationship

Kent Police data shows that intimate partner relationships make up around 70% of DA related crimes

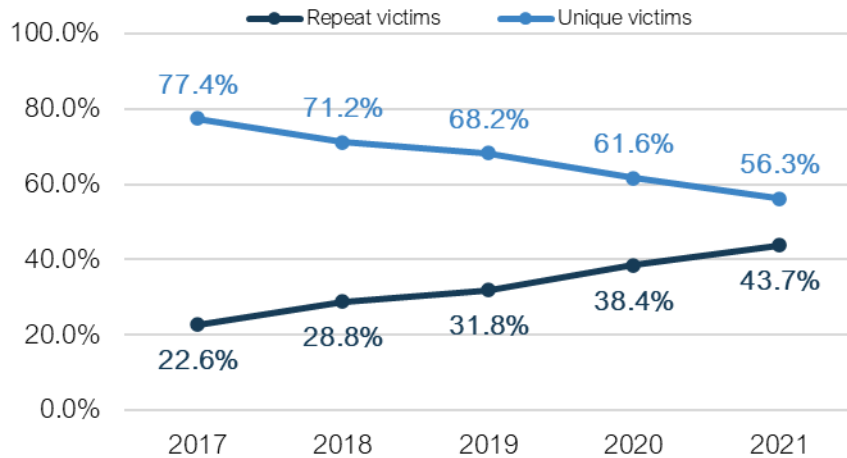


Victim/suspect relationship data prior to January 2019 is not available due to back record conversion from Genesis to Athena

# Repeat DA victims and suspects

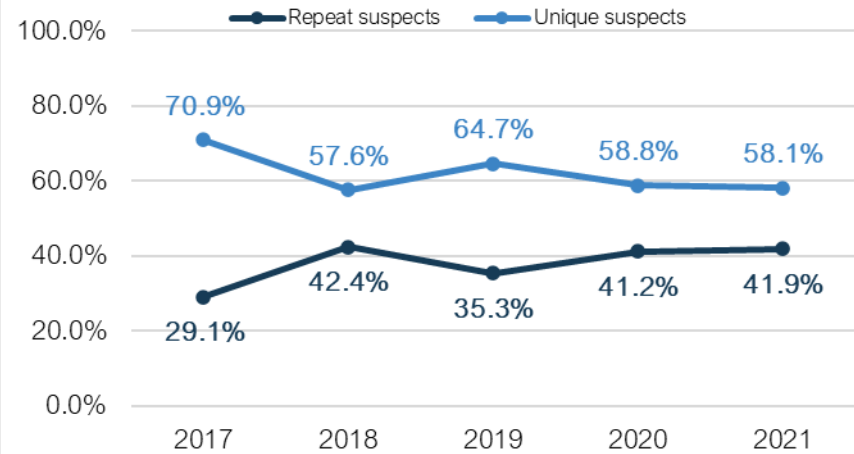
Both the proportion of repeat DA victims and repeat DA suspects has increased over the past 5 years

Trend in the proportion of repeat and unique DA victims 2017 to 2021



Source: Kent Police, prepared by Kent Analytics, August 2022

Trend in the proportion of repeat and unique DA suspects 2017 to 2021



Source: Kent Police, prepared by Kent Analytics, August 2022

A repeat is based on the same victim or suspect on more than one crime report committed in that year  
Numbers are based on the unique number of victims / suspects and not on the number of crime reports

# DA victim gender

Around 30% of DA victims reporting incidents to Kent Police each year are male



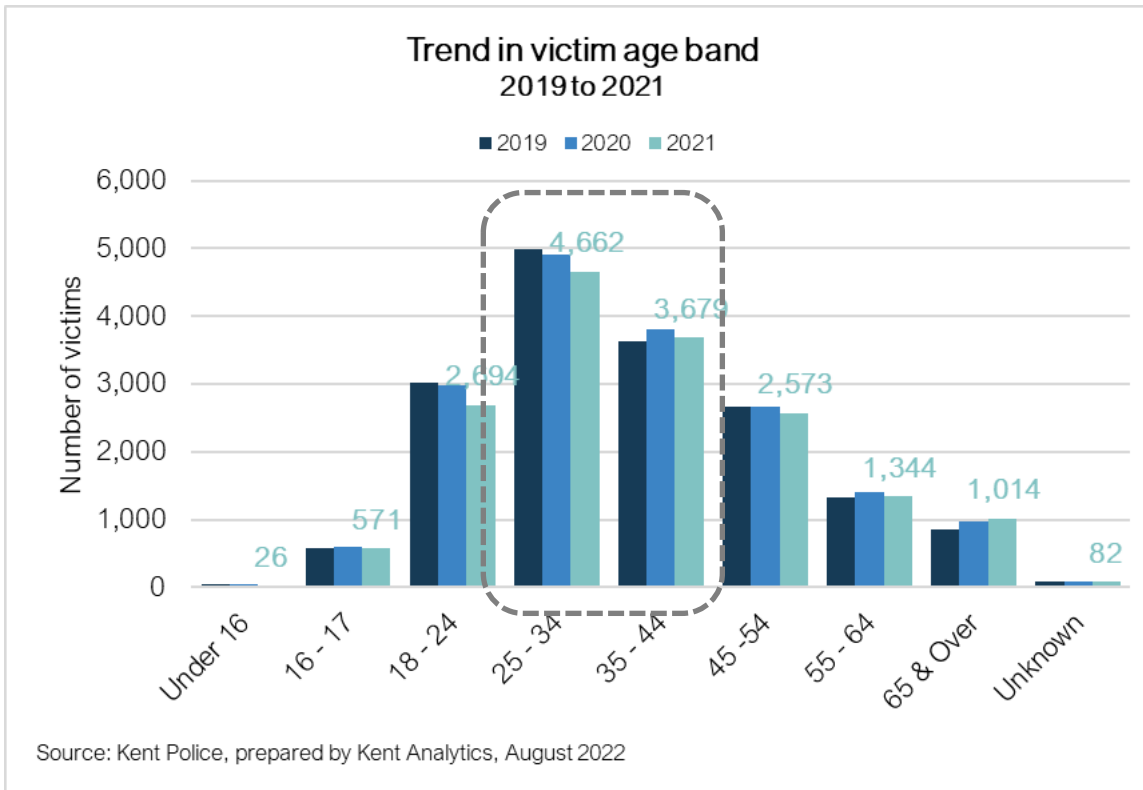
Nationally, 73.1% were female victims and 26.9% were male in 2020/21<sup>11</sup>

In Kent in 2021, there were 17.4 female victims per 1,000 population (aged 16+) and 8.3 male victims per 1,000 population (aged 16+)

<sup>11</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2021)  
Based on 26 forces with adequate data: Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Durham, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley and West Yorkshire.

# DA victim age

Half of DA victims recorded by Kent Police are aged between 25 and 44 years old



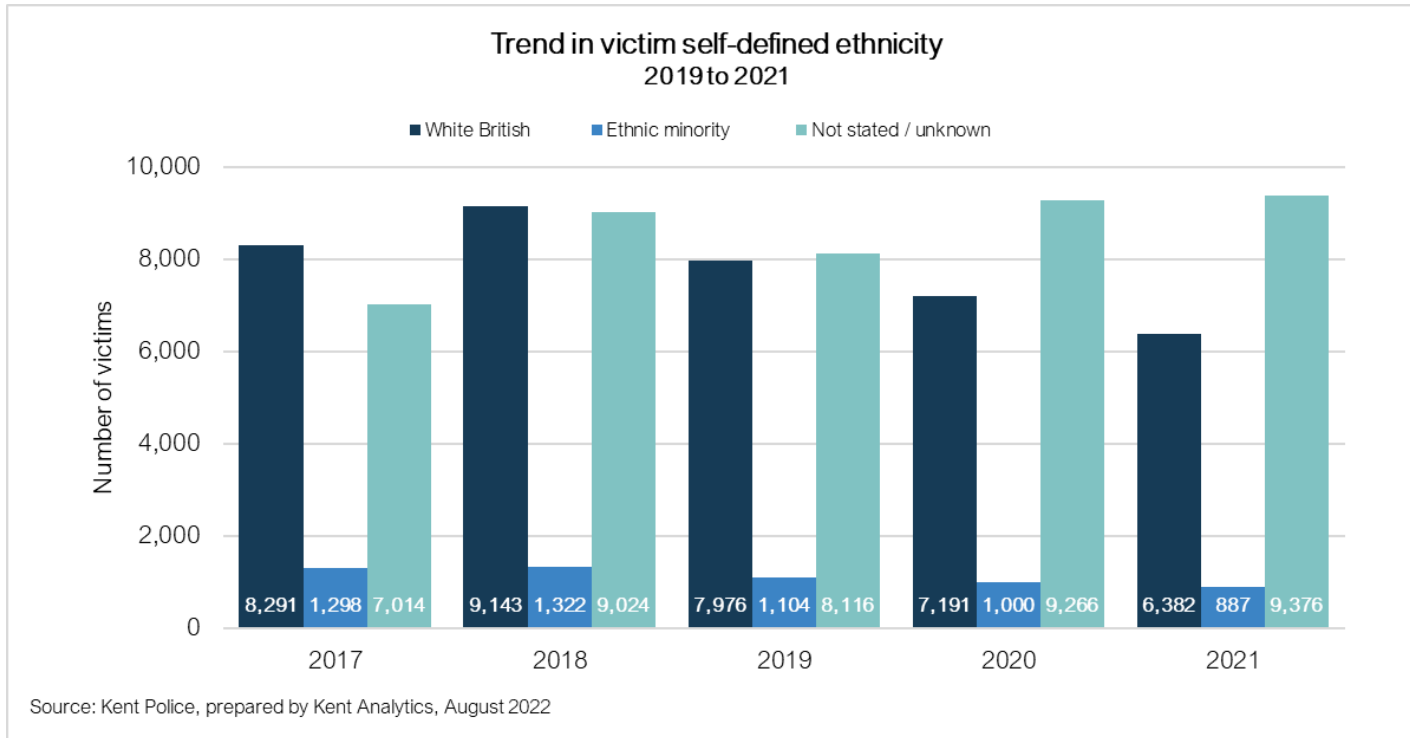
In Kent in 2021, there were 22.0 victims per 1,000 population aged between 25 and 44 years old

The 2021 Needs Assessment analysis suggested older victims were less likely to report DA to the police

Data is not comparable prior to 2019 due to back record conversion from Genesis to Athena  
Age at time of incident is based on a calculation between lower committed date and date of birth

# DA victim ethnicity

The high levels of missing self-defined ethnicity data make it difficult to draw any conclusions

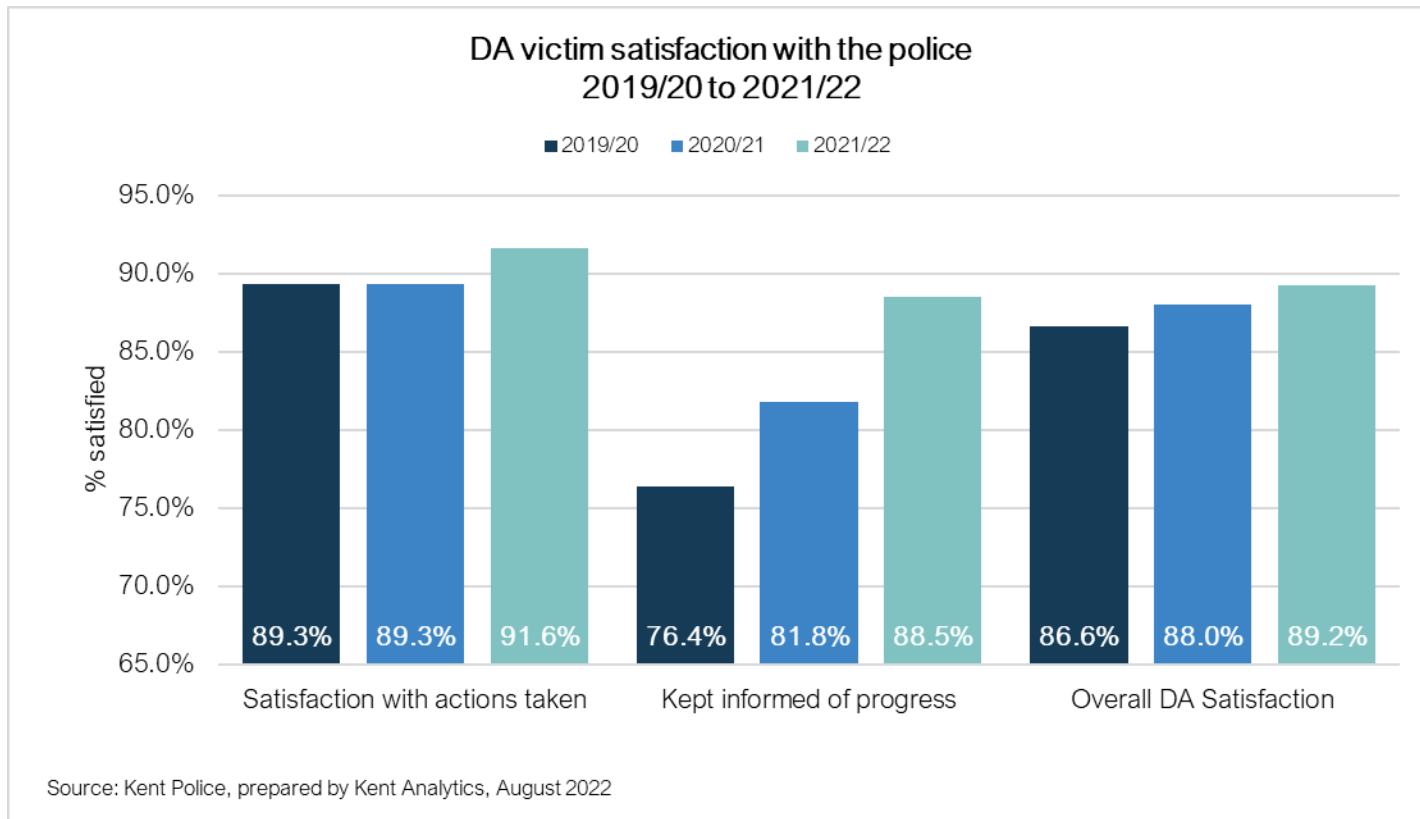


The 2021 Needs Assessment analysis also noted high levels of missing self-defined ethnicity data

With the implementation of Athena, there are large number of gaps in self-defined ethnicity data

# DA victim satisfaction with the police

Over the past 3 years, DA victim satisfaction with being kept informed of progress has significantly improved



No surveys conducted in April to July 2019 and April to May 2020  
No surveys were conducted for East Division in Dec 2019

# Kent Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

- Meetings and cases
- Cases per 10,000 population
- Repeat cases
- Referrals
- Protected characteristics



# Introduction

A MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is a meeting where information is shared on victims at the highest risk of serious harm or murder as a result of domestic abuse.

It is attended by representatives of local agencies such as police and health. From 2020, the meetings have taken place fortnightly.

Across Kent & Medway there are 13 MARACs, one in each district.

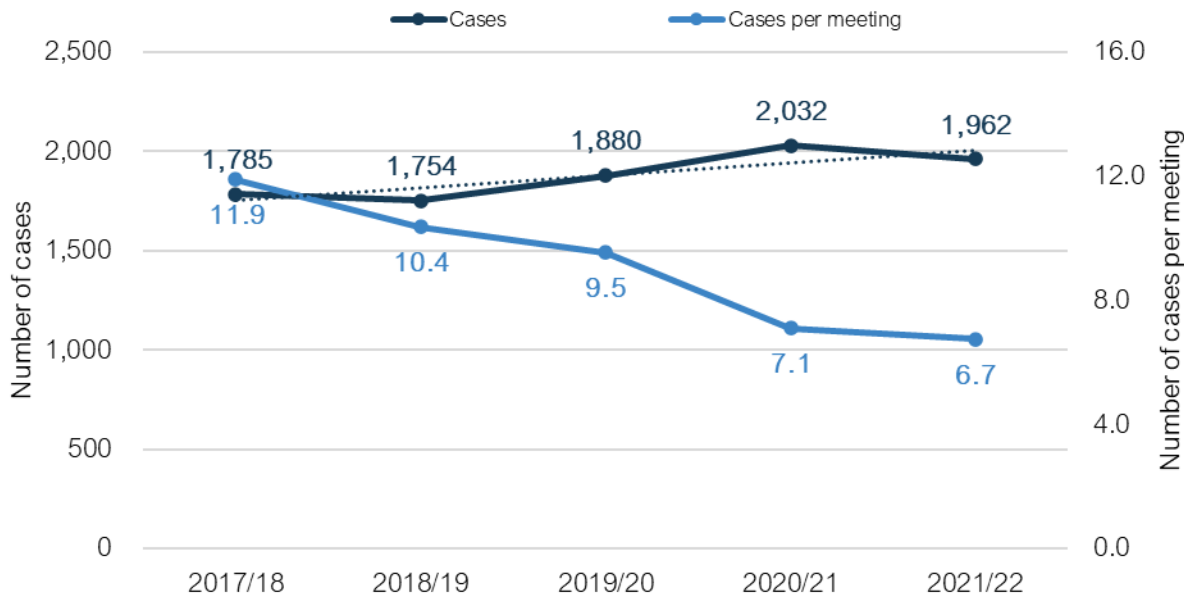
The information presented excludes Medway MARAC.

# Meetings and cases

Although there have been slight fluctuations in the number of cases discussed at MARAC over the past 5 years, the trend shows an increase

The number of cases discussed at each meeting has been decreasing

Number of MARAC cases and cases per meeting  
2017/18 to 2021/22



Source: Kent Police, prepared by Kent Analytics, August 2022

Nationally, there was a 6% increase in the number of cases in 2021/22<sup>12</sup>

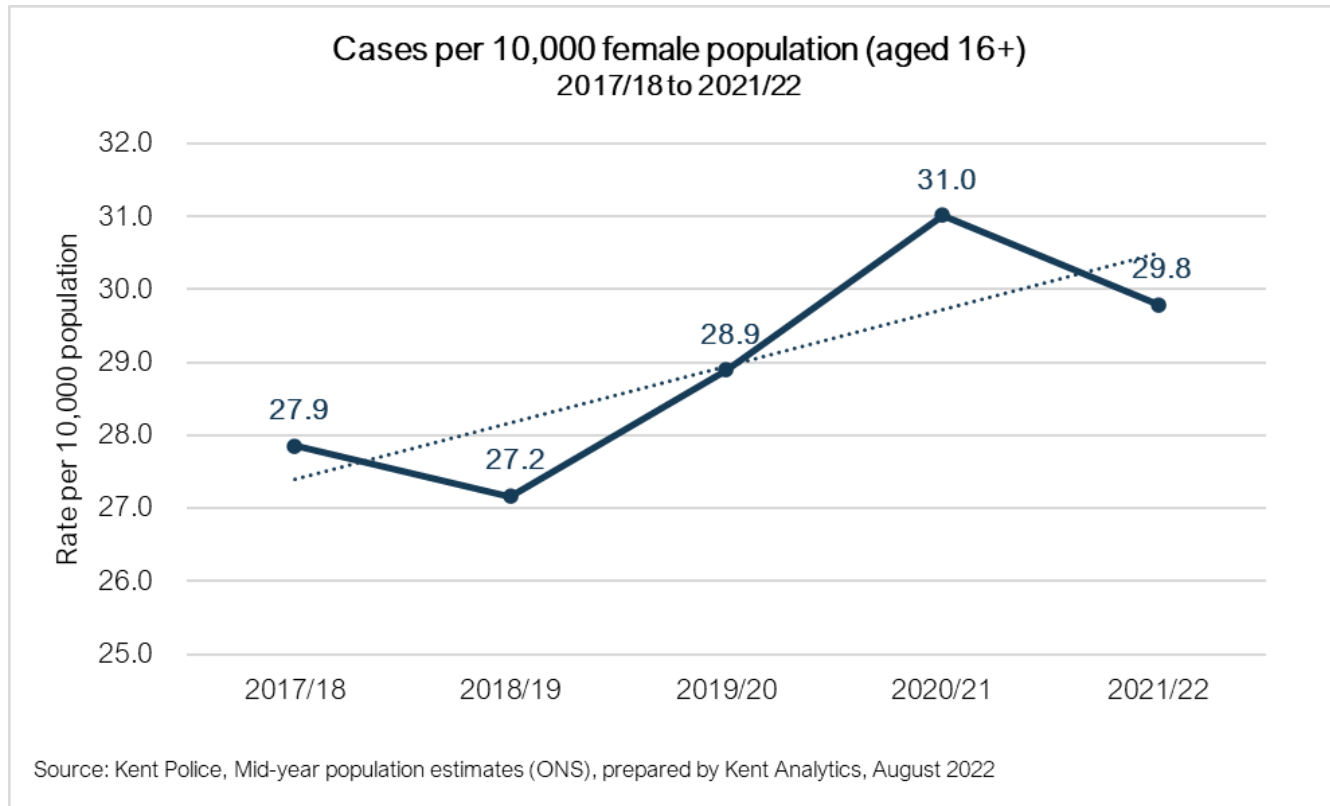
Kent showed a 3% decrease

In line with police recorded DA incidents, Thanet has the highest volume of MARAC cases. However, Folkestone & Hythe has the lowest MARAC cases

<sup>12</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings/latest-marac-data>

# Cases per 10,000 population

In 2021/22, 29.8 cases per 10,000 population were discussed at MARAC (excluding Medway MARAC cases)



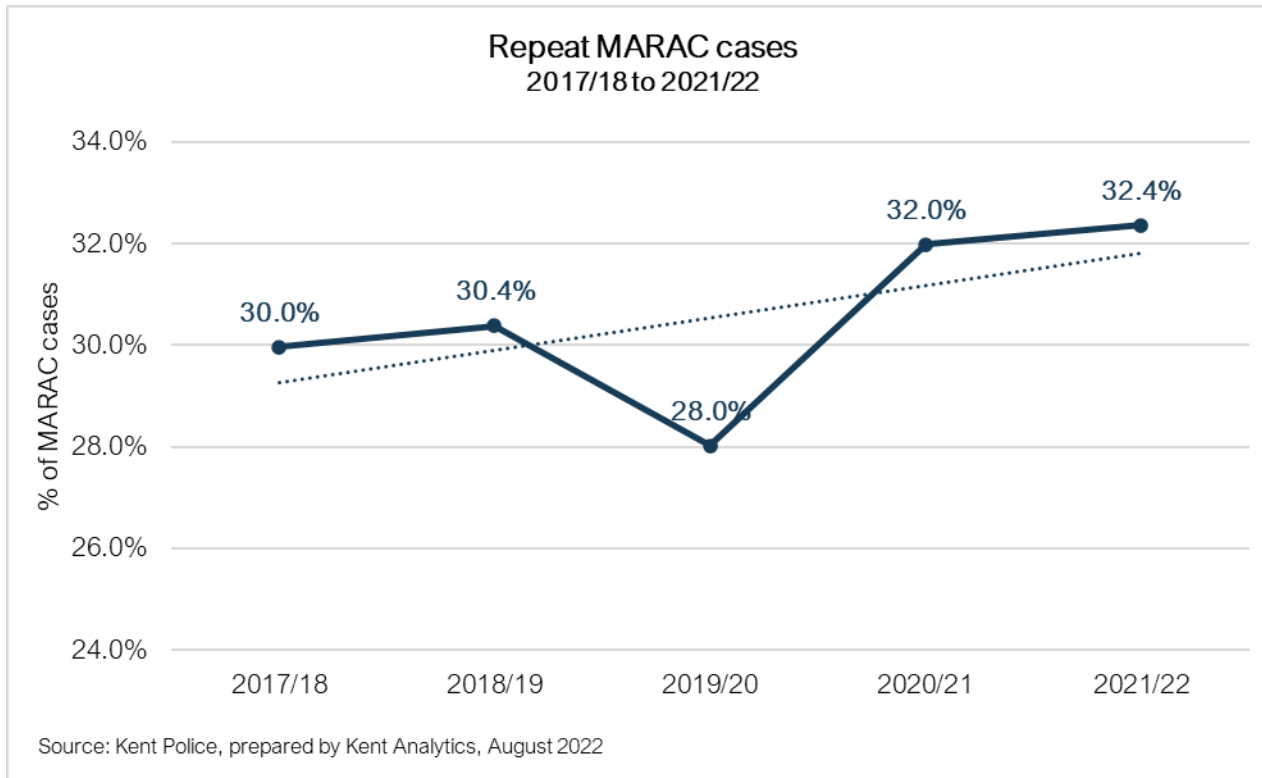
SafeLives recommends 40 cases are discussed at MARAC per 10,000 population (per Police Force Area, which includes Medway)

Nationally, 47 were discussed in 2021/22<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings/latest-marac-data>

# Repeat cases

The proportion of repeat cases discussed at MARAC is increasing, however this is in line with the national average and what SafeLives recommends



Nationally, 33% were repeat cases in 2021/22<sup>14</sup>

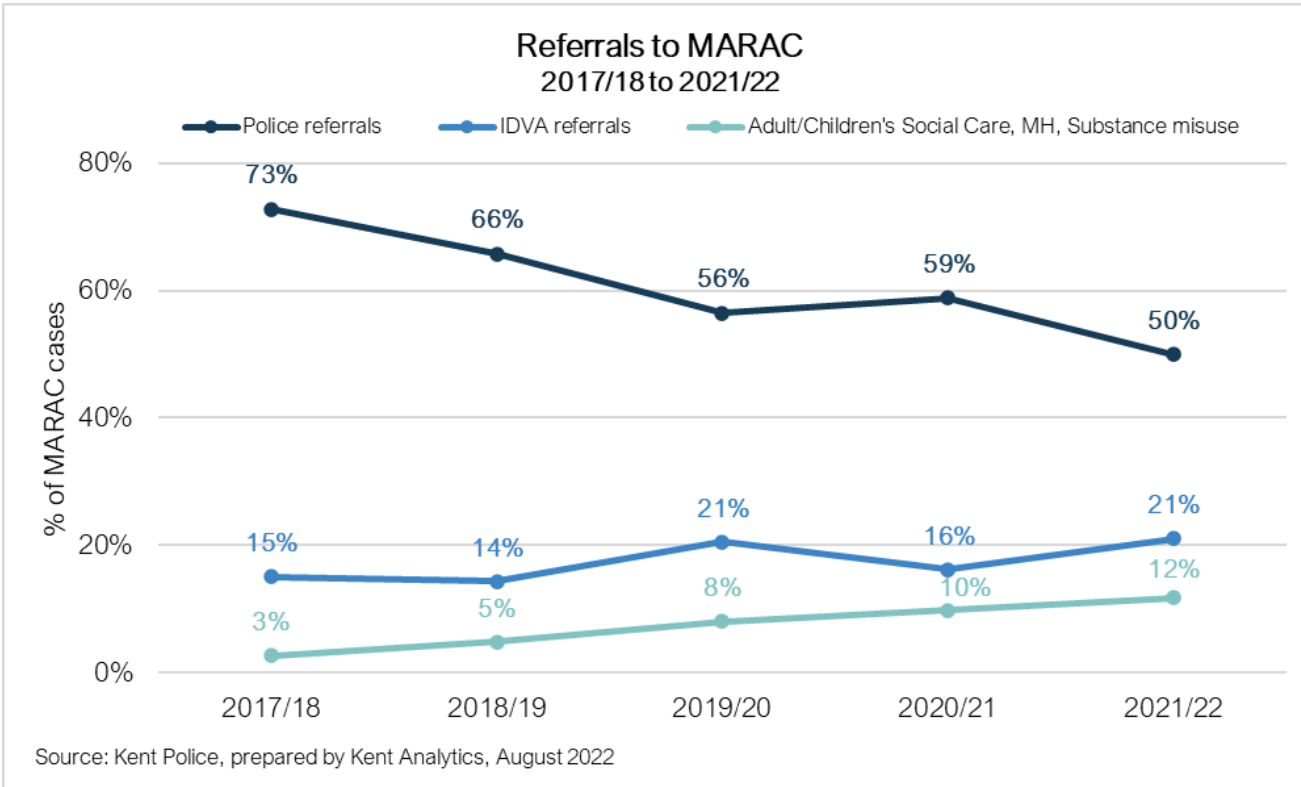
There is variation in the number of repeat cases across districts. In 2021/22, Thanet had the highest proportion (50%) and Tonbridge & Malling had the lowest (20%)

SafeLives recommends 28% to 40% repeat case rate

<sup>14</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings/latest-marac-data>

# Referrals

Referrals to MARAC from the police are declining, however they are increasing from other agencies such as IDVAs, social care, mental health and substance misuse



Nationally, 67% of referrals were from the police in 2021/22<sup>15</sup>

There is variation in the number of referrals from the police across districts. In 2021/22, Swale had the highest proportion (68%) and Folkestone & Hythe had the lowest (39%)

SafeLives recommends 60% to 75% police referrals

# Protected characteristics

The rate of MARAC cases for those in the LGBT community and disabled victims has been below the SafeLives recommended rate consistently for the past 5 years

% of cases:	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Safe Lives recommends	2021/22 nationally <sup>16</sup>	Kent population <sup>17</sup>
Black & minority ethnic	9.9%	9.4%	8.4%	11.1%	9.4%	11%	15.3%	10.9%
LGBT	1.3%	0.7%	0.9%	1.3%	1.4%	2.5% - 5.8%	1.4%	1.9%
Disabled	2.7%	3.7%	2.3%	6.1%	5.5%	19%+	8.5%	17.6%
Male	3.6%	3.5%	4.6%	5.4%	3.9%	5% - 10%	6.2%	49.1%

Source: Kent Police, SafeLives, prepared by Kent Analytics, August 2022

<sup>16</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings/latest-marac-data>

<sup>17</sup> [www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/equality-and-diversity-data](http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/equality-and-diversity-data)

# Safe Accommodation

- Referral sources
- Survivors by area
- Survivors by age
- Survivor gender
- Survivor ethnicity
- Survivor sexual orientation
- Survivors with a disability
- Toxic trio and DA
- Sanctuary schemes

# Introduction

The definition of safe accommodation includes;

- Refuge (a safe house where adults and children who are experiencing domestic abuse can stay, this may be communal or self-contained flats in a secure building)
- Dispersed accommodation (stand alone self-contained properties with support)
- Sanctuary schemes (security provision within a survivor's home and support)
- 'Move on' or second stage accommodation.

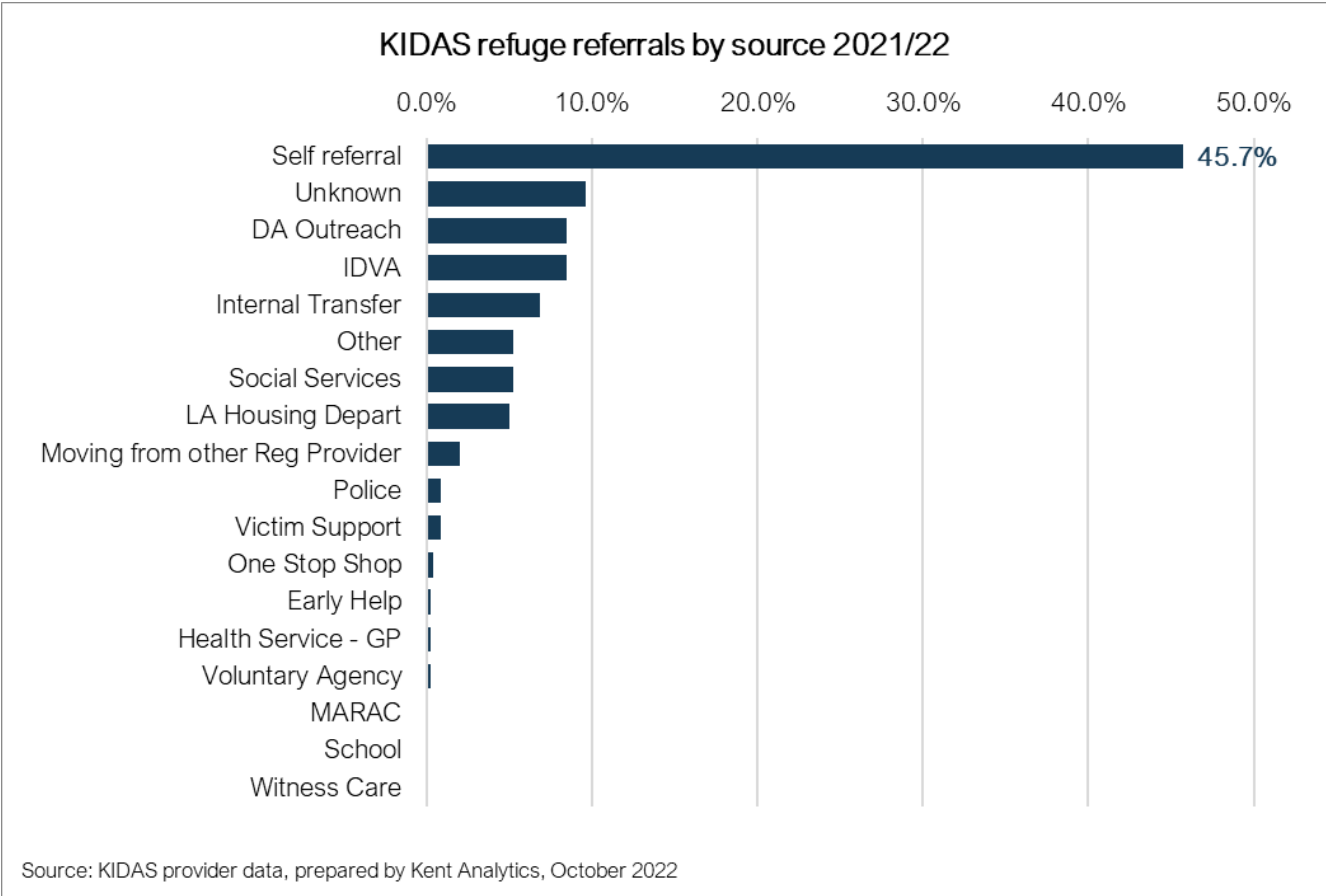
The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) offers refuge, dispersed accommodation and support for female survivors and their families. For simplicity, in the following parts of the report, 'refuge' refers to both types of accommodation available through KIDAS.

Area	Districts	Provider	Shared housing capacity	Self-contained flat capacity	Total
North Kent	Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone, Swale	Clarion	22	9	31
West Kent	Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells	Look Ahead	13	10	23
East Kent	Thanet and Dover	Oasis	12	6	18
South Kent	Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe	Clarion	n/a	35	35
Total bedspaces across Kent					107



# Referral sources – refuge

In 2021/22, 45.7% of survivors in refuge referred themselves. However, compared to the previous year, there was a decrease of 69 survivors who self referred (-25.7%)



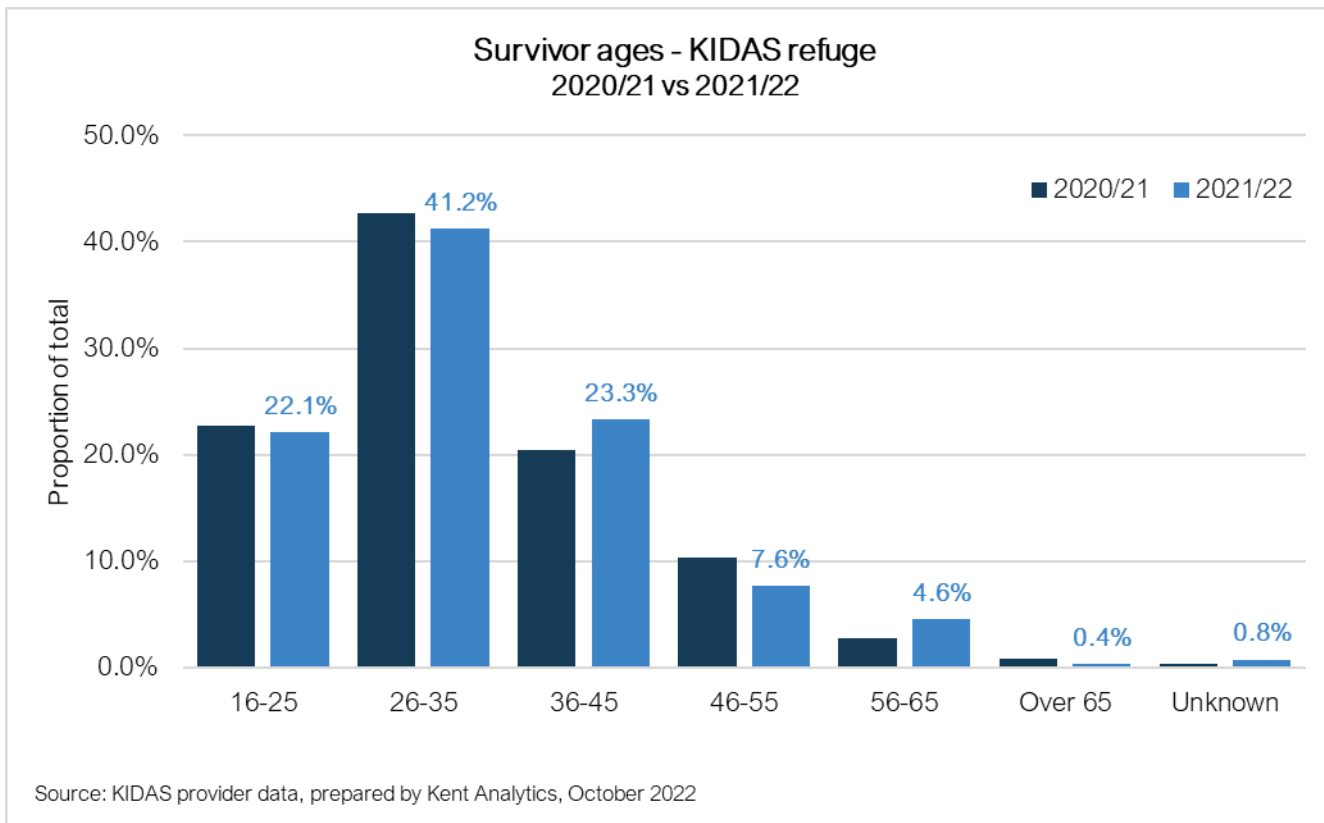
# Survivors by area - refuge

In 2021/22, there were 262 survivors in refuge, an increase of 1 survivor compared to the previous year. West Kent and East Kent saw an increase and North Kent and South Kent saw a decrease, although the number change was small

Area	2020/21	2021/22	Per 1,000 population (females aged 16+)	% change
North Kent	90	84	0.38	-6.7%
West Kent	47	50	0.32	6.4%
East Kent	41	46	0.42	12.2%
South Kent	83	82	0.47	-1.2%
Total	261	262	0.40	0.4%

# Survivor age – refuge

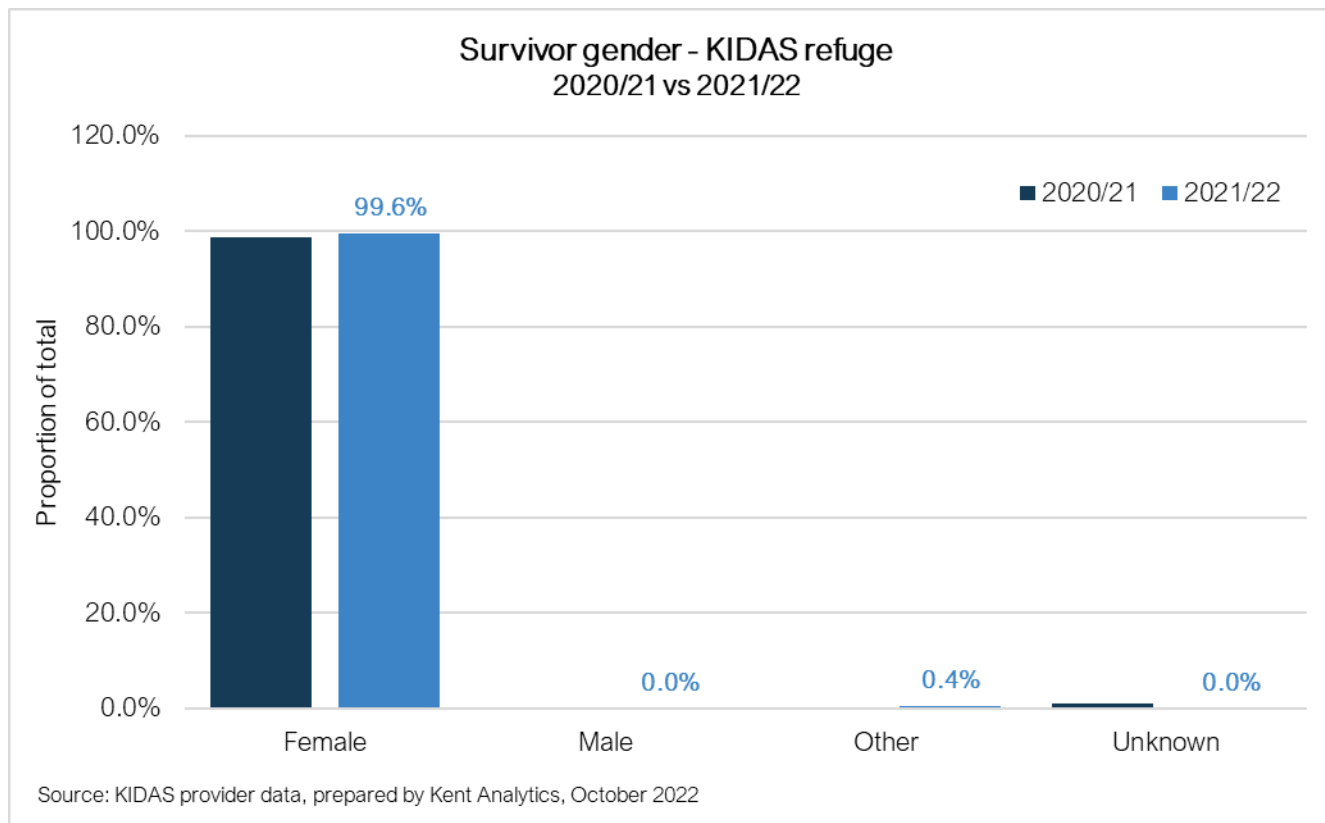
In 2021/22, 63.4% of survivors in refuge were aged between 16 and 35 years old. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase of 5 survivors aged between 56 and 65 years old (+71.4%)



The 2021 Needs Assessment analysis suggested older survivors were less likely to access refuge

# Survivor gender – refuge

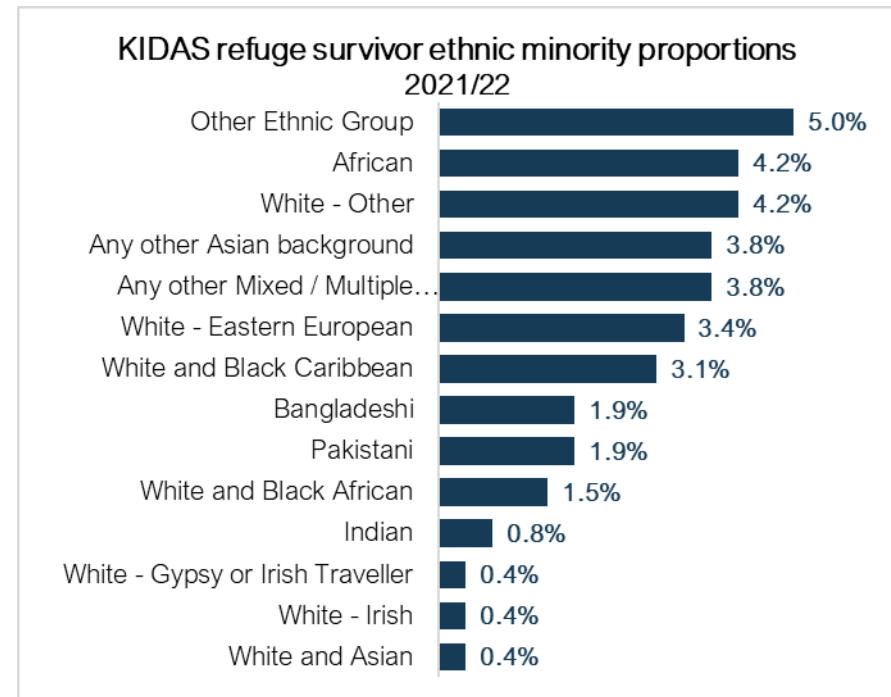
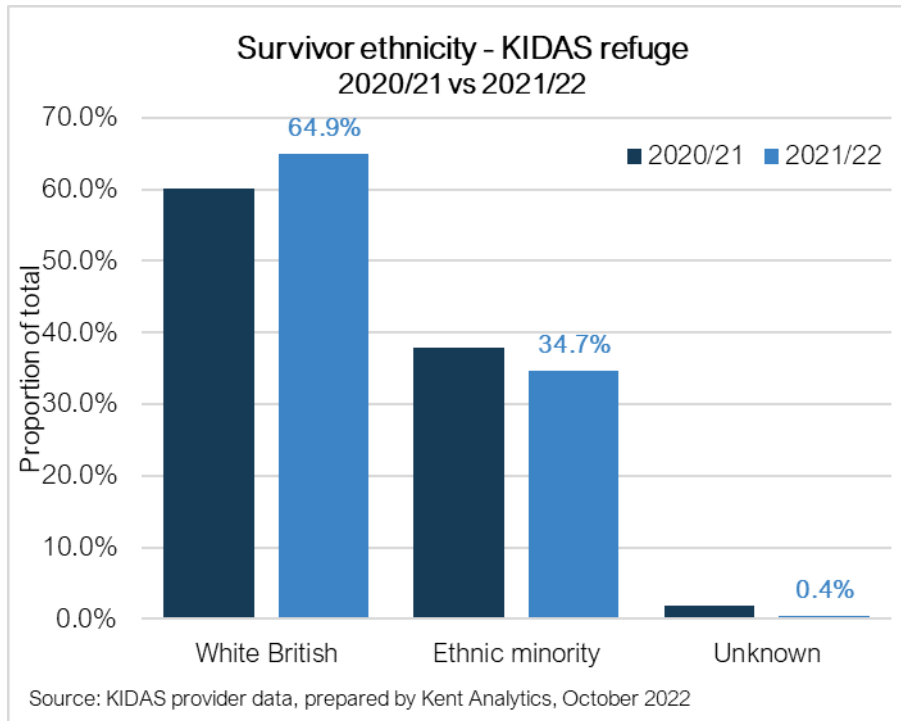
In 2021/22, 99.6% of survivors in refuge identified as female. 1 identified as other and there were no male survivors in refuge



# Survivor ethnicity – refuge

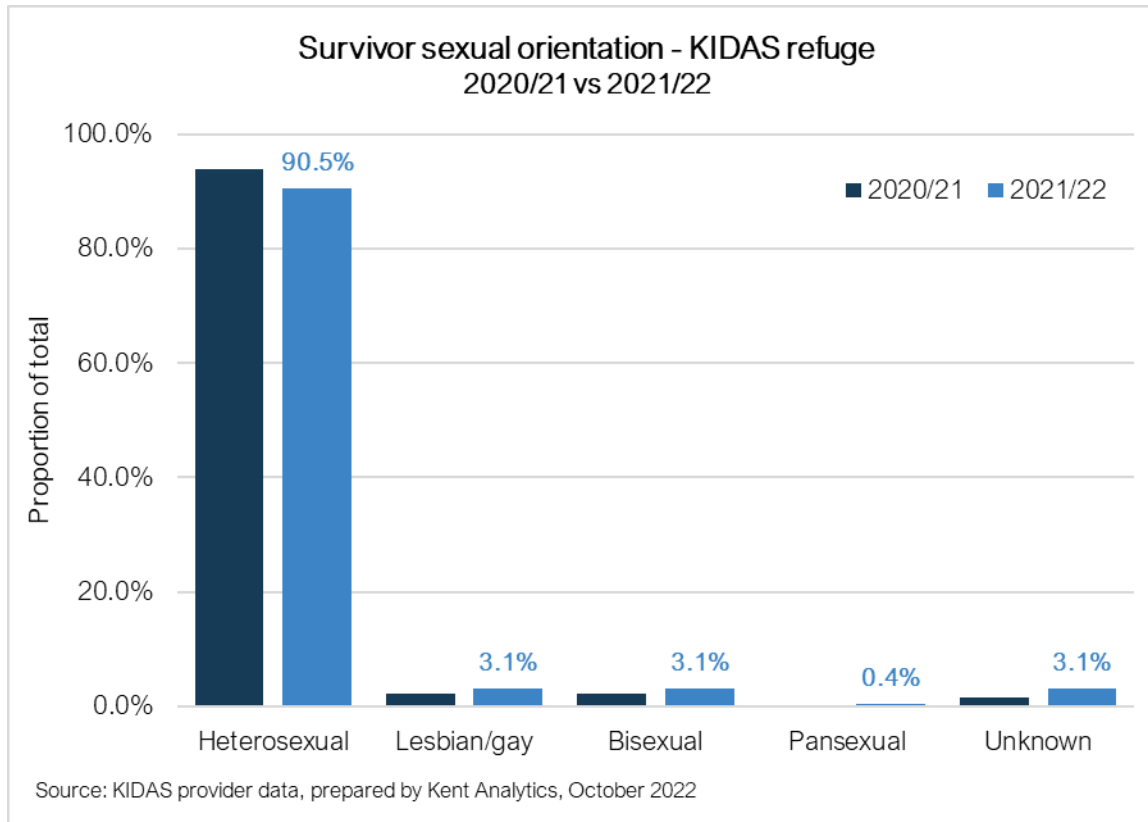
In 2021/22, 64.9% of survivors in refuge identified as white British. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase of 13 survivors identifying as white British (+8.3%).

It is worth noting that survivors from more ethnically diverse areas outside of the county use Kent refuges. In 2021/22, 44% of survivors came from outside Kent.



# Survivor sexual orientation – refuge

In 2021/22, 6.5% of survivors in refuge identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or pansexual. Compared to the previous year, there were an additional 5 survivors who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or pansexual (+41.7%)



Nationally, in 2022, 2.9% of those in refuge identified as lesbian, bisexual, gay, asexual, pansexual or queer<sup>18</sup>

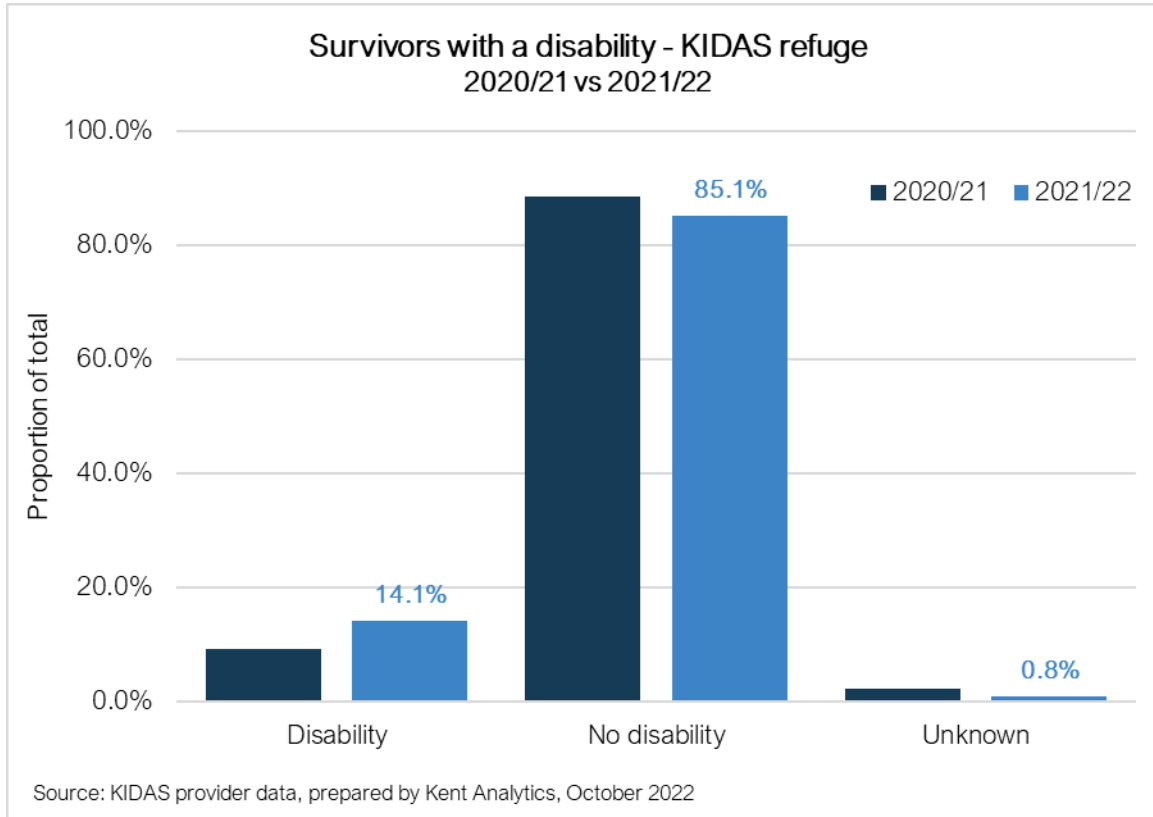
Tentative estimates from the Annual Population Surveys of 2013 to 2015, suggest that 1.9% of Kent's population are LGB (lesbian, gay or bi-sexual)<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> [www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> [www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/70800/summary-of-sexual-orientation-in-Kent.pdf](http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/70800/summary-of-sexual-orientation-in-Kent.pdf)

# Survivors with a disability – refuge

In 2021/22, 14.1% of survivors in refuge had a disability. Compared to the previous year, there were an additional 13 survivors with a disability (+54.2%)



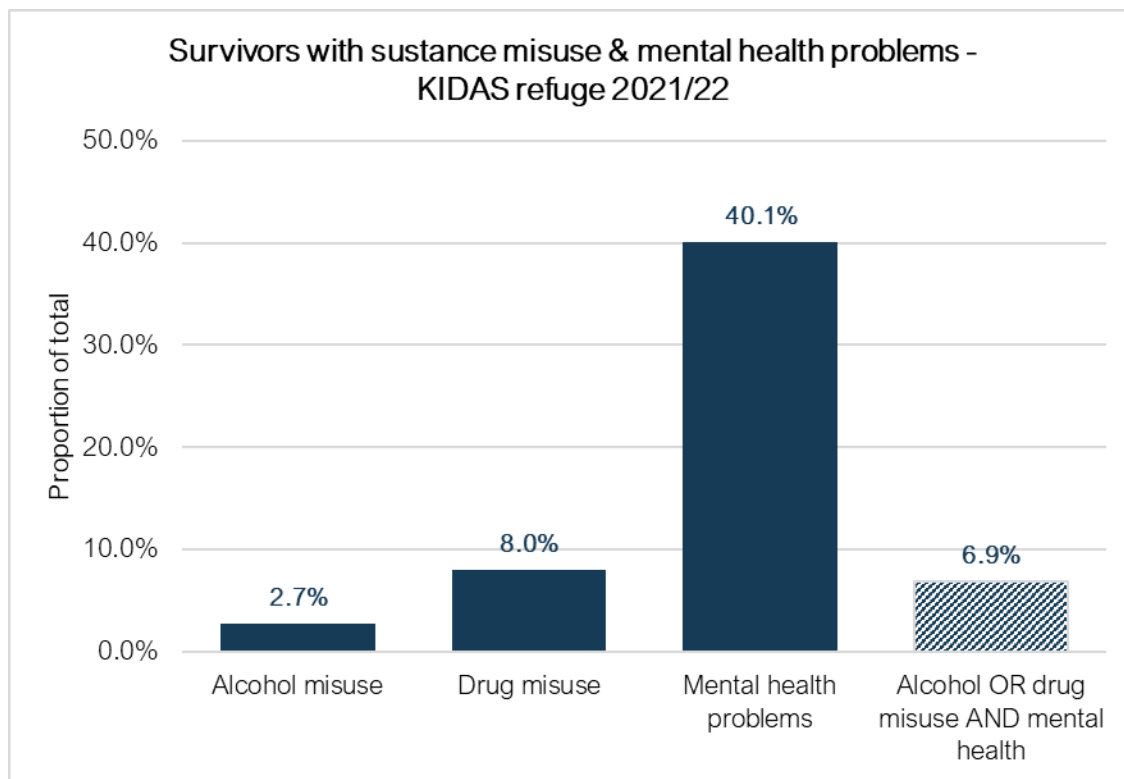
In 2021/22 in Kent, 43% of disabled refuge survivors had a physical or sensory disability and 27% had a learning disability

Nationally, in 2022, 27.5% of refuge service users reported having a disability, the most common being a mental health condition<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> [www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf)

# Toxic trio and DA - refuge

In 2021/22, almost 1 in 15 survivors in refuge had mental health problems AND alcohol and/or drug misuse support needs, as well as experiencing DA (6.9%)



In 2021/22 in Kent, 40.1% of survivors in refuge had a mental health problems

Nationally, in 2022, 49.2% of refuge service users reported having support needs around their mental health<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> [www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf)



# Sanctuary Schemes

There is an inconsistent offer of sanctuary provision across Kent

A Sanctuary Scheme is a multi-agency, victim centred, initiative which aims to enable households at risk of violence to remain safely in their own homes by installing a 'Sanctuary' in the home and through the provision of support to the household.

Sanctuaries are created by enhancing security in the property through 'target hardening' of the property and the provision of safety equipment.

Work is currently underway to develop an equitable sanctuary offer across Kent, which will include the provision of support for survivors, as well as adaptations.

5 of the 12 Kent districts make adaptations to homes to provide 'sanctuary' (Ashford, Dartford, Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone, Swale)

The number of adaptations made to properties per year varies by district, from around 5 to around 40. Around 120 adaptations were made in 2021/22

The 2021 Needs Assessment analysis highlighted a high degree of variation across the county in terms of sanctuary provision

# Community support services (KIDAS & DAVSS)

- Referral sources
- Survivors by area
- Survivors by age
- Survivor gender
- Survivor ethnicity
- Survivor sexual orientation
- Survivors with a disability

# Introduction



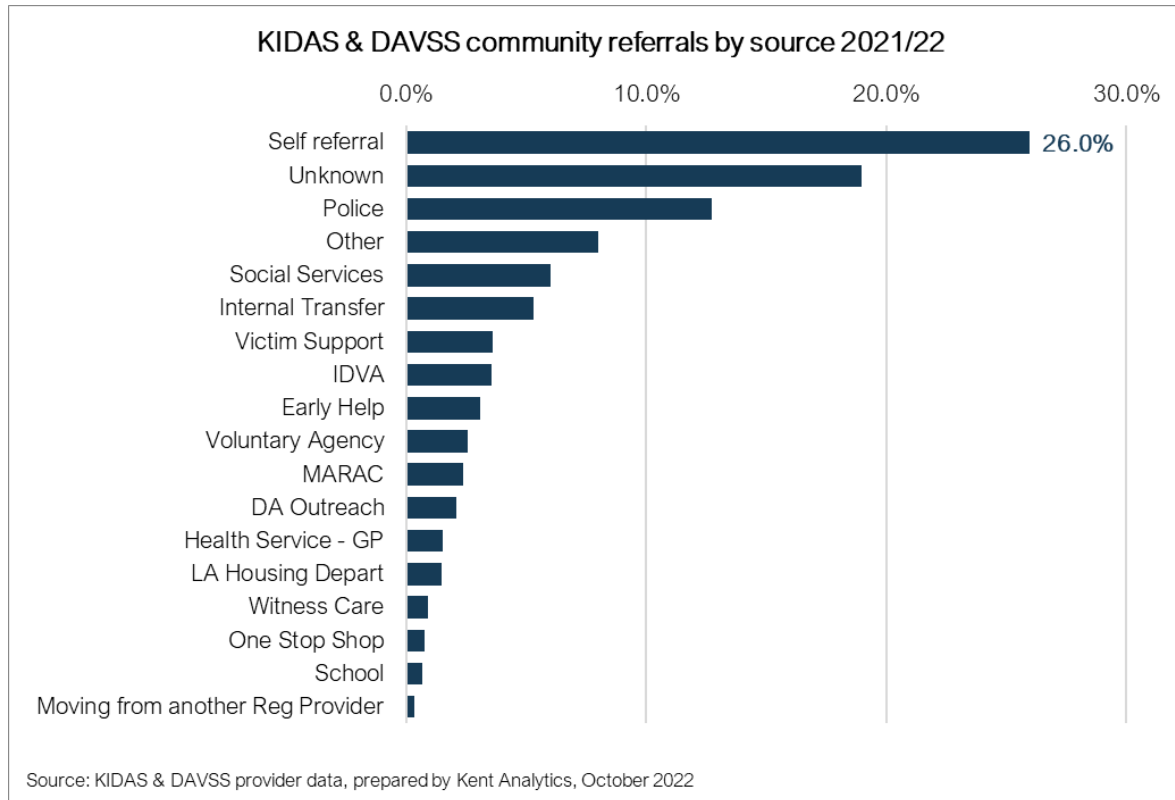
Community support services, including outreach and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), are provided by the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) across a majority of the county. However, in West Kent the Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service (DAVSS) were commissioned separately to KIDAS, by the district and borough councils, to provide community outreach support for medium risk survivors in their areas.

Area	Districts	Provider(s)
North Kent	Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone, Swale	Clarion (outreach/IDVAs)
West Kent	Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells	Look Ahead (IDVAs) DAVSS (outreach)
East Kent	Thanet and Dover	Oasis (outreach/IDVAs)
South Kent	Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe	Clarion (outreach/IDVAs)

To ensure a complete picture of survivors accessing community support in Kent is available to assess need, KIDAS and DAVSS data have been combined in the following parts of this report. However, where there are differences between KIDAS and DAVSS, these exceptions have been highlighted. Support commissioned outside of KIDAS and DAVSS is not included in this report.

# Referral sources – community support

In 2021/22, 26% of survivors referred themselves to community support. Compared to the previous year, there was a decrease of 966 referrals from the police (-55.7%), which was mainly to KIDAS community support (-937 referrals). However, as there was an increase in repeat victims recorded by the police, victims may have been referred for support in the past



In 2021/22, 23.9% of KIDAS referral sources to community support were unknown, an increase of 762 compared to the previous year (+198%)

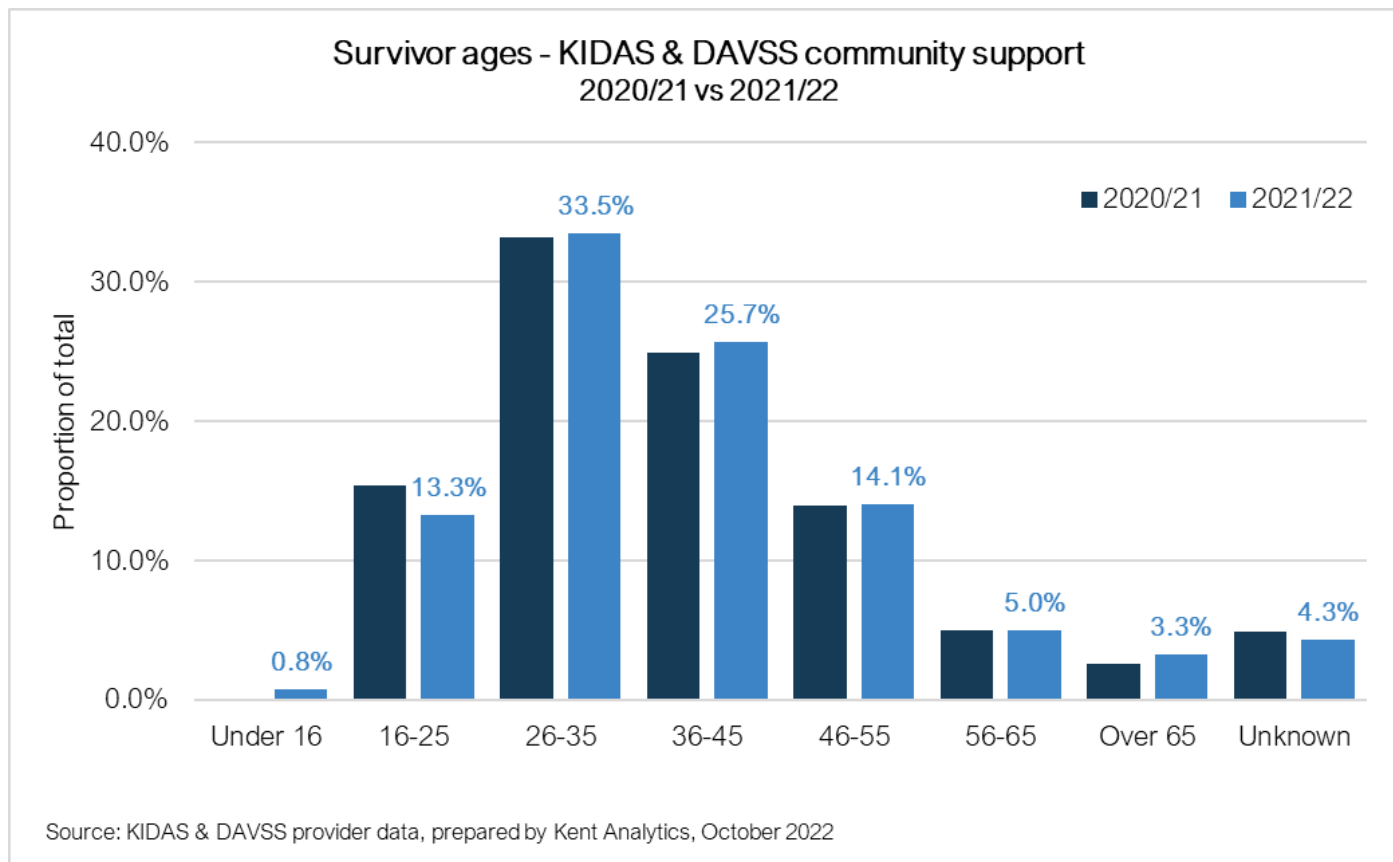
# Survivors by area – community support

In 2021/22, there was an 18% increase in survivors accessing community support across Kent (+672). Although West Kent had the lowest volume of DA related crimes across the four areas, they had the highest number of survivors per 1,000 population accessing community support (5.97) and an additional 464 survivors accessing support in 2021/22 compared to the previous year (+35%). In contrast, North Kent had the highest volume of DA related crimes across the four areas but the lowest number of survivors per 1,000 population accessing community support (1.91)

Area	Outreach*			IDVAs			Total community support			
	20/21	21/22	% change	20/21	21/22	% change	20/21	21/22	% change	21/22 per 1,000 pop (16+)
North Kent	255	334	31%	347	490	41%	602	824	37%	1.91
West Kent*	1,015	1,230	21%	319	568	78%	1,334	1,798	35%	5.97
East Kent	197	350	78%	414	326	-21%	611	676	11%	3.18
South Kent	637	653	3%	531	436	-18%	1,168	1,089	-7%	3.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>4,387</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>3.42</b>

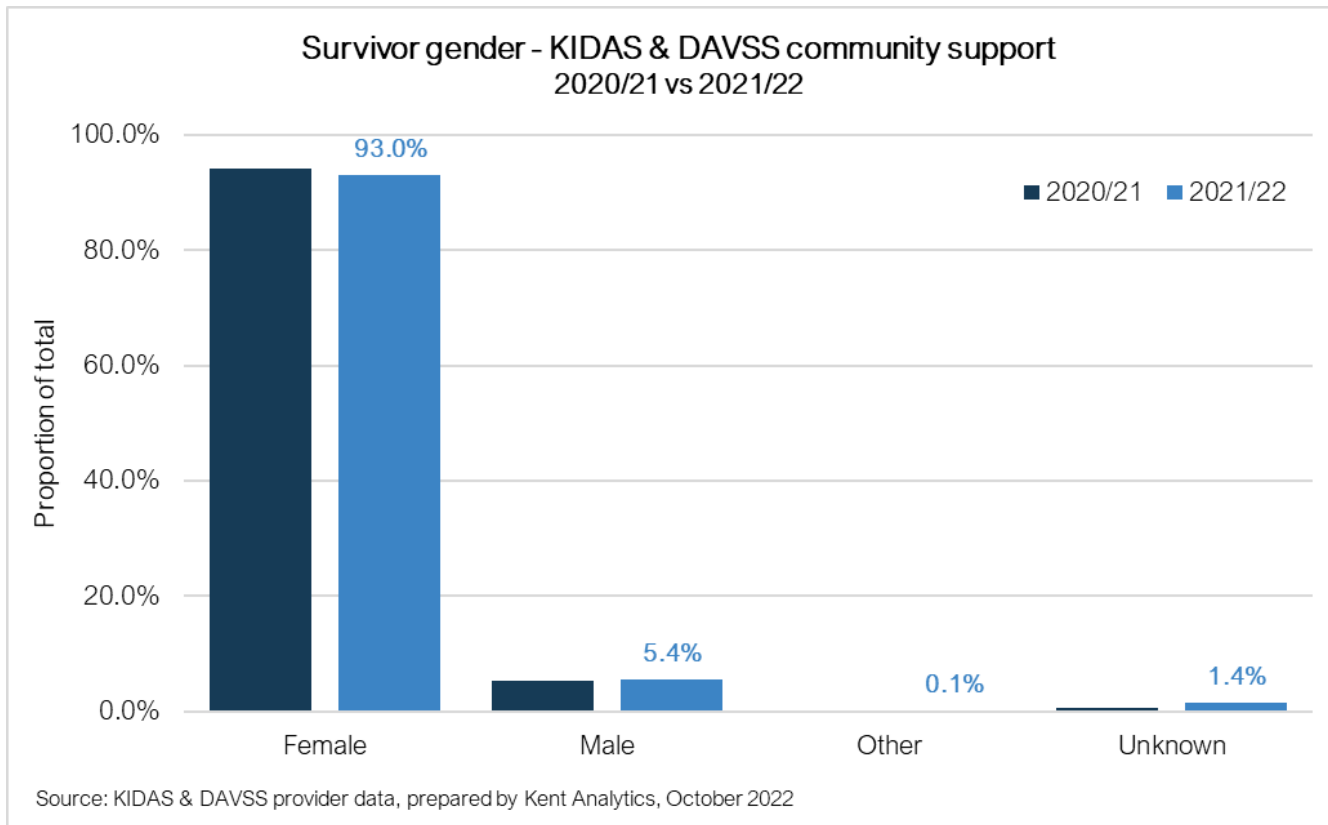
# Survivor age – community support

In 2021/22, 59.2% of survivors accessing community support were aged between 26 and 45 years old. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase of 50 survivors aged over 65 years old accessing community support (+52.6%)



# Survivor gender – community support

In 2021/22, 93% of survivors accessing community support identified as female. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase of 38 male survivors accessing community support (+18.9%), which was mainly to KIDAS community support (+35 survivors)

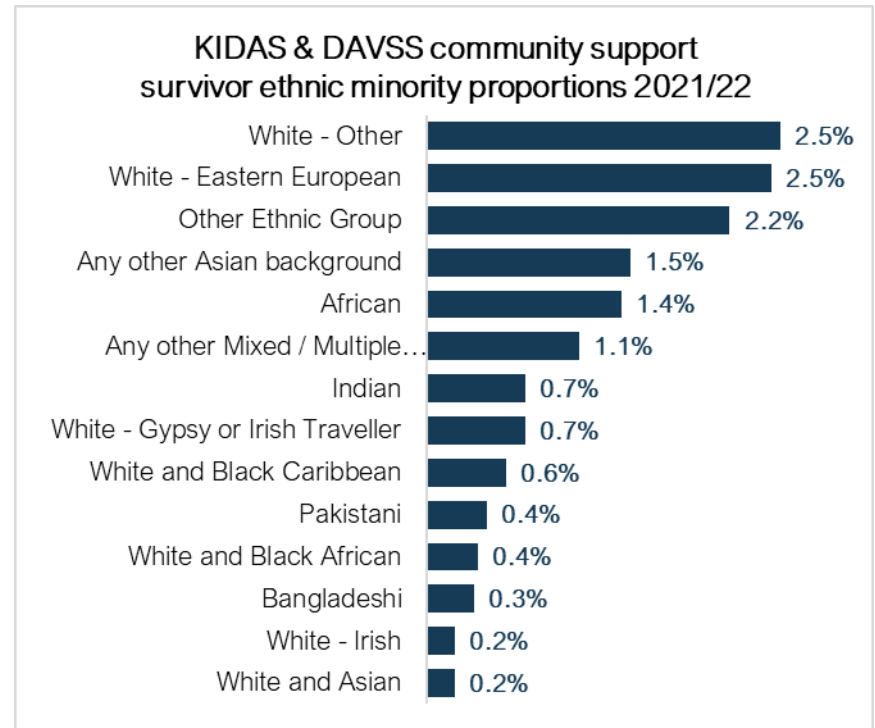
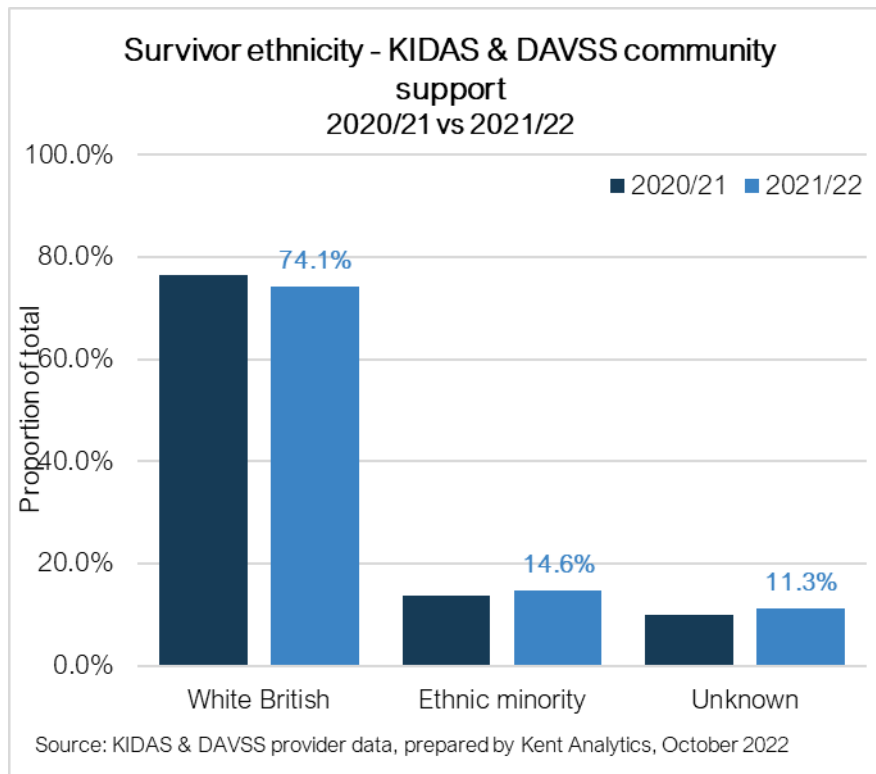


In 2021/22, Dads Unlimited\* provided 115 male survivors with one to one support (including support to court) and 30 were supported by IDVAs

\*Dads Unlimited are commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

# Survivor ethnicity – community support

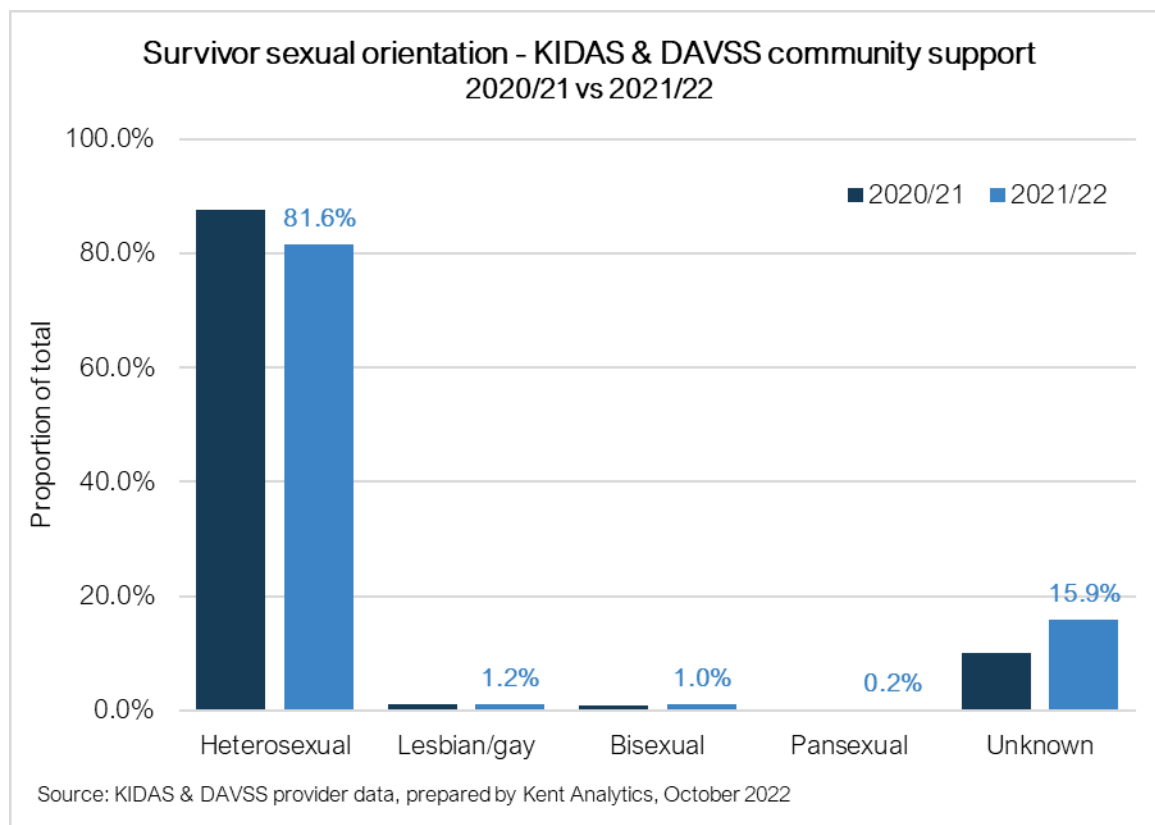
In 2021/22, 74.1% of survivors accessing community support identified as white British and 14.6% identified as ethnic minority





# Survivor sexual orientation – community support

In 2021/22, 2.4% of survivors accessing community support identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or pansexual. Compared to the previous year, there were an additional 27 survivors who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or pansexual (+34.2%)



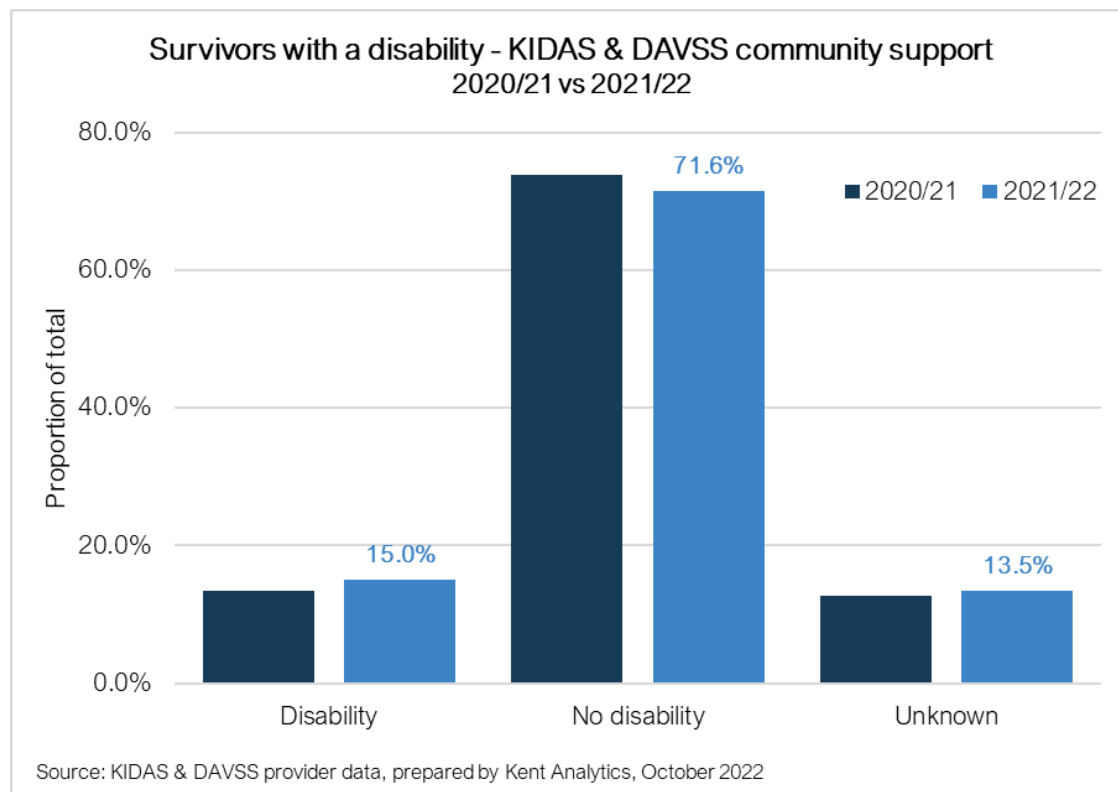
Nationally, in 2022, 2.2% of those accessing community support identified as lesbian, bisexual, gay, asexual, pansexual or queer<sup>22</sup>

In 2021/22, 13.3% of KIDAS survivors sexual orientation were unknown, an increase of 255 (+154%) compared to the previous year

<sup>22</sup> [www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf)

# Survivors with a disability – community support

In 2021/22, 15% of survivors accessing community support had a disability. Compared to the previous year, there were an additional 159 survivors with a disability (+31.9%), two thirds of which were to KIDAS community support (106 survivors)



In 2021/22 in Kent, 43% of disabled survivors accessing KIDAS community support had a physical or sensory disability and 18% had a learning disability

Nationally, in 2022, 24.2% of community based service users reported having a disability, the most common being a mental health condition<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> [www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf)

# Homelessness

- Trends over time
- District comparisons

# Introduction

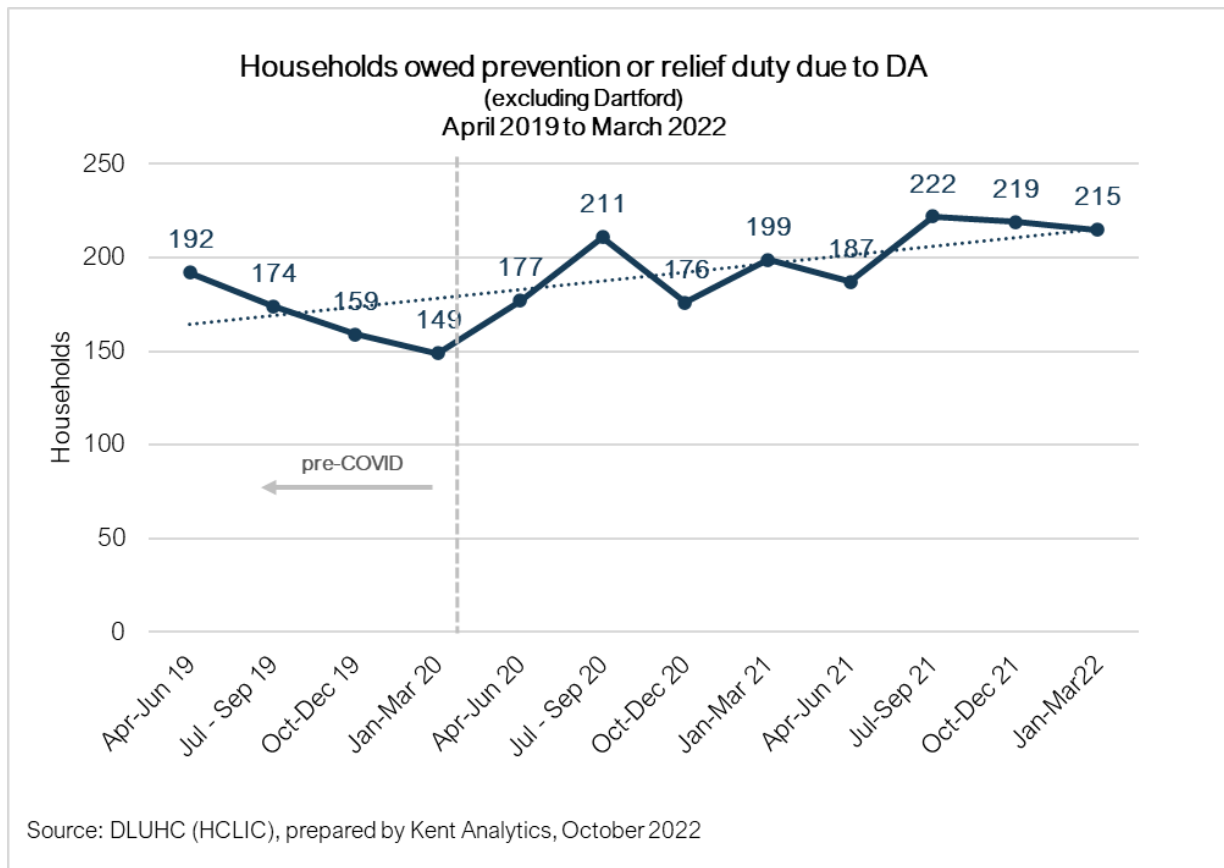
Local housing authorities owe duties under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to victims of domestic abuse who are eligible and homeless. If the household is homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse, they will have priority need for accommodation secured by the local authority. This means that local housing authorities must provide temporary accommodation until the duty can be discharged through provision of settled accommodation.

**Prevention duties** are any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless. This would involve activities to enable an applicant to remain in their current home or find alternative accommodation to prevent them from becoming homeless. The duty lasts for 56 days but may be extended if the local authority is continuing with efforts to prevent homelessness.

**Relief duties** are owed to households that are already homeless and require help to secure settled accommodation. This would involve activities to find accommodation to relieve their homelessness. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended by a local authority if the households would not be owed the main homelessness duty.

# Homelessness trends over time

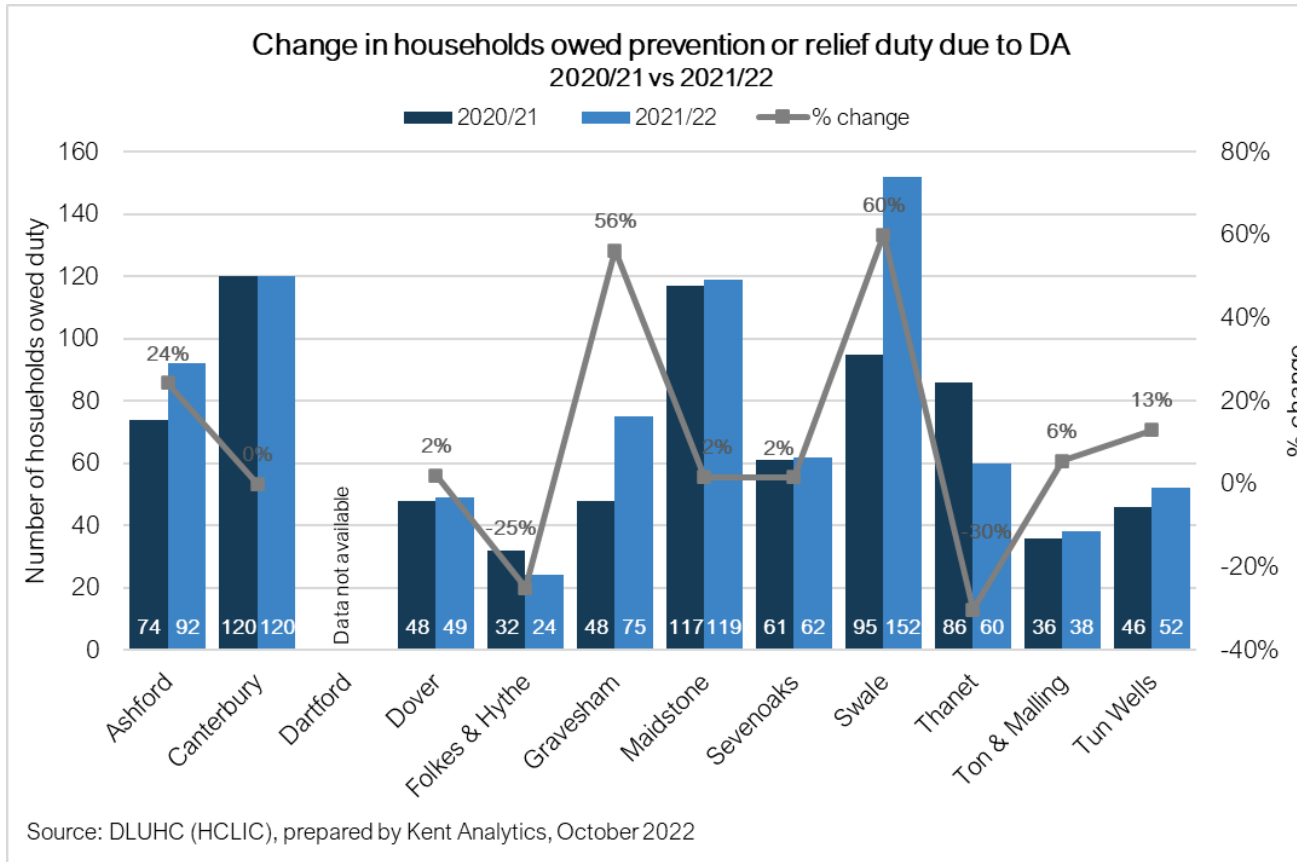
The number of households in Kent owed prevention or relief duty due to DA has steadily increased since the COVID pandemic. In 2021/22, 843 households were owed duty (excluding Dartford), a 10% increase compared to the previous year.



Dartford is excluded from the total as data for some time periods in 2019/20 and 2020/21 were not available

# Homelessness by district

In 2021/22, most Kent districts saw an increase in households owed prevention or relief duty due to DA compared to the previous year, Swale greatest increase at 60%



Data collated from 10 of the 12 District and Borough councils for the first 6 months of 2022 suggests 6 are showing an increase this year (Ashford, Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Thanet, Tonbridge & Malling)

Dartford does not have comparable data for 2020/21 and 2021/22

# Part 2

## Domestic abuse and children & young people



# Background

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 states that a child is classed as a victim of domestic abuse if they **‘see, hear or experience the effects of the abuse’**.

Based on gaps identified in previous Needs Assessments, through wider discussions and as a result of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's recommended scrutiny question *‘Does the council have statistics for the number of children in its area who have been or are being affected by domestic abuse?’*<sup>24</sup>, it was decided that the focus of part 2 of the refresh would be to understand the wider picture of DA in relation to children & young people (C&YP).

It should be noted that while some information in this area is readily available, and presented in this report, it was accepted that there may be gaps. However, uncovering and documenting what we don't know was considered just as valuable to improve practice going forward.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news/2021/nov/ombudsman-issues-guidance-to-help-domestic-abuse-survivors>



# Scope of report



Part 2 of the report aims to answer the following questions:

1. What is the prevalence of DA involving C&YP?
2. What is the service provision for C&YP around DA and where are the gaps?
3. What models of care are effective in supporting C&YP impacted by DA?
4. What do C&YP say they need in terms of support/education around DA?

Where the data allows, it will focus on three populations:

- C&YP affected by DA happening in adults around them
- C&YP experiencing DA in their first intimate relationship
- C&YP behaving in abusive way

# Overview

The Children's Commissioner modelled prevalence estimates **20,615 children aged 0 – 17 in Kent are living in households where a parent is suffering DA** (60.6 per 1,000 population vs 65.6 per 1,000 population nationally)<sup>25</sup>

There are 310,128 C&YP aged under 16 in Kent (excluding Medway), making up 19% of the total population (ONS 2020 mid-year population estimates)

One in seven C&YP under the age of 18 will have lived with DA at some point in their childhood (Radford et al 2011)

In a classroom of 30 children, around 6 of those will have lived, or be living with DA<sup>26</sup>



Up to 692 children a day are assessed as being at risk of DA in England<sup>27</sup>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/vulnerable-children/local-vulnerability-profiles/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://socialcareinspection.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/07/domestic-abuse-keeping-the-conversation-going/>

<sup>27</sup> [https://www.barnardos.org/sites/default/files/uploads/%27Not%20just%20collateral%20damage%27%20Barnardo%27s%20Report\\_0.pdf](https://www.barnardos.org/sites/default/files/uploads/%27Not%20just%20collateral%20damage%27%20Barnardo%27s%20Report_0.pdf)

# Effects of DA on C&YP

- Domestic abuse, parental mental ill-health and parental substance misuse (commonly termed the 'toxic trio') are recognised indications of increased harm to children and young people (Browne et al 2013).
- It is now widely accepted that living with DA can significantly affect children, with the effects of DA continuing to be felt into adulthood (Millar et al 2019).
- Children and adolescents living with domestic abuse are at increased risk of experiencing emotional, physical and sexual abuse, of developing emotional and behavioural problems and of increased exposure to the presence of other adversities in their lives (Holt et al 2008).
- In one study, children were suffering multiple physical and mental health consequences as a result of exposure to DA. Over half (52%) had behavioural problems, over a third (39%) had difficulties adjusting at school and nearly two thirds (60%) felt responsible or to blame for negative events<sup>28</sup>.
- The Royal College of Psychiatrists research says that girls are more likely to keep their distress inside. They may become withdrawn from other people, and become anxious or depressed. Whereas boys seem to express their distress much more outwardly, for example by becoming aggressive and disobedient<sup>29</sup>

<sup>28</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/In\\_plain\\_sight\\_the\\_evidence\\_from\\_children\\_exposed\\_to\\_domestic\\_abuse.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/In_plain_sight_the_evidence_from_children_exposed_to_domestic_abuse.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/parents-and-young-people/information-for-parents-and-carers/domestic-violence-and-abuse-for-parents>

# Part 2 data information sources

The analysis in part 2 of the update draws on the following key information sources:

**Kent Police:** Recorded incidents with child involvement and ages, Op Encompass, victims/suspects under/over 21, MARAC

**KCC Children's Services Management Information Unit:** Front Door requests for support, Domestic Abuse Notifications, Early Help assessments/reviews, Children's Social Work Service Child & Family assessments, Supporting Families programme, Open Access interventions

**Children's safeguarding:** Serious Incident Notifications and Practice Reviews, The Education People Safeguarding consultations

**Health:** DA referrals to midwives/health visitors

**KIDAS commissioned service data returns:** Survivors with children in community and refuge, ages of children in refuge, children with support needs, survivors aged 16 to 20

**DAVSS commissioned service data returns:** Survivors aged 16 to 20

**District & Borough Councils:** Homelessness and social housing applications due to DA with dependent children

# Prevalence of DA among C&YP

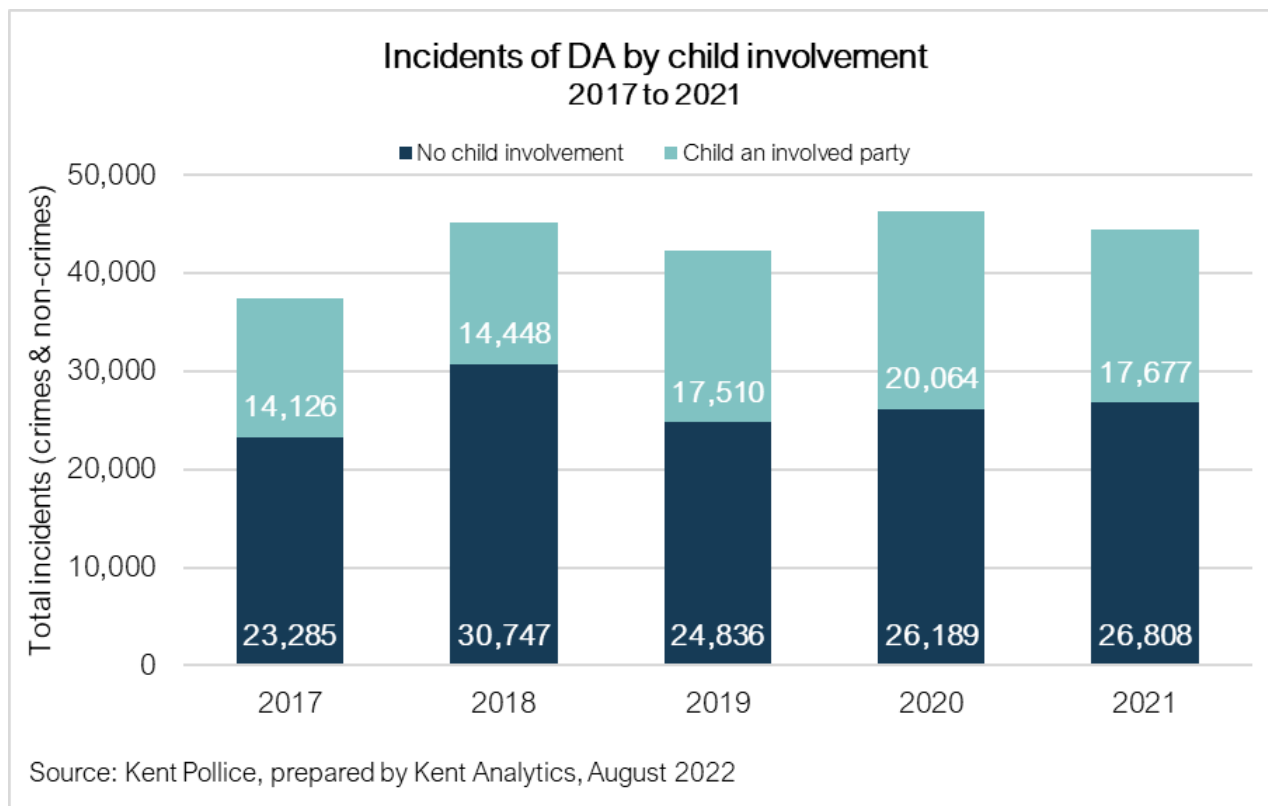
# Kent Police recorded incidence

- Police incidents by child involvement
- Children as an involved party by age
- Crimes by risk level by child involvement
- Op Encompass notifications
- Victims and suspects under/over 21

# Police incidents – child involvement

In 2021, 40% of domestic abuse incidents reported to Kent Police were recorded as having a child, or children, as an involved party

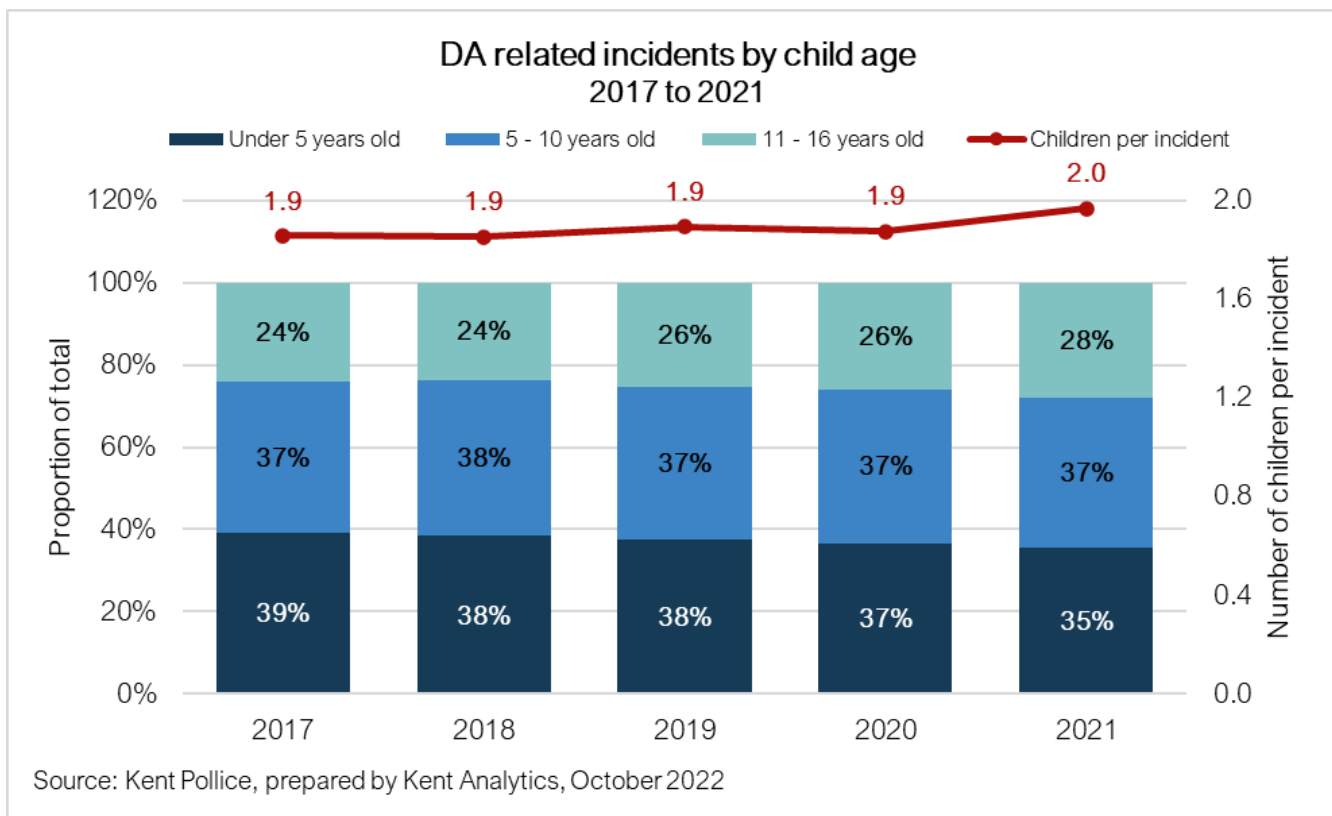
Tonbridge & Malling had the highest proportion (45%) and Canterbury the lowest (36%)



An involved party is someone who does not meet the definition of a victim but who is impacted by the offence in a greater manner than a witness e.g. a child who witnesses an assault of a parent/carer is not recorded as a victim but may experience emotional distress

# Police incidents – children as an involved party by age

On average over the past 5 years, nearly three quarters of children recorded as being an involved party on DA incidents recorded by Kent Police were aged under 11 (74.4%). In 2021, 2 children per DA incident were recorded as being an involved party. However, it is worth noting that the number of children involved will vary by incident, depending on the family composition.

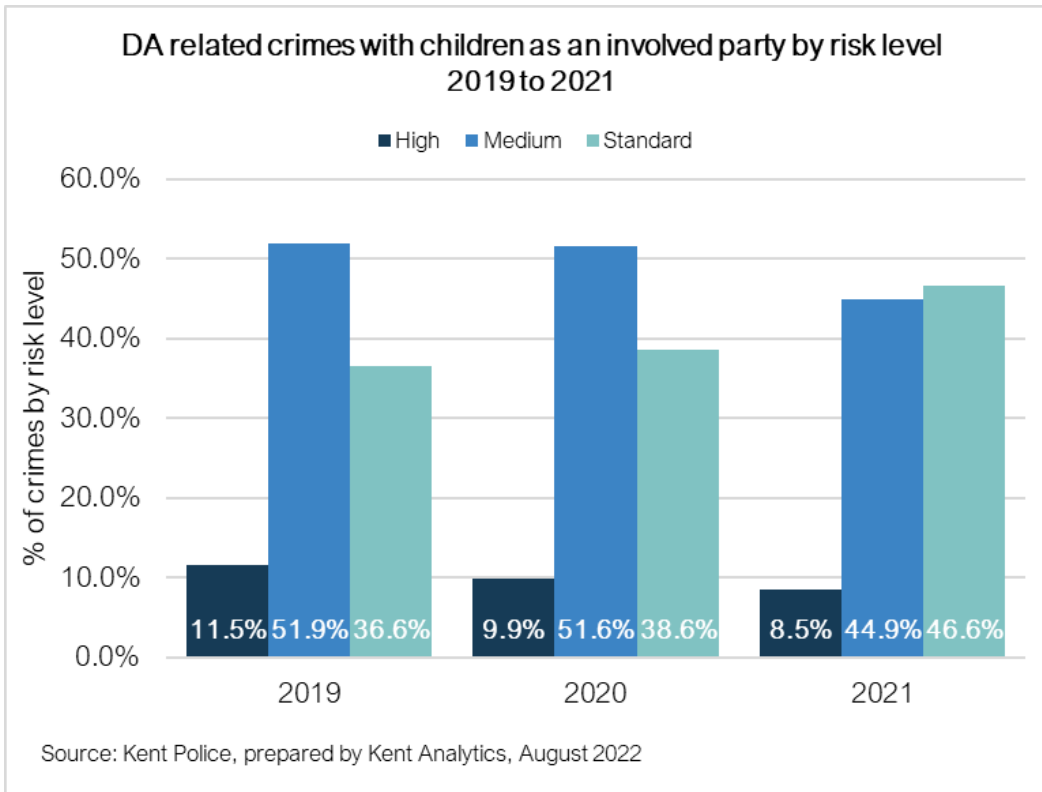




# Crimes by risk level – child involvement

The proportion of crimes graded as high risk with children as an involved party has gradually decreased over the past 3 years

46.6% of crimes were graded as standard risk in 2021



**High risk:** There is an extreme level of control of one person by another and/or very frequent and severe physical violence. There is a serious threat of harm posed to the victim by the perpetrator. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

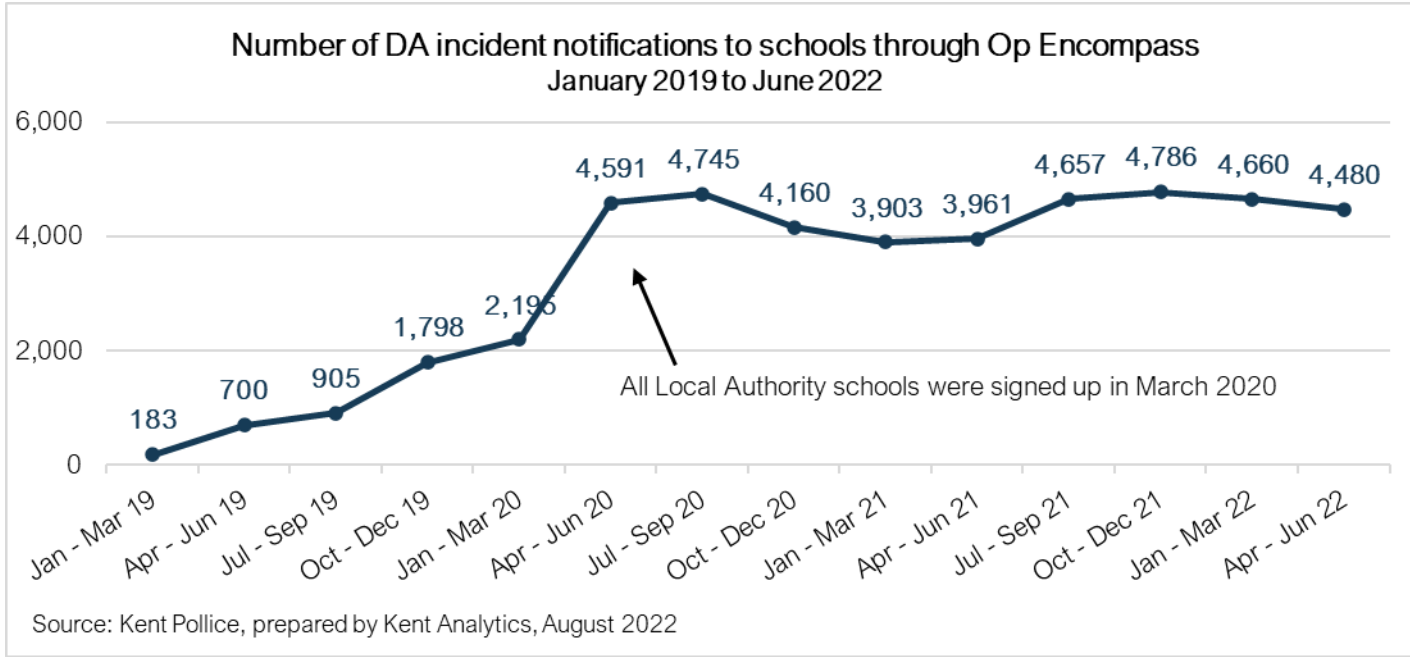
**Medium risk:** There appears to be a pattern of abuse/control of one person by another, and/or frequent physical violence. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, such as the victim attempting to leave.

**Standard risk:** There appears to be no pattern of abusive behaviour, or control of one person by another. Current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm.

Risk level data prior to January 2019 is not available due to back record conversion from Genesis to Athena

# Op Encompass notifications

An average of around 4,400 DA notifications are sent to schools each quarter



Data is extracted by a free text search of the 'Detail Text / description field from the referral section on Athena. As this is free text the data is only as accurate as the inputting officer or member of staff.









Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership, enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing DA.

In Kent (including Medway) there are now 621 Primary schools and 200 Secondary schools signed up to the scheme.

# Victims and suspects under/over 21

As expected, the majority of victims and suspects of DA related crime are aged over 21 (78.5%)

However, in 2021, almost 1 in 8 DA crimes involved **either a victim or suspect aged under 21** (12.9%)

Victim	Suspect	
		78.5% victim and suspect 21+
		7.2% victim 21+ and suspect under 21
		5.7% victim under 21 and suspect 21+
		3.6% victim under 21 and suspect under 21

There were 1 in 28 crimes where the victim and suspect were under 21 (3.6%)

Based on the unique number of crime reports and not unique number of victims or suspects 4.7% of crimes have an unknown age for either the victim or suspect, or both

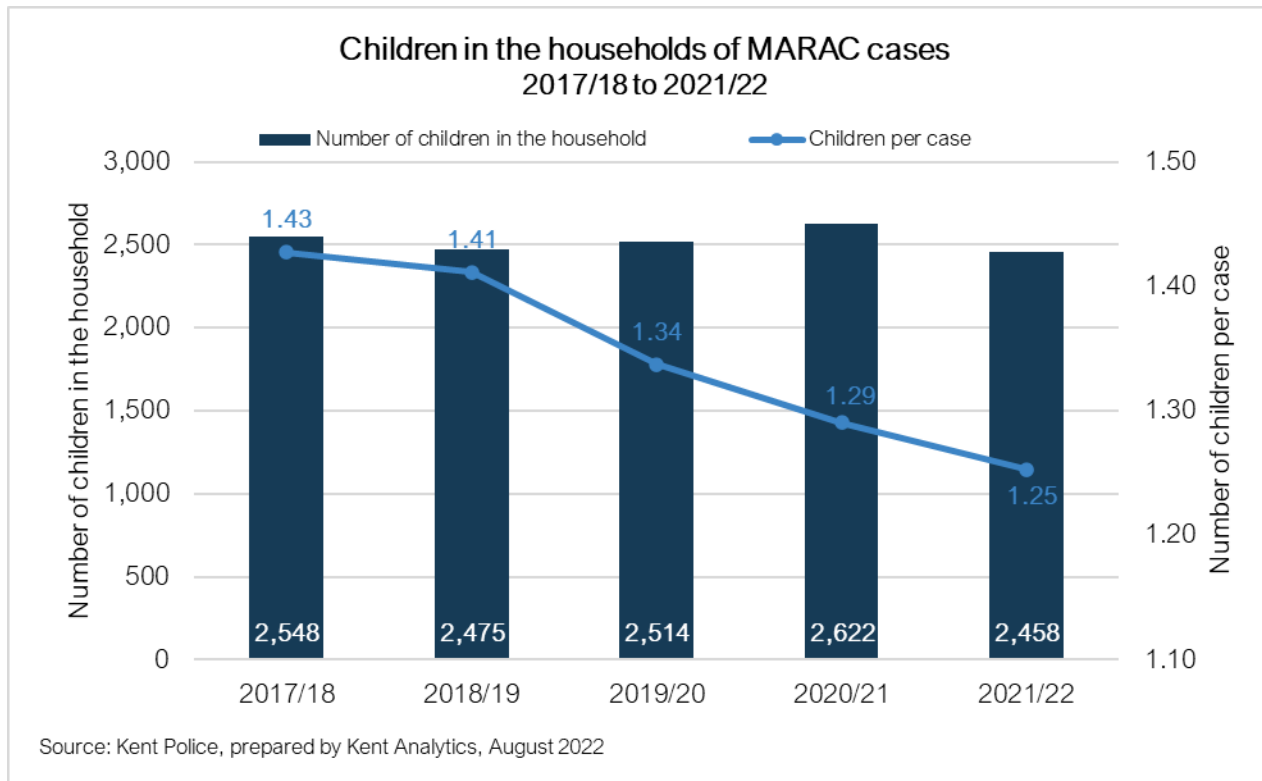
# Kent Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

- Children in the household
- Victims aged 16 to 17 years old

# Children in the household

Although there have been slight fluctuations in the number of children in households discussed at MARAC over the past 5 years, the number remains relatively stable at around 2,500 per year

The number of children per case has decreased from 1.43 to 1.25 over the past 5 years

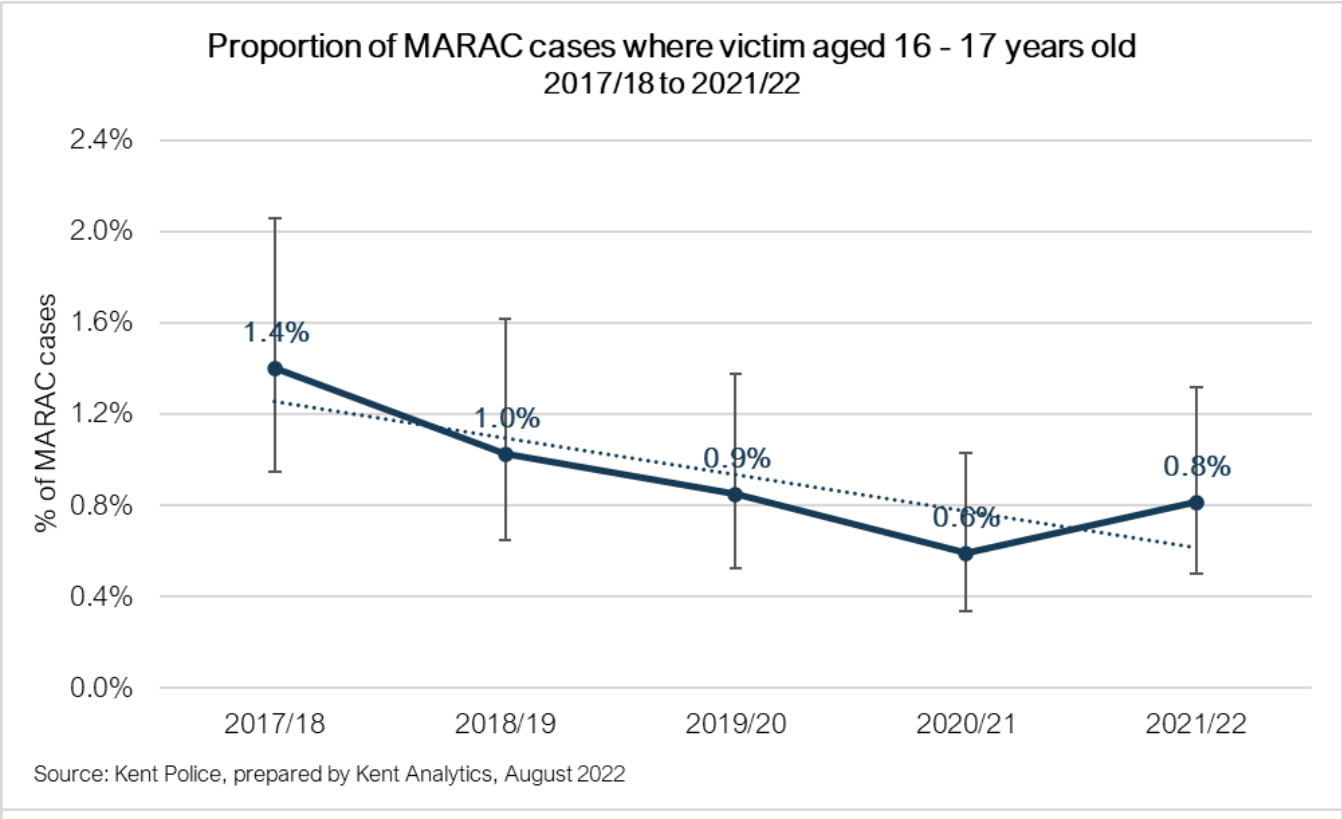


Nationally, there were 1.25 children in households per case in 2021/22<sup>30</sup>

Gravesham had the highest number of children per case (1.58) and Maidstone and Folkestone & Hythe the least (0.92)

# Victims aged 16 to 17 years old

The proportion of MARAC cases where the victim was aged between 16 to 17 years old has decreased over the past 5 years, however there is no significant difference



Nationally, there were 1.3% of cases where the victim was aged 16 to 17 years old in 2021/22<sup>31</sup>

On average over the past 5 years, there were 17 MARAC cases per year where the victim was aged between 16 and 17 years old

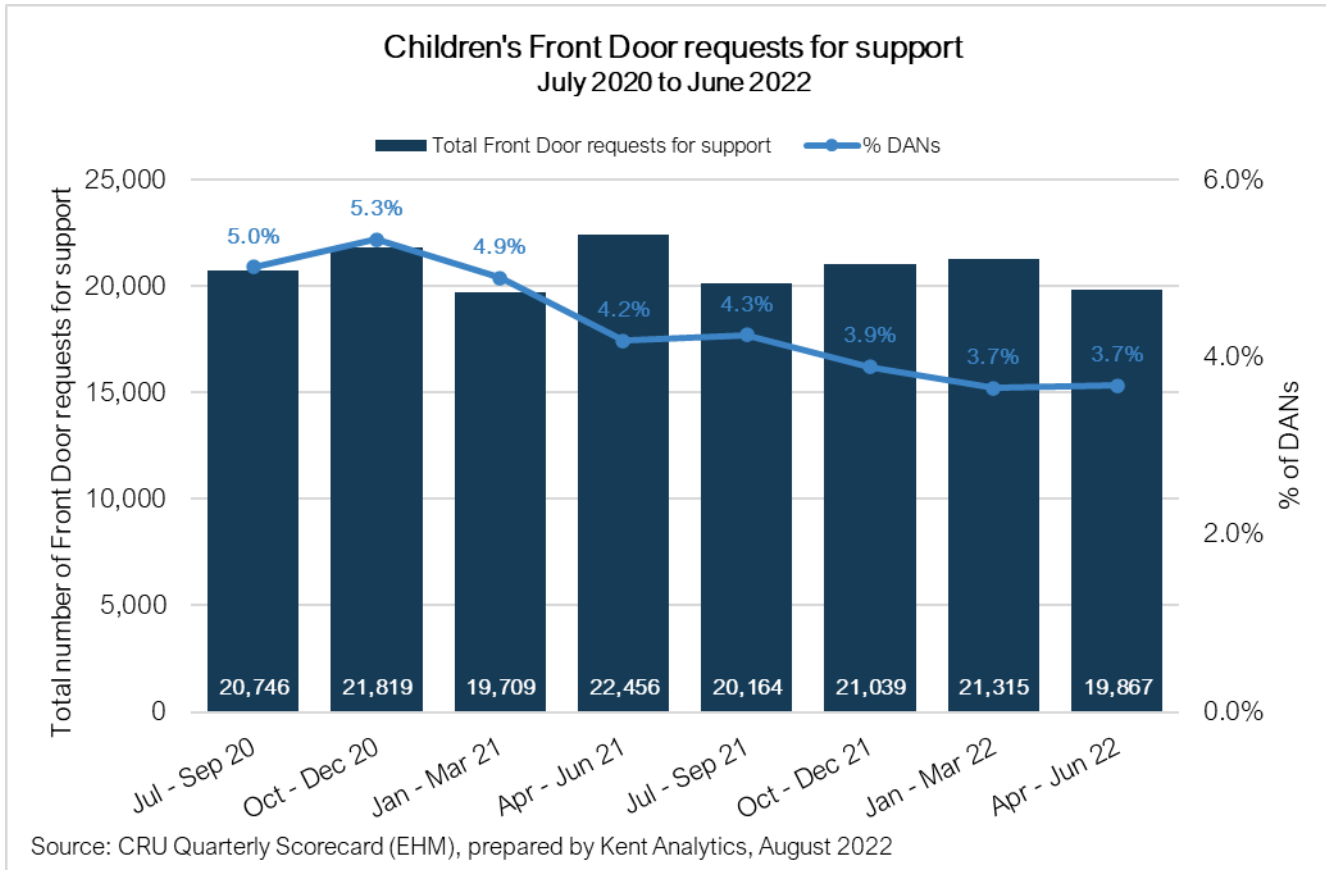
<sup>31</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings/latest-marac-data>

# KCC Children's Services

- Front Door requests for support
- Domestic Abuse Notification risk levels
- Early Help assessments & reviews
- Children's Social Work Services Child & Family assessments
- Supporting Families programme
- Open Access interventions

# Front Door requests for support

The number of Front Door requests for support that were Domestic Abuse Notifications (DANs) has steadily decreased over the past 2 years



When police attend an incident of DA and a child is present, the police Central Referral Unit (CRU) **always** review high risk incidents and crimes where a child under 5 is in the household. Subsequently, a DAN may be sent to the Front Door

Those meeting threshold **Level 3 or 4** of Kent Support Level Guidance are **always** sent to the Front Door

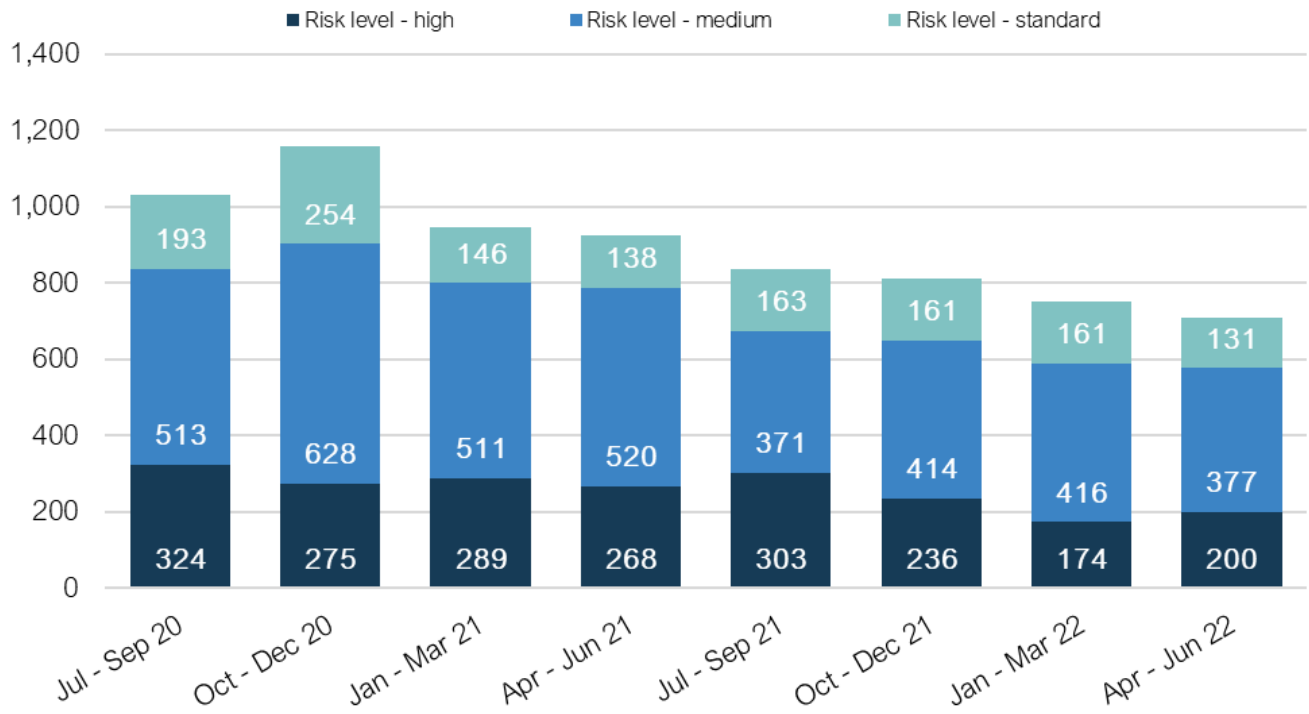
Cumulative risk to a child and previous support levels are also a consideration



# DAN risk levels



Number of Domestic Abuse Notifications by Risk Level  
July 2020 to June 2022



Source: CRU Quarterly Scorecard (EHM), prepared by Kent Analytics, August 2022

In June 2021, police CRU adopted a new practice to review the Kent Support Levels guidance before sending a DAN to the Front Door

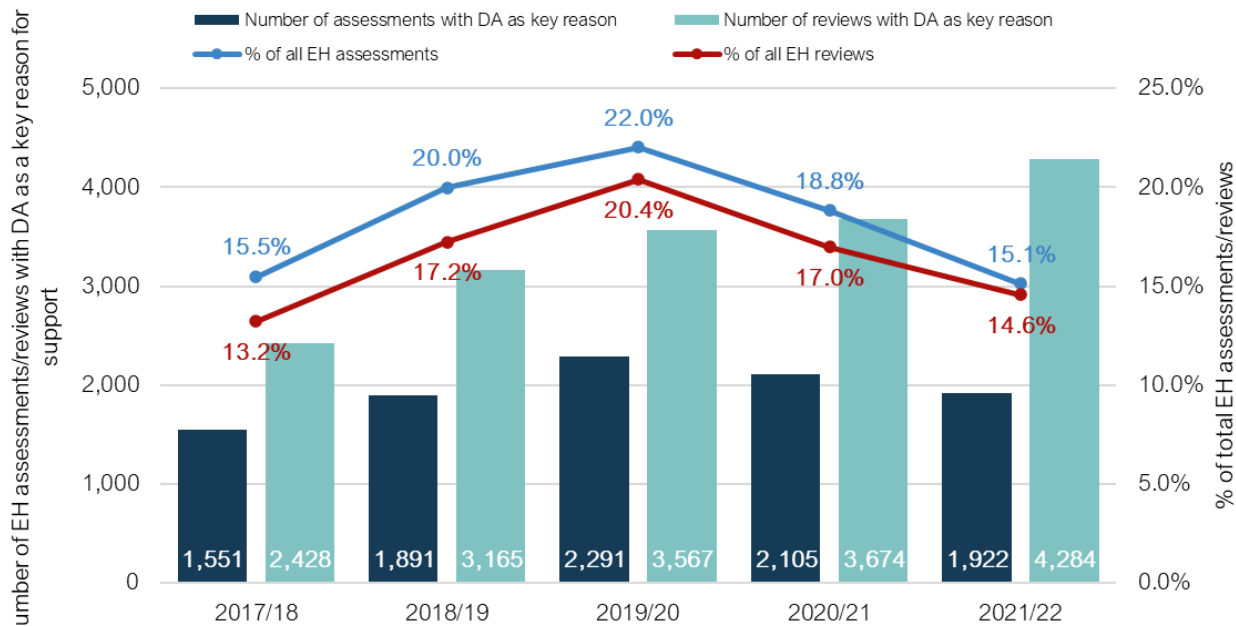
They were also provided with the **Children's Social Work open cases list**. When a child is open to social care, the DAN is added to the child's open case note rather than a new Front Door request DAN

This will account for some of the reduction in the volume of DANs

# Early Help assessments & reviews

The proportion of EH assessments and reviews where DA was a key reason for support was highest in 2019/20 and has since declined and sits at around 15%

Early Help assessments and reviews with DA as a key reason for support  
April 2017 to March 2022



Source: CYPE MIU (EHM), prepared by Kent Analytics, August 2022

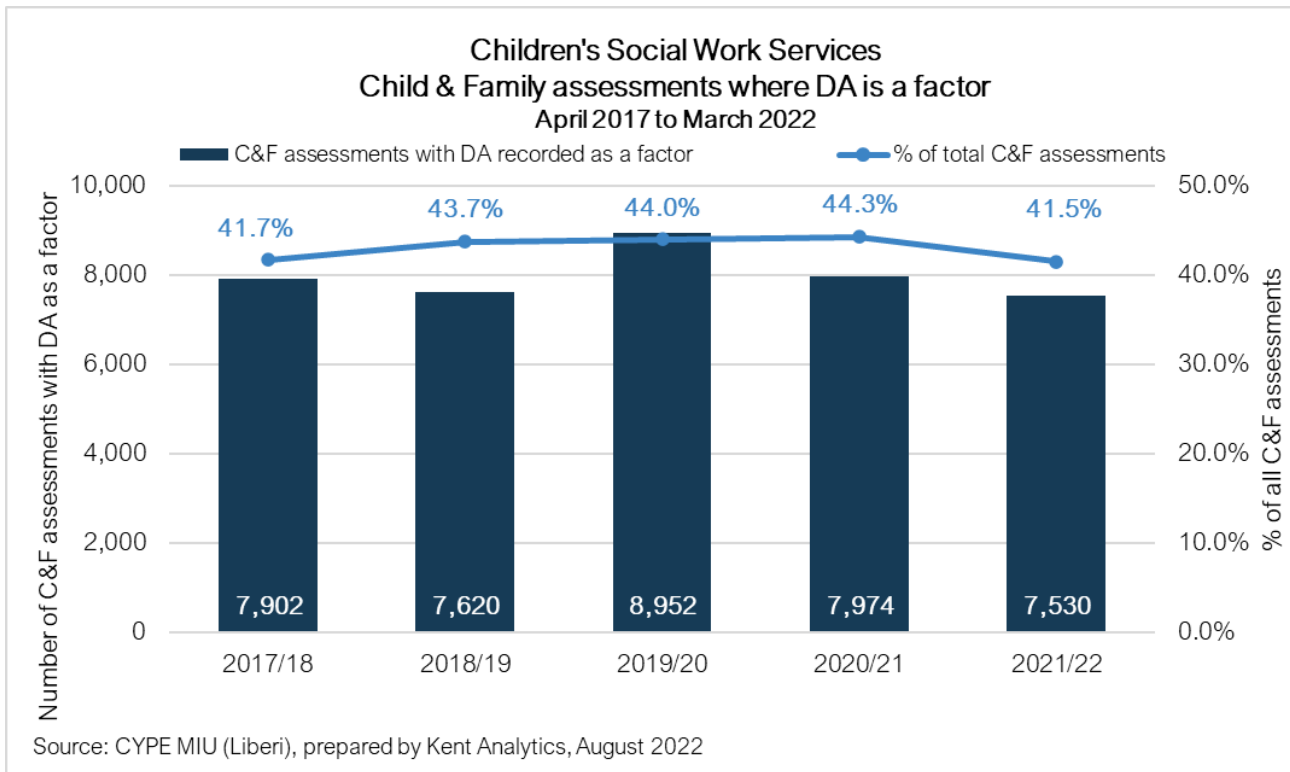
In 2021/22, Gravesham had the highest proportion of EH assessments (20.8%) and reviews (18.2%) where DA was a key reason for support

Ashford had the lowest (9.7% assessments and 8.9% reviews)

Integrated Children's Services was created in April 2019

# Children's Social Work Services Child & Family assessments

The proportion of Child & Family assessments where DA is a factor has remained relatively stable over the past 5 years at around 43%



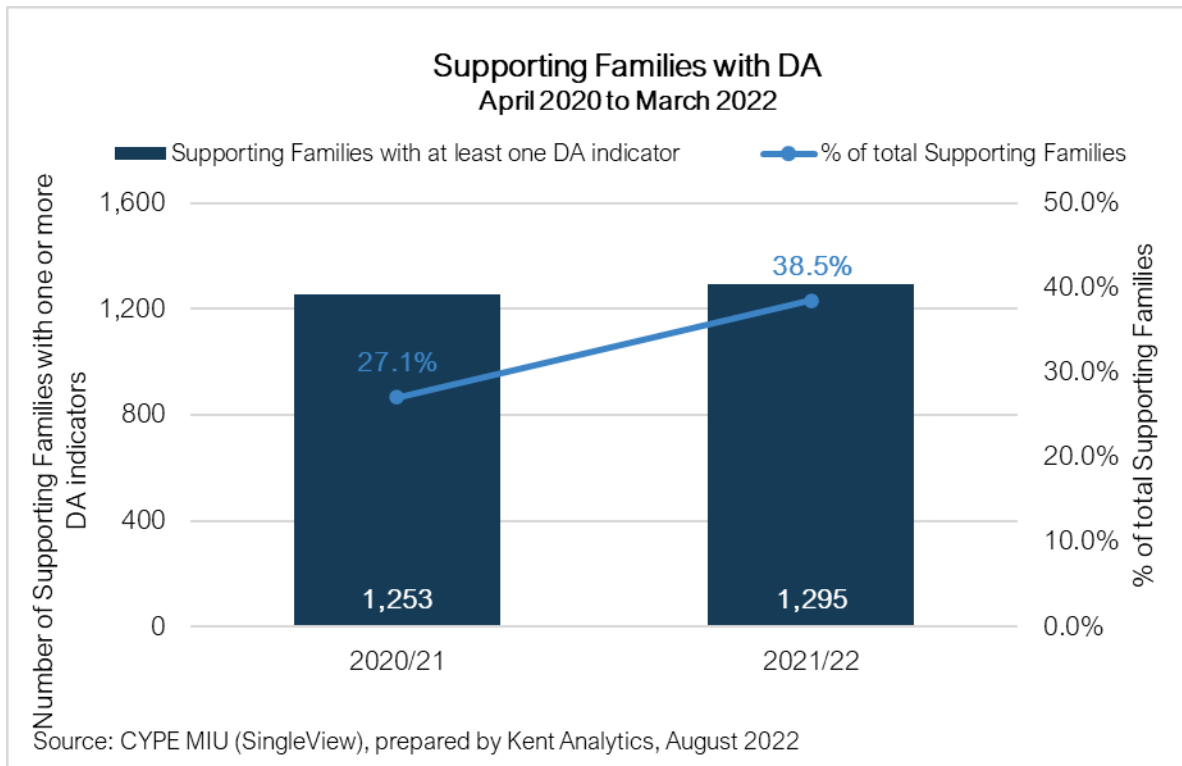
Nationally, in 2021, concerns about DA towards the parent remained the most common additional factor relevant to the case that social workers identified at the end of assessment<sup>19</sup>

In 2021/22, Thanet had the highest proportion of C&F assessments where DA was a factor (45.2%) and Dover had the lowest (35.1%)

When completing an assessment, Social Workers are asked to record factors that affect either the child, parent or another person. This data is a **combination of all three person types**, not just in relation to the child

# Supporting Families programme

The proportion of Supporting Families with DA as an indicator increased to 38.5% in 2021/22



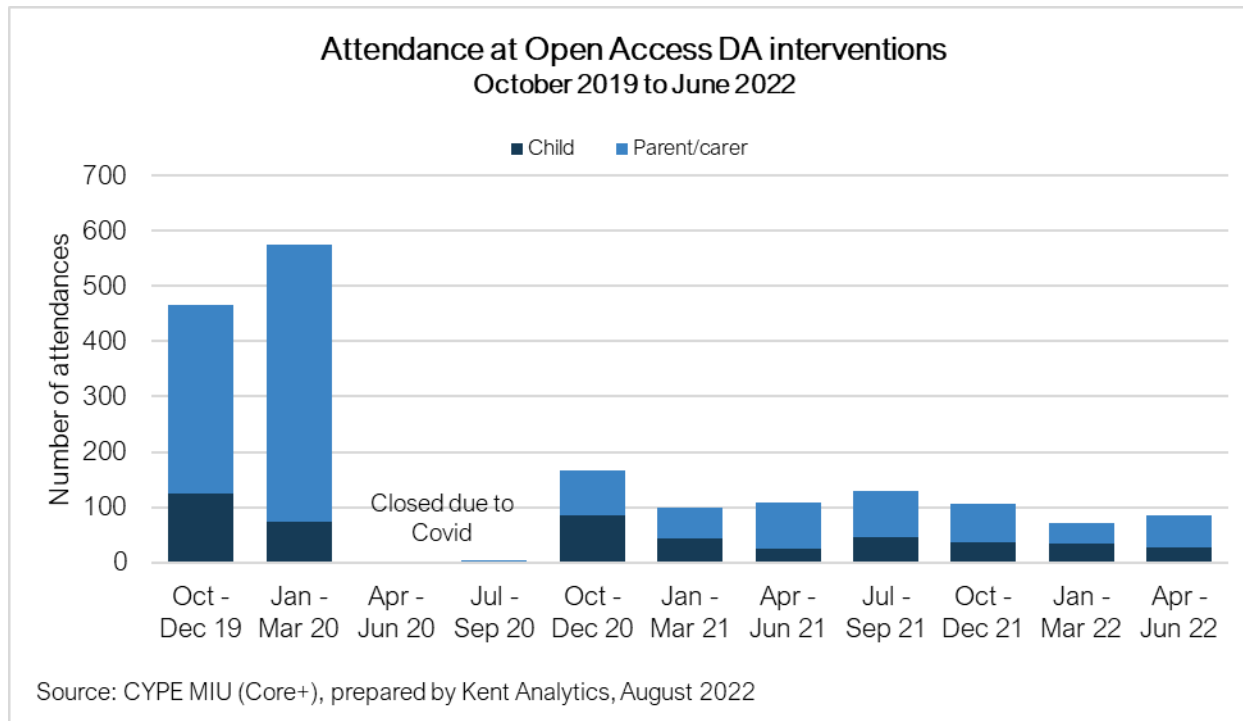
## Supporting Families DA indicators:

- Adult is engaged with a domestic abuse service
- Child or young person has been exposed to DA
- A member of the family has at least two police recorded incidents of DA in the last 12 months (recorded as victim)
- A young person or adult is identified by Police or Probation or other professional as a perpetrator of DA in the last 12 months
- A family member discloses recent DA to a practitioner (experienced in the current household)

The Supporting Families programme (previously known as Troubled Families) is a DLUHC initiative designed to improve the outcomes of families who need support

# Open Access interventions

Between October 2019 and June 2022, 148 children and 374 parent/carers attended sessions around DA\*



The Adolescent to Parent Violence and Reducing Parental conflict categories were added to the Core+ system in July 2021. Prior to this the category was Domestic Violence Support project.

Families open to Integrated Children's Services are eligible for the interventions.

\*Attendance at group sessions and one to one client and family interventions. Some individuals may be counted more than once.

In 2020 and 2021 work was mainly outreach and undertaken via email, so contact would be with carer not child, which may account for the lower figures. During this time Children Centres were working from 12 main centres only.

# Children's safeguarding

- Serious Incident Notifications and Practice Reviews
- The Education People safeguarding consultations

# Serious Incident Notifications and Practice Reviews

Serious Incident Notifications (SINs) are made by local authorities where a child has died or is seriously harmed, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

Between October 2020 and September 2021 Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-agency Partnership (KSCMP) received 24 SINs. 10 of those resulted in a rapid review, where the facts of the case are gathered to consider the potential for learning and decide whether or not to undertake a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR).

Anecdotally, there may be some evidence that up to about half of the KSCMP active and published reviews since 2019 may have had some elements of DA\*.

Nationally, between January and December 2020, 41.7% of the 482 notifications to Panel had DA as a family characteristic<sup>32</sup>

\*Active cases can change frequently so the volume cannot be reported

<sup>32</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-annual-report-2020](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-annual-report-2020)

# Serious Incident Notifications and Practice Reviews

The following learning themes in relation to DA from Kent practice reviews have been shared by KSCMP with practitioners:

## Identification

- DA questions not asked during pandemic
- Injuries queried in front of partner
- Too much responsibility on victim to disclose
- Disclosure to 3rd sector organisation 'not sufficient'
- Use of Clare's Law gave a false sense of safety

## Impact on children

- Incidents assessed in isolation
- Assumption children are safer if perpetrator leaves
- Impact of DA within the home not understood and assessed

## Cultural competency

- Perceived 'acceptability'
- Language not recognised

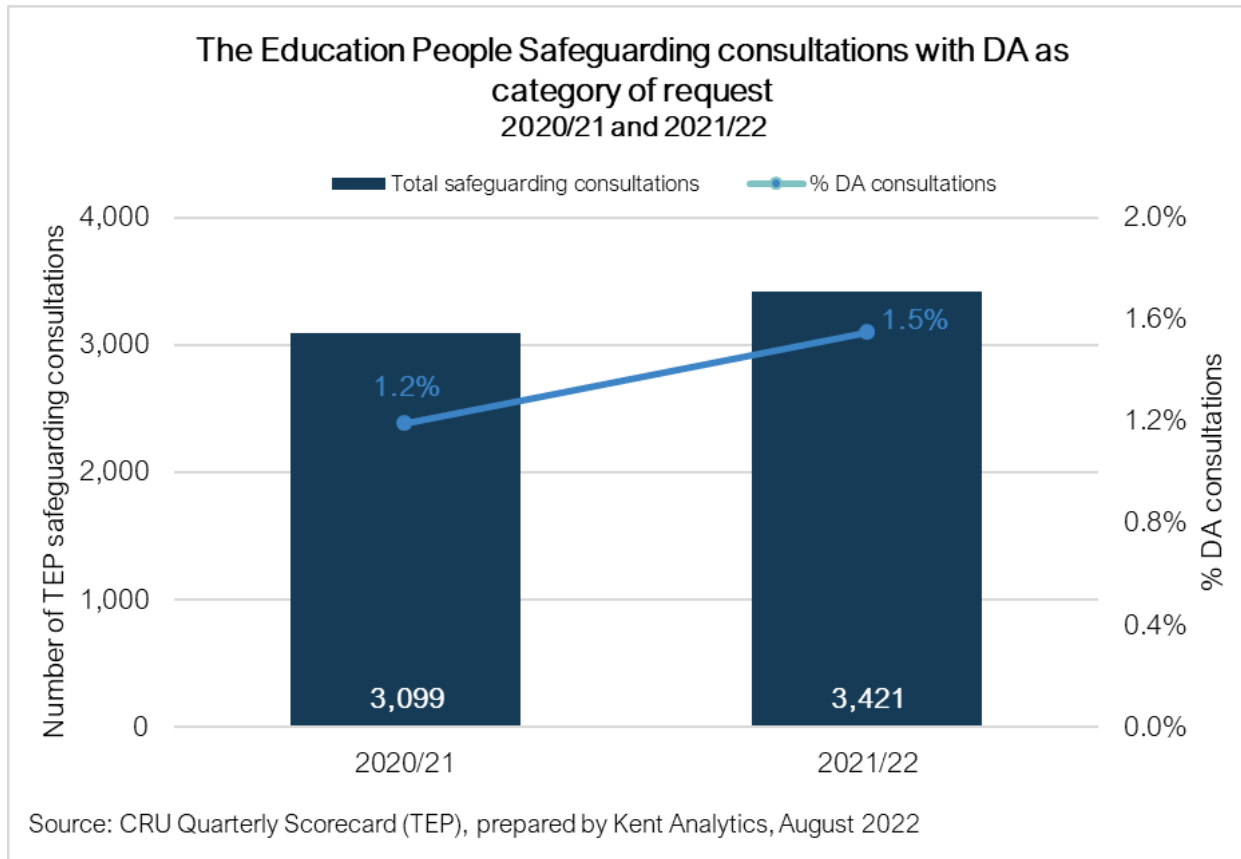
## Perpetrator work

- Support needs to cease not understood
- Agreed support not undertaken or followed up



# The Education People safeguarding consultations

Only a small proportion of safeguarding consultations received by TEP had DA as the category of request. However, a majority of requests related to child welfare, which could involve DA in the household as a contributory factor



TEP provide advice and support via telephone and email on safeguarding concerns to early years settings and schools

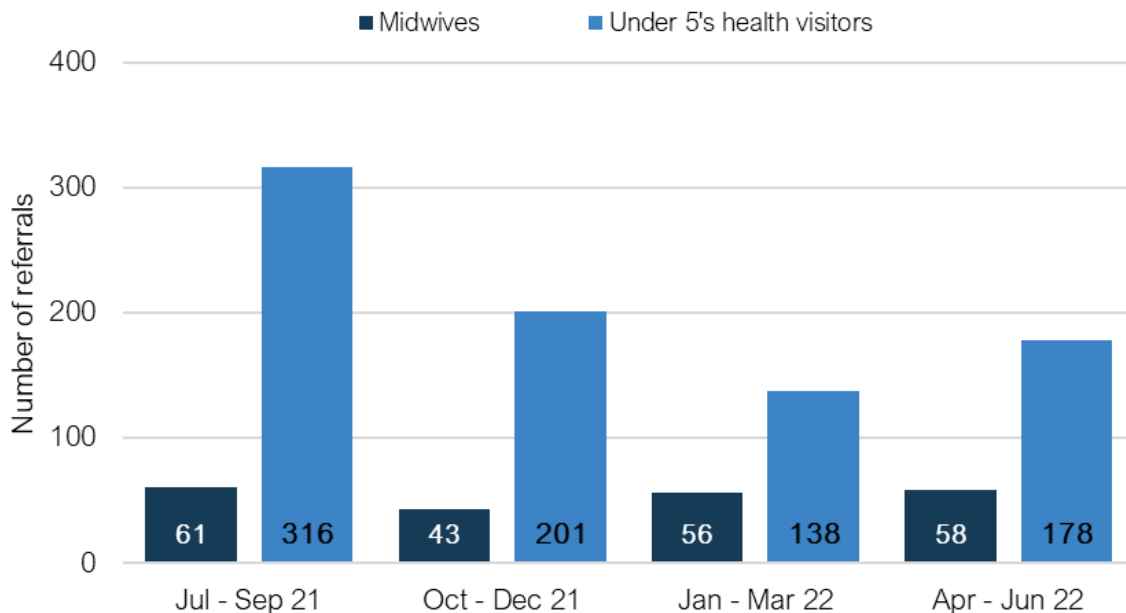
# Health

- Domestic Abuse Notifications from Kent Police to midwives & health visitors

# DANs from the police to midwives & health visitors

Over the 12 month period, July 2021 to June 2022, 833 Domestic Abuse Notifications were sent to the Kent under 5s health visitors and 218 to Kent midwives.

DANs from the police to Kent children's health services  
July 2021 to June 2022



Source: CRU Quarterly Scorecard (Kent Police), prepared by Kent Analytics, August 2022

The Children's Commissioner modelled prevalence estimates 5,961 children aged 0 – 4 in Kent are living in households where a parent is suffering DA (65.2 per 1,000 population vs 71.3 per 1,000 population nationally)<sup>33</sup>

A change to the criteria of 0-4 year olds shared with the health visiting service in August 2021, from all incidents to only recorded crimes, accounts for the difference in numbers

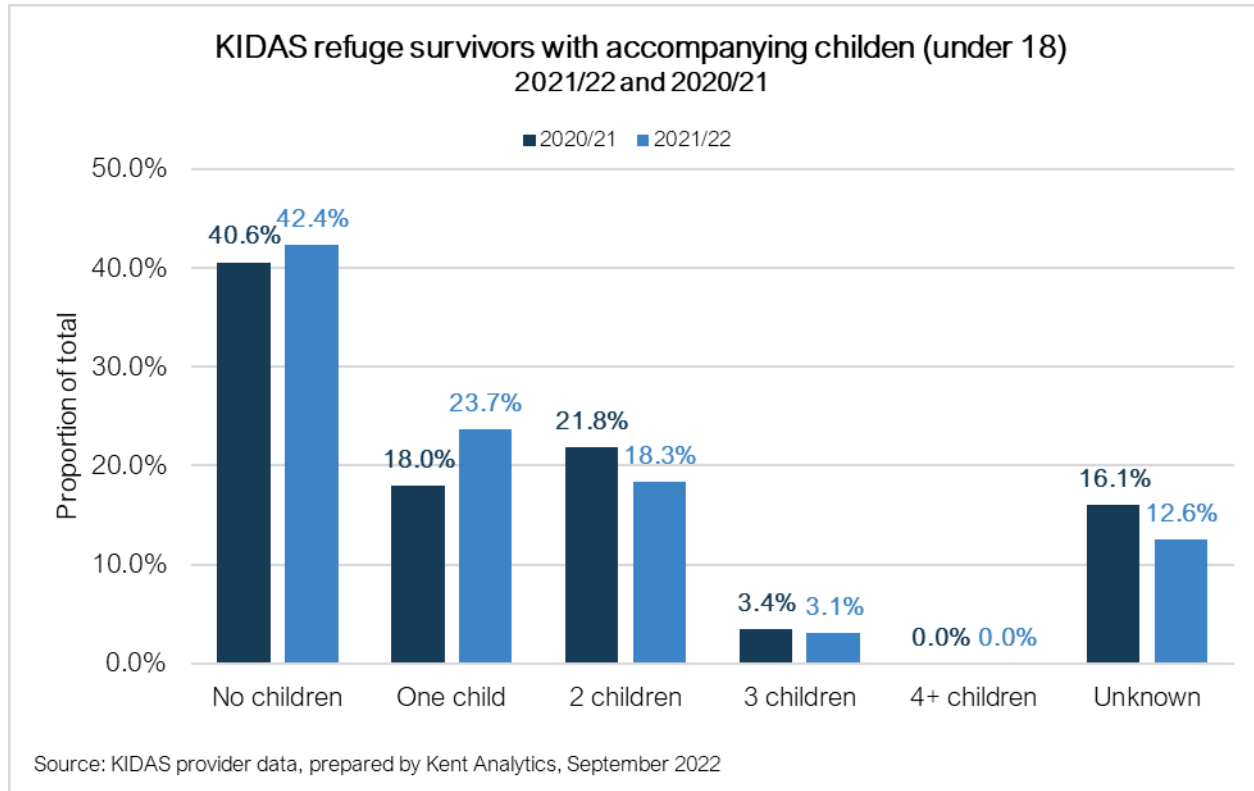
<sup>33</sup> <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/vulnerable-children/local-vulnerability-profiles/>

# Safe Accommodation

- Survivors with accompanying children in refuge
- Children in refuge by area
- Ages of children in refuge (East Kent)
- Children in refuge with support needs
- Survivors in refuge aged 16 to 20

# Survivors with accompanying children in refuge

In 2021/22, 45.0% of survivors had accompanying children when in refuge. None had 4 or more children. 5.3% were pregnant



Nationally, 59.7% of refuge clients had children and 7.3% were pregnant<sup>34</sup>

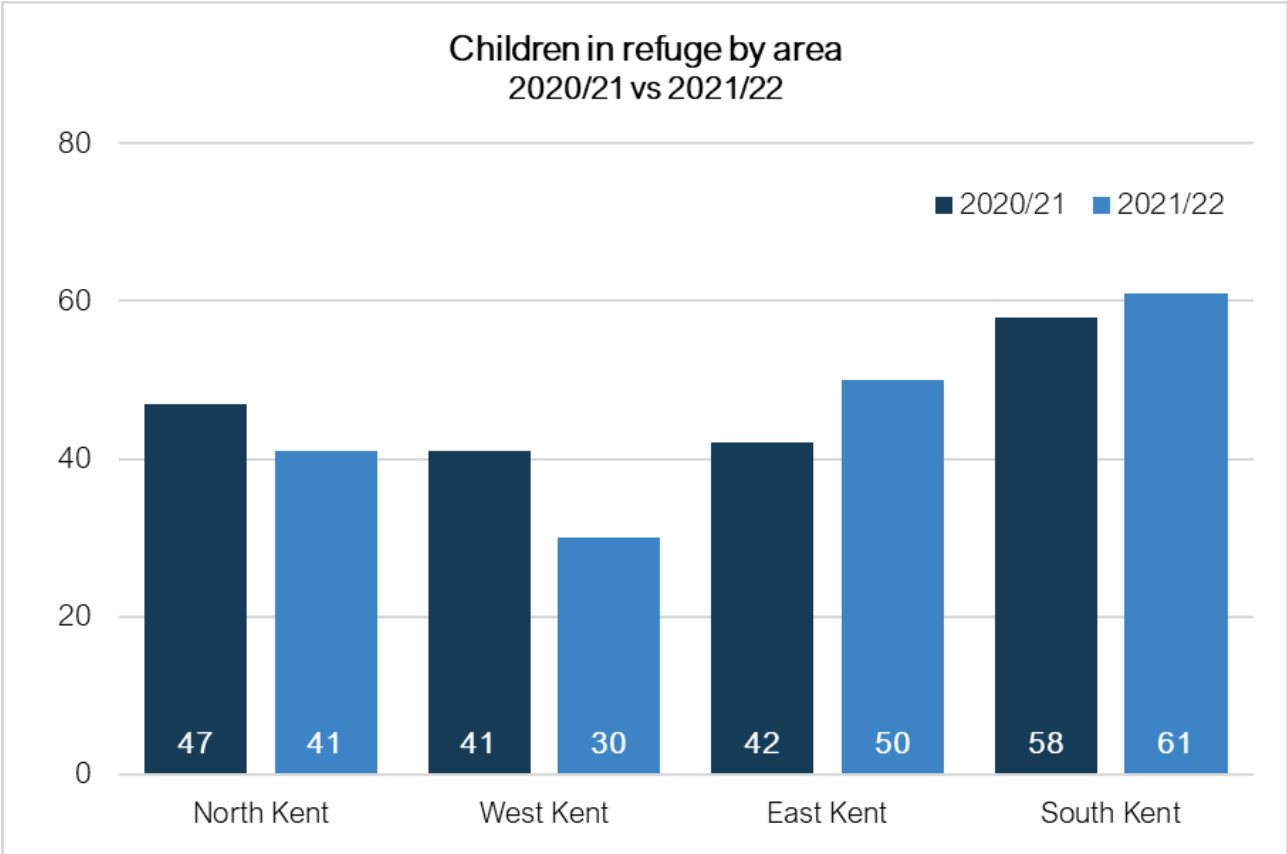
The number of survivors accessing refuge in Kent with 2 or 3 children decreased compared to the previous year (-10 survivors)

Nationally, less than half of vacancies posted on Routes to Support could accommodate a woman with 2 children<sup>34</sup>

<sup>34</sup> [www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf)

# Children in refuge by area

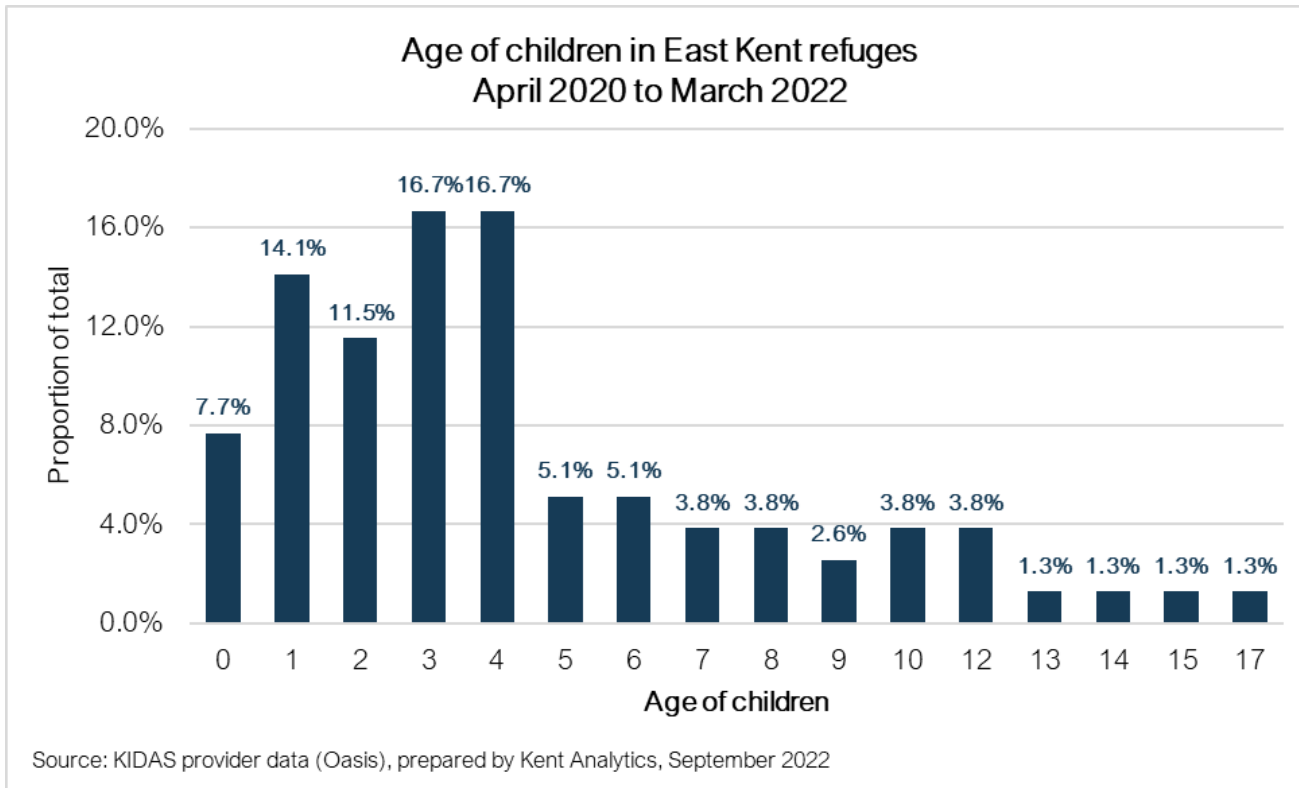
In 2021/22, there were 182 children in refuge, the most being in South Kent (61 children). Compared to the previous year, there were 6 fewer children in refuges across Kent (-3%). West Kent saw the highest reduction (-27% or 11 fewer children)



Source: KIDAS provider data, prepared by Kent Analytics, October 2022

# Ages of children in refuge (East Kent)

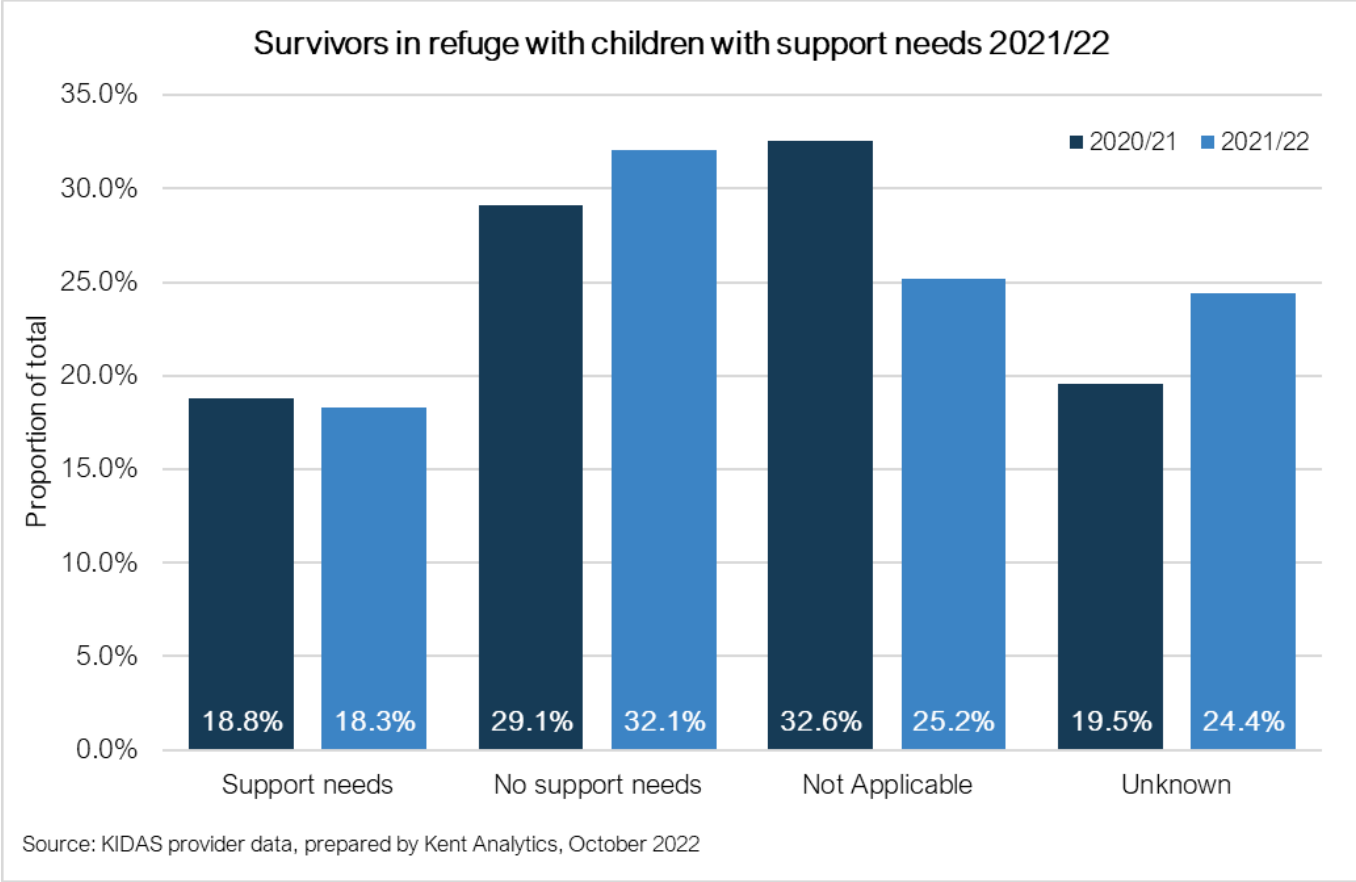
Between April 2020 and March 2022, two thirds of children in East Kent refuges were aged under 5 (66.7%). However, it is worth noting that as younger adults (aged 16 to 35) are accessing refuge, it is likely they will have younger children



Data for East Kent only, not any other areas in Kent as not readily available from other provider systems at present

# Children in refuge with support needs

In 2021/22, 18.3% of survivors in refuge had children with support needs\* and 32.1% had no support needs

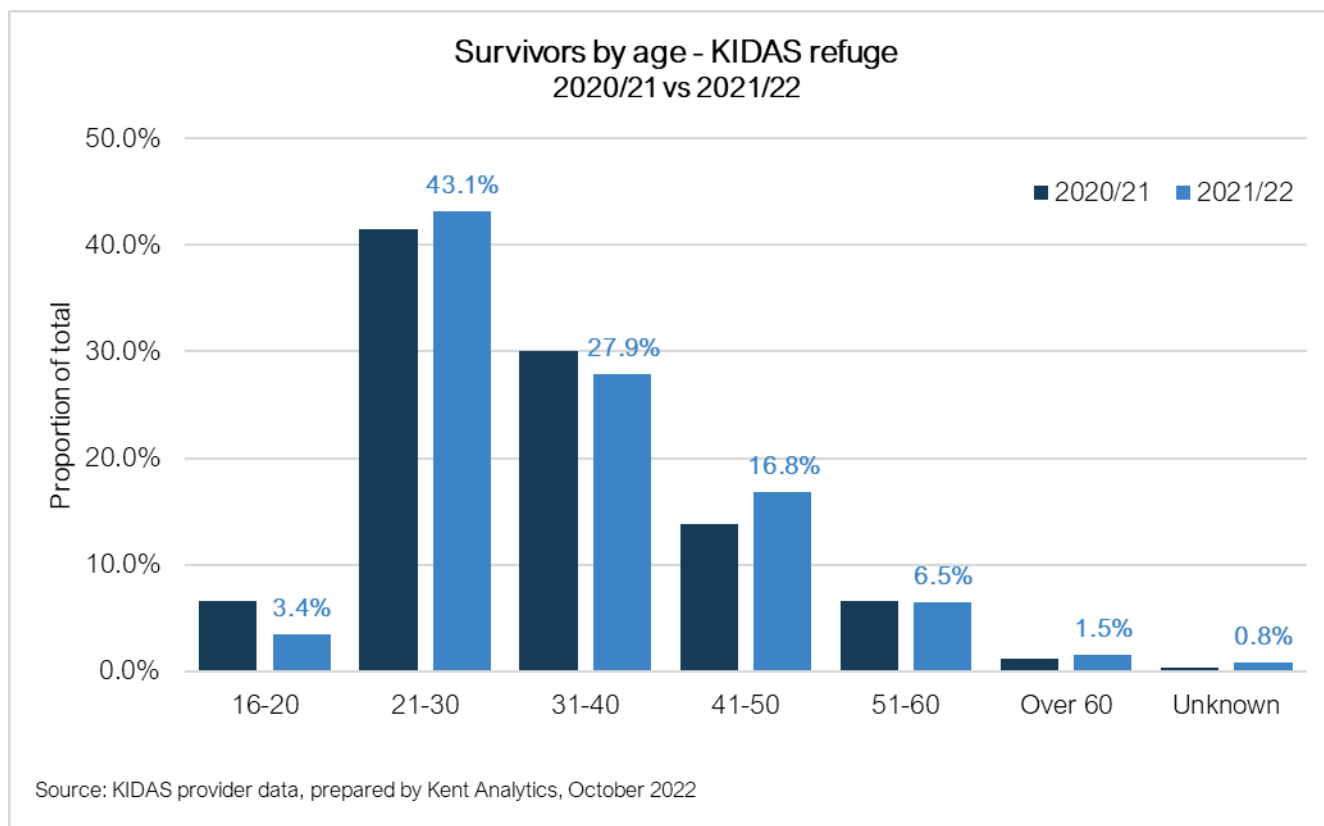


\*Support needs are based on the view of the parent and are part of the assessment when entering refuge



# Survivors in refuge aged 16 to 20

In 2021/22, 3.4% of survivors in refuge were 16 to 20 years old. Compared to the previous year, the number of survivors of this age in refuge decreased by 8 (-47.1%)

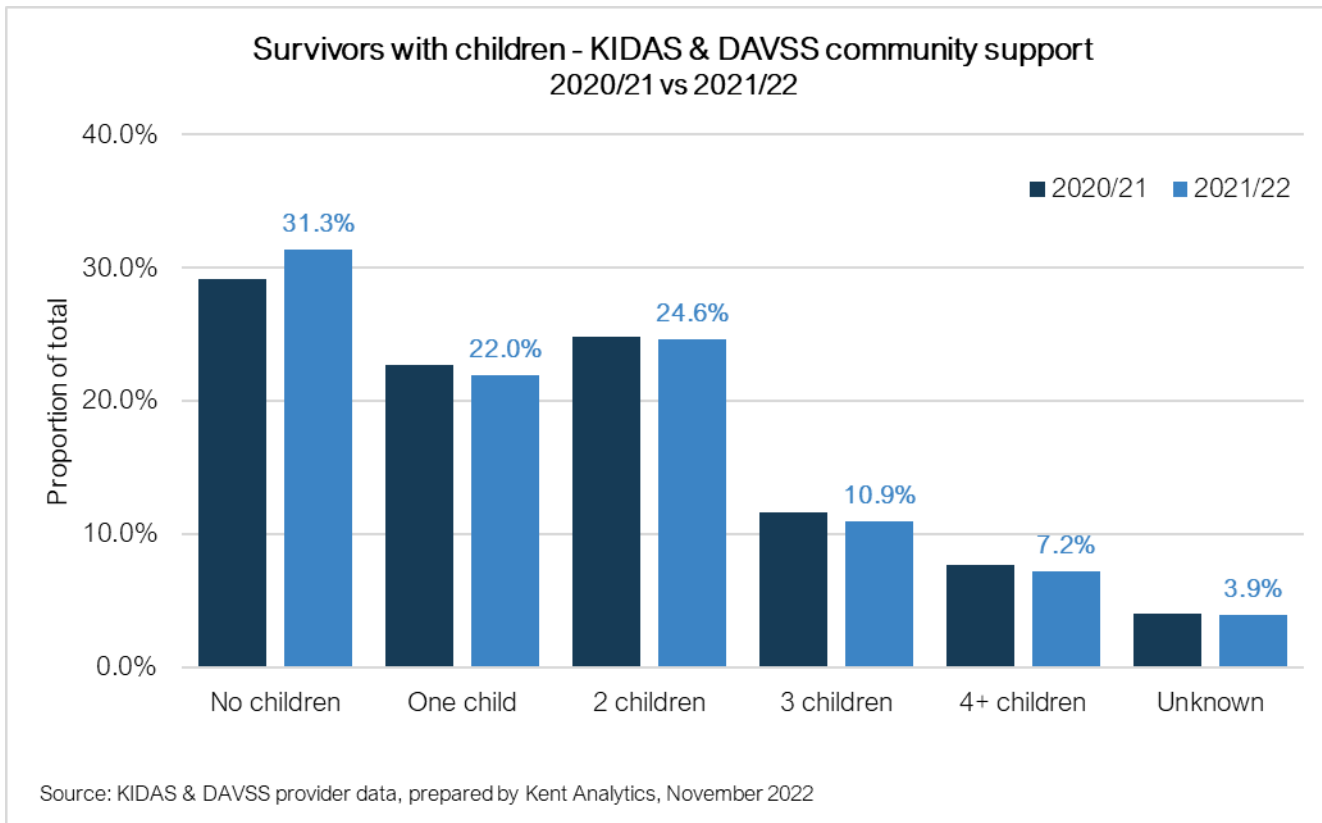


# Community support services (KIDAS & DAVSS)

- Survivors with children
- Survivors aged 16 to 20

# Survivors with children - community

In 2021/22, 64.7% of survivors accessing community support had children (61.3% KIDAS and 83.7% DAVSS). There was a 27% increase in survivors with no children accessing community support compared to the previous year (+292 survivors)

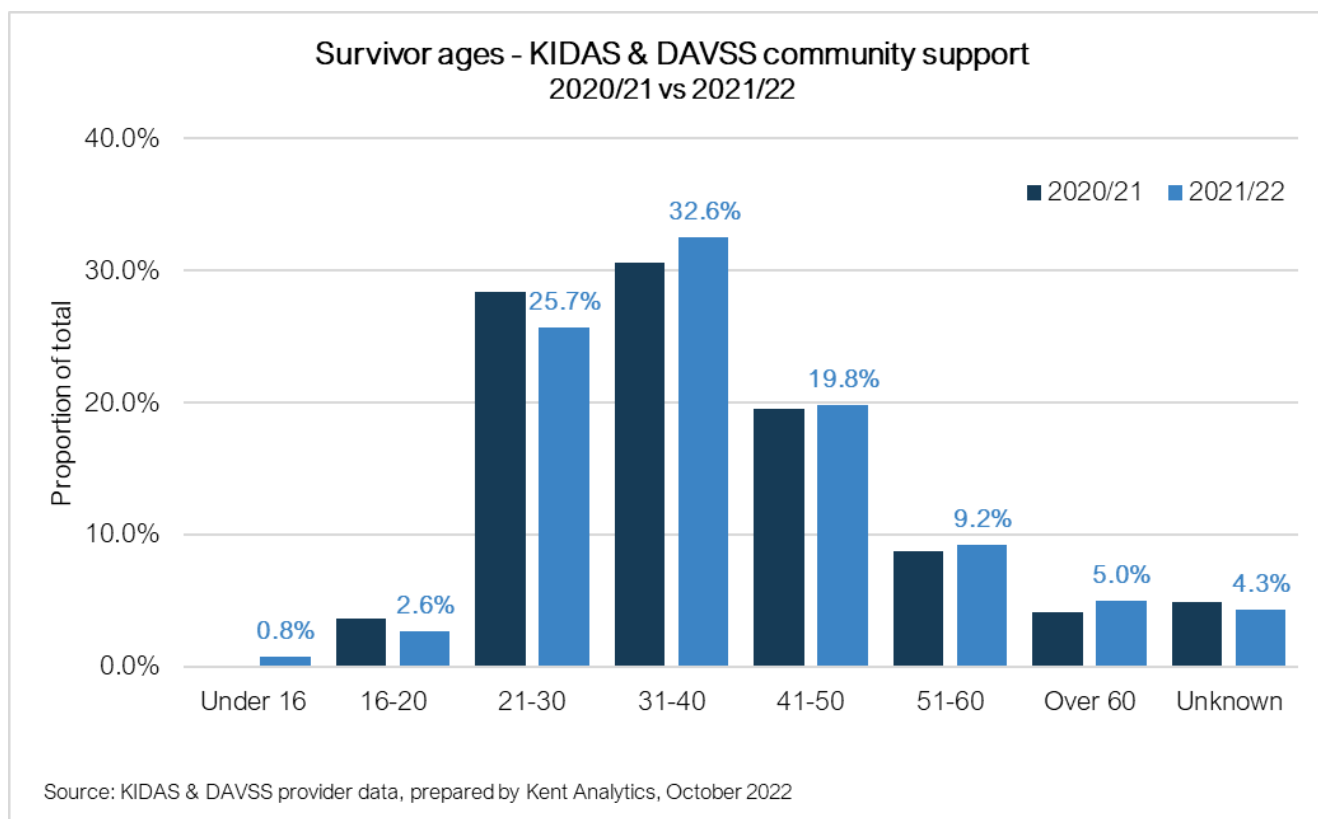


Nationally, in 2022, 60% of clients accessing community based services had children<sup>35</sup>

<sup>35</sup> [www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2022-The-Annual-Audit.pdf)

# Survivors aged 16 to 20 – community support

In 2021/22, 2.6% of survivors accessing community support were aged between 16 and 20 years old. Compared to the previous year, there was a decrease of 31 survivors accessing KIDAS community support (-29.8%). However, DAVSS saw an increase of 13 survivors (+43.3%)

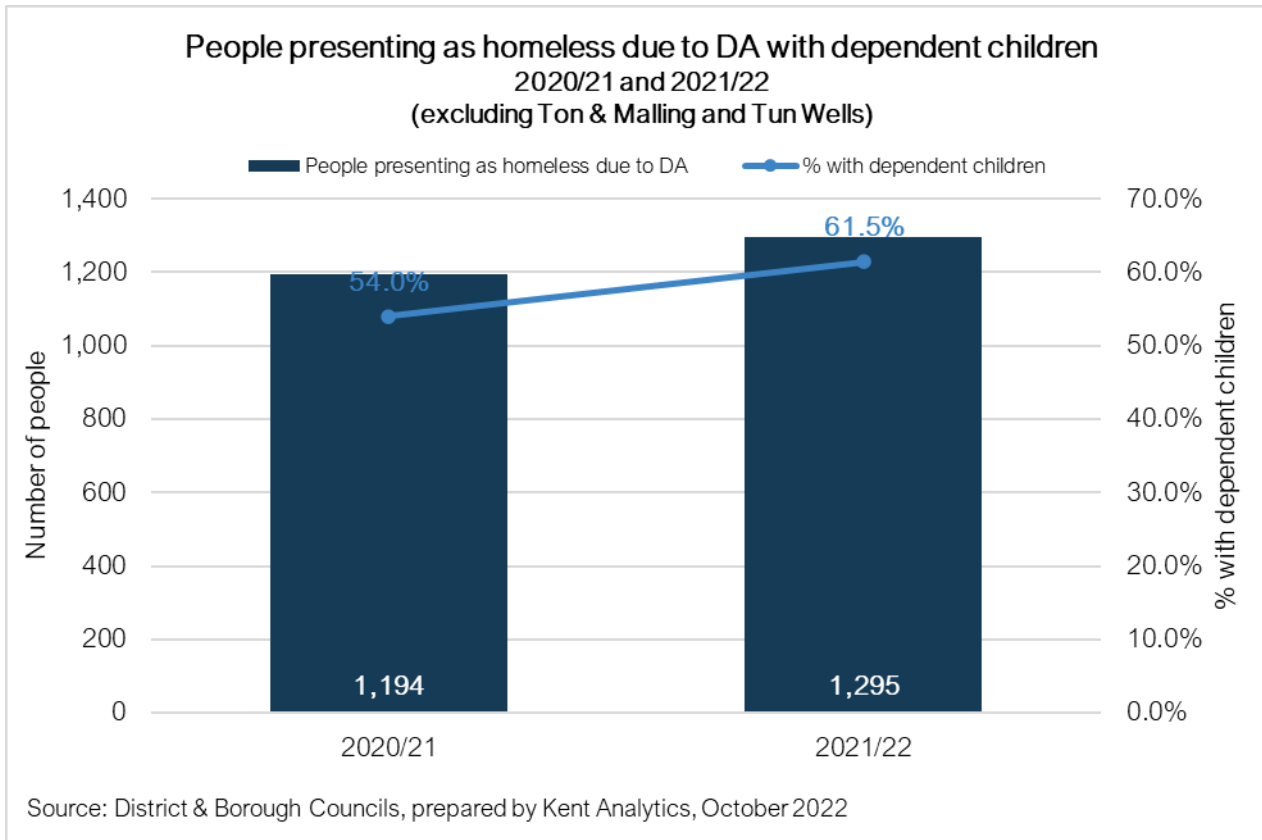


# Housing

- Homelessness due to DA with dependent children
- Social housing applications due to DA with dependent children

# Presenting as homeless due to DA

In 2021/22, 61.5% of households in Kent presenting as homeless due to DA had dependent children, an increase of 151 households (+7.4%) compared to the previous year (data for 10 out of 12 districts)

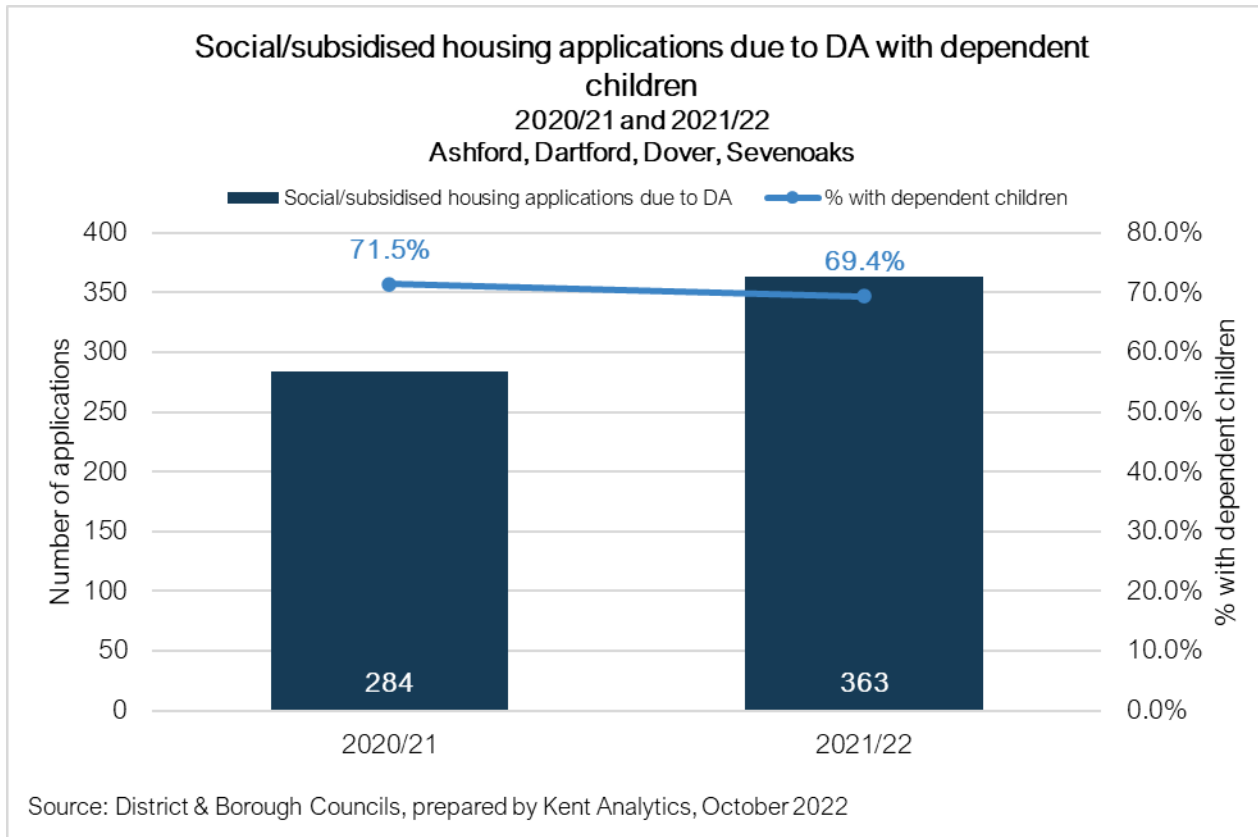


The proportion of households presenting as homeless due to DA with dependant children varies across the districts, from 23% in Folkestone & Hythe to 76% in Canterbury

Data not provided from Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells

# Social housing applications due to DA

Data from 4 of the 12 Kent districts suggests that around 70% of social or subsidised housing applications due to DA have dependent children



Data not available from Folkestone & Hythe, Gravesham, Maidstone, Swale and Thanet

Data not provided from Canterbury, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells

# Summary – C&YP affected by DA happening in adults around them

We know that DA is largely a hidden crime, and victims are often reluctant to report abuse to the police. However, there are almost 1,500 DA incidents recorded by the Kent Police each month where children may have witnessed the abuse. Three quarters of children recorded on the DA incidents are aged under 11.

Requests for support to the Children's Front Door, in the form of Domestic Abuse Notifications (DANs) from Kent Police, have reduced and stand at just over 250 per month. However, the reduction in notifications should be interpreted with caution due to new recording processes around adding DANs to already open social care cases.

The proportion of Early Help (EH) assessments and reviews where DA is a key reason for support has reduced since April 2020. There are around 160 EH assessments each month where DA is key reason and 360 reviews (15% of all assessments and reviews).

The proportion of Supporting Families with DA as an indicator has increased to 38.5% in 2021/22, just over 100 families a month.

42% of social work Child & Family assessments have DA as a factor, around 630 per month.

There may be some evidence that up to about half of the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership active and published reviews since 2019 may have had some elements of DA.

64.7% of survivors accessing DA community support services provided by KIDAS and DAVSS had children, around 240 per month.

45% of survivors in Kent refuges had accompanying children, around 10 per month.



# Summary – C&YP experiencing DA in their own relationships or behaving in an abusive way

In Kent, there are around 90 crimes per month where both the victim and suspect are aged under 21 (3.6%).

There is around 1 MARAC per month where the victim is aged 16 to 17 years old (0.8%).

There is around 1 survivor in refuge per month aged 16 to 20 (3.4%).

There are around 10 survivors accessing community support (KIDAS and DAVSS) per month aged 16 to 20 (2.6%).

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There are over 170 crimes in Kent per month where the suspect is aged under 21 and the victim over 21 (7.2%).

# Gaps in C&YP data and planned future developments

# Gaps in C&YP data identified during needs assessment data scoping exercise

Data type	Source	Gap
Op Encompass notifications	Kent Police	Details of C&YP (such as age and school) not extractable from Athena as referral field is free text entry
MARAC	Kent Police	Details of C&YP are recorded on the MARAC referral form but only a limited amount of information, which is needed for the SafeLives return, is recorded on the MARAC spreadsheets
DA support services	KIDAS	Some data around C&YP is captured for the KIDAS contract, however additional information (such as the profile and support needs of C&YP in refuge) is not recorded or extracted from some provider systems
DA support services	DAVSS	Whether a survivor is pregnant and whether a survivor's children have support needs is not collated
DA One Stop Shops	Various partners delivering OSS	Limited information captured around C&YP in monitoring data
Sanctuary properties / social housing	District & Borough Councils	Details of those in households who have received sanctuary support/modifications is not recorded and some districts are unable to extract information from their systems around the family composition of social housing applicants
Care Leavers	KCC	Anecdotal information has previously been captured from Care Leavers around DA but no formal recording process is in place
Health visitors	KCHFT	Disclosure of DA is recorded in the body of records and not extractable from systems
Acute Trusts (A&E and admissions)	NHS	A&E diagnosis (SNOMED) code of DA not consistently recorded or prevalent. No admissions diagnosis code (ICD) specifically for DA. Safeguarding forms around DA completed but not available for extraction from systems. DA flag may be added to A&E system in Maidstone/Tun Wells in future.

Recommendation that the above gaps in data are reviewed by source owner organisations to ensure more robust data is available across the partnership to effectively monitor the volume and demographics of C&YP affected by DA and provide them with support

# Planned future developments



Data type	Source	Planned development
Domestic Abuse Notifications	Kent Police	There is currently a pilot of a new risk assessment process where police officers have structured questions when attending a DA incident, including AWARE principles (voice of the child). There will also be a risk grading so CRU can prioritise the review of these referrals.
Integrated Children's Services systems (EHM/Liberi)	KCC	New DA assessment form is being added to EHM and Liberi in October 2022 to capture more detail around the type of abuse and personal connection of the individuals involved. Thinking points based on learning from DHRs and next steps also added to the form for practitioners to consider.
Drug & Alcohol Services	KCC	In 2022/23, the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) are adding two additional questions around the experience of DA to their episode data 'Has the client ever been the victim of domestic abuse?' 'Has the client ever abused someone close to them?'. Data will be available from October 2022
Children's Social Worker's annual survey	KCC	New questions are being added to the CSWS survey in September 2022 to capture the proportion of caseload that features DA, time spent working on those cases, awareness of services and training to support C&YP affected by DA. Analysis of data will be available in the winter.
Maternity services	NHS	Working towards having one system across all Kent maternity services so standardised data is collated and there is one process around asking questions and responding to DA. System to be procured within 1 to 2 years.

# Support for C&YP affected by DA

# Support for C&YP in Kent refuges

Under the existing KCC KIDAS contract, the following support has been provided to C&YP in Kent refuges since 2021 to ensure DA Act statutory compliance:

Clarion (North & South Kent)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fresh Visions Thrive counselling</li><li>• Ages 0 to 16</li><li>• Avg. 40 sessions per child</li><li>• 10 C&amp;YP took up the service in 2021/22, with 8 more due to start in September 2022</li></ul>

Look Ahead (West Kent)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fegan's children's counselling/play therapy</li><li>• Ages 5+</li><li>• 12 weeks of support</li><li>• No current take up of service</li></ul>

Oasis (East Kent)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RAISE YP programme</li><li>• Ages 0+</li><li>• 8 sessions of support</li><li>• 17 C&amp;YP took up the service in 2021/22</li></ul>

# Other support for C&YP affected by DA

- Other than the statutory duty under Part 4 of the DA Act, which means Local Authorities have to ensure the needs of victims within refuges and other forms of DA safe accommodation are met, there are a number of other organisations that provide support to C&YP affected by DA across Kent.
- Following a service mapping exercise, where a number of sources of information were cross referenced (such as the District & Borough Council websites, KCC Area Partnership Manager service directories and DA service websites), the services identified that are supporting C&YP affected by DA have been detailed in the following pages.
- These services were accurate as at September 2022 and may be subject to change.
- The lists are not exhaustive and other support services may be available but not listed.

# DA support for C&YP - Countywide

## Barnardo's (Salus from Oct 22)

### Positive Relationship Service

- RSE and emotional resilience-based intervention for those who have experienced trauma such as sexual exploitation, coercive and abusive relationships and familial domestic abuse
- 10 to 18 year olds



Including C&YP identifying as trans or gender variant

- 6 to 8 sessions
- One to one and group work

Funded by KCC until October 2024

## Family Matters

### Counselling/ISVAs

- Specialists in the areas of childhood sexual abuse and rape.
- Expertise is wide-ranging and covers physical abuse, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, child protection, trauma, bereavement, self-esteem issues, and anger management.



Unknown funding source or length



# DA support for C&YP - Countywide

## Salus

### Mentoring

- An evidence-based, personalised programme of support to meet the needs and improve the well-being and resilience of individual children and young people who have experienced DA
- 4 to 18 year olds



- 10 weeks
- One to one

Funded by schools commissioning the support on an adhoc basis

### Restorative Justice for APV

- Support to those experiencing Adolescent to Parent Violence or Abuse. The aim is to help families communicate more effectively and agree how to better manage conflict
- 10 to 19 year olds (incl families)




- Ongoing support

Funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner until March 2023

# DA support for C&YP – North Kent

## Dandelion Time

(Gravesham, Maidstone)


- Intensive farm-based therapeutic programmes for children struggling with serious emotional and behavioural difficulties and their families
- 6 to 13 year olds (incl families) 
- 10 to 12 weeks
- One to one and group work

Funded by PCC, LCPG, VSK and charitable grants and donations until March 2023

## Salus

(Gravesham, Maidstone, Swale)

### Mentoring

- Evidence-based, personalised programme of support to meet the needs and improve the well-being and resilience of those who have experienced DA
- 4 to 18 year olds 
- 10 weeks
- One to one

Funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner until March 2023

# DA support for C&YP – North Kent

## Oasis

(Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone)

### iCan

- Mentoring for C&YP who identify as males who have historically witnessed or experienced DA
- 13 to 19 year olds



- 12 to 16 weeks
- One to one and group work

Lottery funded until July 2022

(Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone)

### RAISE YP

- A safe and non-judgemental space that builds trust to promote an understanding of, and recovery from domestic abuse and toxic relationships
- 7 to 25 year olds




- 8 sessions
- One to one

Various grant funding until 2023

## Rising Sun


(Swale)

### Liberty Mentoring

- Psychoeducational mentoring and emotional support for young women and girls who have experienced, are at risk of or are currently experiencing domestic abuse within their intimate relationships
  - 16 to 24 year olds
- 
- Weekly or fortnightly sessions
  - One to one

Lottery funded until December 2024

### Liberty IDVA

- Offer specialist safety and support for young women and girls who are currently experiencing high risk domestic abuse within their intimate relationships (including domestic relationships such as family)
  - 16 to 24 year olds
- 
- Ongoing support
  - One to one



Lottery funded until December 2024

## SATEDA

(Swale)

### Healing Together

- Support for young people who are impacted by domestic abuse, to help them understand how their body and brains works so they can manage their emotions and feel calmer and safer



- 7 to 16 year olds  

- 6 face to face sessions
- One to one and group work

Funded by Children in Need until Summer 2023

### You Matter

- Recognising important areas in your life; finding your spark and recognising strengths; dreams and goals; good mental health; managing emotions in healthy ways; healthy relationships; circle of support; and making positive changes

- 7 to 16 year olds  

- 6 face to face sessions
- One to one

Funded by Children in Need until Summer 2023

# DA support for C&YP – North Kent

## Childs Vision

(Maidstone, Swale)

### Children's Freedom Programme

- Helping children to understand abuse, learn how to trust and when to reach out for help

- 4 to 11 year olds



- 8 weeks
- Group work

Unknown funding source or length

### Teens Freedom Programme

- Looking at traits, behaviours and beliefs of an abuser and the need for healthy relationships

- 12 to 18 year olds



- 12 weeks
- Group work

### Support sessions (in school)

- Working on self-esteem, confidence and emotions. A safe place to allow the children to discuss any anxieties they may have



- Weekly
- One to one

# DA support for C&YP – West Kent

## DAVSS

(Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells)

### Children's Freedom Programme

- To help children to understand abuse, learn how to trust and when to reach out for help

- 5 to 10 year olds



- 8 sessions
- Group work

Funded by Children in Need, Local Children's Partnership Groups and PCC (unknown length)

## ACE Adult and Child Recovery Toolkit

- For survivors and their children to better understand the trauma they have faced and help rebuild their confidence

- 8 to 18 year olds (incl family)



- 10 sessions
- Group work

Funded by Children in Need, Local Children's Partnership Groups and PCC (unknown length)

# DA support for C&YP – West Kent

## Oasis

(Tonbridge & Malling)

### iCan

- Mentoring for C&YP who identify as males who have historically witnessed or experienced DA

- 13 to 19 year olds



- 12 to 16 weeks
- One to one and group work

Lottery funded until July 2022

## Salus

(Tonbridge & Malling)

### Mentoring

- Evidence-based, personalised programme of support to meet the needs and improve the well-being and resilience of those who have experienced DA

- 4 to 18 year olds



- 10 weeks
- One to one

Funded by KCC Local Children's Partnership Group until March 2023



# DA support for C&YP – West Kent

## Look Ahead

(Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells)

### Equine therapy

- Time with horses, grooming and building obstacles to break down with horses, picking vegetables
- 2 to 16 year olds



- 1+ sessions (as needed)
- One to one and group work

Funded by KCC Reconnect until August 2022

### Children's Worker

- In refuges. Support planning, running activities and play sessions. Working with whole family to manage effects of trauma

- 0 to 16 year olds



- 0 to 14 year olds



- One to one

Funded by KCC until September 2022 Ongoing crowd funding

### Serenity Café (Tunbridge Wells)

- Free activity sessions run by KCC Early Help for children attending cafe

- 0 to 16 year olds



- One to one and group work

# DA support for C&YP – West Kent

## Childs Vision

(Tonbridge & Malling)

### Children's Freedom Programme

- Helping children to understand abuse, learn how to trust and when to reach out for help

- 4 to 11 year olds



- 8 weeks
- Group work

Unknown funding source or length

### Teens Freedom Programme

- Looking at traits, behaviours and beliefs of an abuser and the need for healthy relationships
- 12 to 18 year olds



- 12 weeks
- Group work

### Support sessions (in school)

- Working on self-esteem, confidence and emotions. A safe place to allow the children to discuss any anxieties they may have



- Weekly
- One to one

# DA support for C&YP – East Kent

## Oasis

(Dover, Thanet)

### iCan

- Mentoring for C&YP who identify as males who have historically witnessed or experienced DA
- 13 to 19 year olds



- 12 to 16 weeks
- One to one and group work

Lottery funded until July 2022

(Dover, Thanet)

### RAISE YP

- A safe and non-judgemental space that builds trust to promote an understanding of, and recovery from domestic abuse and toxic relationships
- 7 to 25 year olds



- 8 sessions
- One to one

Various grant funding until 2023

# DA support for C&YP – South Kent

## Dandelion Time

(Ashford)

- Intensive farm-based therapeutic programmes for children struggling with serious emotional and behavioural difficulties and their families

- 6 to 13 year olds (incl families)



- 10 to 12 weeks
- One to one and group work

Funded by PCC, LCPG, VSK and charitable grants and donations until March 2023

## Rising Sun

(Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe)

### iCan

- Mentoring for C&YP who identify as males who have historically witnessed or experienced DA

- 11 to 24 year olds



- 12 to 16 weeks
- One to one and group work

Lottery funded until October 2025

# DA support for C&YP – South Kent

## Rising Sun

(Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe)

### A Place for Me

- After school group programme for children who have been exposed to, or experienced trauma from DA
- 5 to 11 year olds



- 12 weeks
- Group work

Funded by Children in Need until August 2023

(Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe)

### All About Me

- Mentoring specifically tailored to children who have been exposed to, or experienced trauma from DA
- 5 to 11 year olds



- 12 weeks
- One to one

Funded by KCC Local Children's Partnership Groups until March 2023

(Ashford, Canterbury)

### Liberty Mentoring

- Psychoeducational mentoring and emotional support for young women and girls who have experienced, are at risk of or are currently experiencing domestic abuse within their intimate relationships

- 16 to 24 year olds



- Weekly or fortnightly sessions
- One to one

Lottery funded until Dec 2024

# DA support for C&YP – South Kent

## Rising Sun

(Ashford, Canterbury)

### Liberty IDVA

- Offer specialist safety and support for young women and girls who are currently experiencing high risk domestic abuse within their intimate relationships (including domestic relationships such as family)

- 16 to 24 year olds



- Ongoing support
- One to one

Lottery funded until Dec 2024

(Ashford, Canterbury)

### Liberty Group

- for young women who have experienced or are currently experiencing domestic abuse within their intimate relationships

- 16 to 24 year olds



- 10 weeks
- Group work

Lottery funded until Dec 2024

(Canterbury)

### Liberty Accommodation

- Residents supported to draw on their own strengths to build safe and independent futures for themselves and their babies

- 16 to 24 year olds

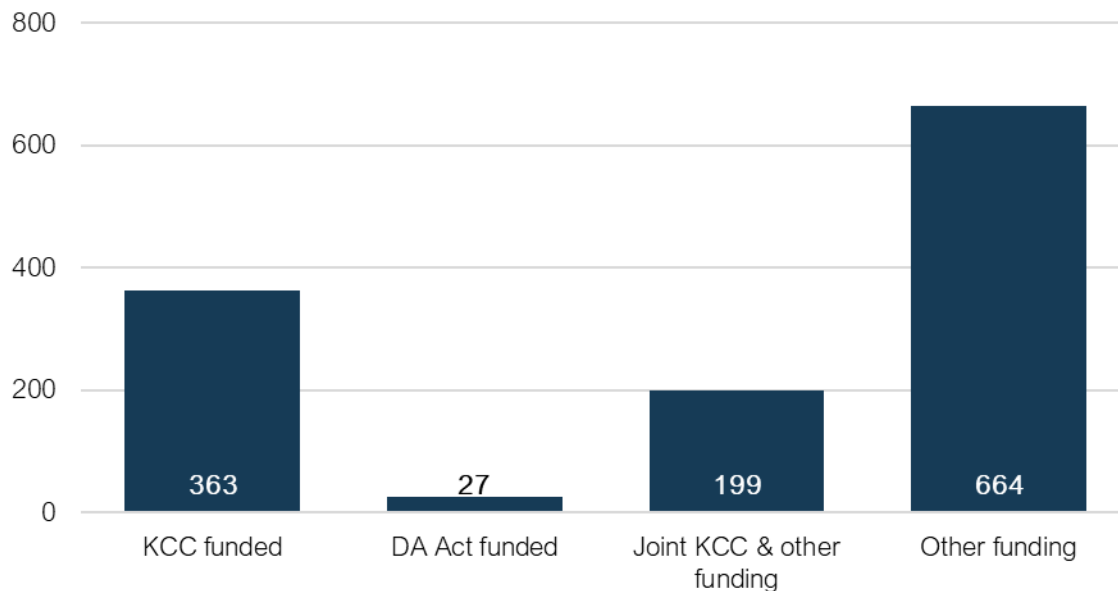


- Ongoing support
- Various funding sources

# Reach of C&YP DA support

Based on the organisations detailed, over 1,200 C&YP accessed support in 2021/22. However, it should be noted that it is unknown if any C&YP accessed more than one service, so may be counted more than once

Number accessing C&YP DA support by funding source  
2021/22



Source: DA support providers, prepared by Kent Analytics, October 2022

Data includes DA support provided to C&YP by:  
Barnardo's  
Dandelion Time  
DAVSS  
Clarion  
Look Ahead  
Oasis  
Rising Sun  
Salus  
SATEDA

Unknown funding source or number accessing for Child's Vision and Family Matters

KCC funding could include sources such as Reconnect or Local Children's Partnership Group funding  
'Other' could include sources such as Children in Need, The Lottery or the Police and Crime Commissioner

# Gaps in support for C&YP identified through service mapping exercise

Limited provision for under 5s

Most interventions are only for up to 12 weeks/sessions

Variance in reach of community services across the areas (South Kent higher / West Kent lower)

Limited joint family support for C&YP and the non-abusive parent

C&YP IDVA only in Ashford, Canterbury and Swale

Variance in number of interventions/organisations delivering community support across the areas (North Kent higher / East Kent lower)

Short term piecemeal funding

Inconsistent sanctuary offer

Other than the iCan programme in South Kent, no specific support for boys

Just 28% of DA survivors who wanted support for their children were able to access it in the South East, compared to the North East at 49%<sup>36</sup>

<sup>36</sup> <https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/DAC-Mapping-briefing-paper-final.pdf>



# Future planned C&YP provision

Children's Support – The Children's Commissioning Team are currently developing a countywide support offer for children residing in all types of safe accommodation, which will be funded by the New Burdens funding. This proposal forms part of Kent County Council's response to the DA Act 2021.

A service proposal has been co-produced alongside service users, statutory partners, key stakeholders across the market and subject experts. The service will offer personalised support, tailored to the needs of individual children and young people and will use a Goal Based Outcome approach to understand need.

# Providers – Education / prevention / early intervention

Provider	Service	Description	Areas
DAVSS	DAY Programme	Educational multi-media approach aimed at understanding between healthy and abusive relationships in schools (10 group sessions) Funded by Children in Need	Sevenoaks; Tonbridge & Malling; Tunbridge Wells
Look Ahead	Healthy Relationships	Healthy relationship programme in schools (one off group session) Funded by LCPG until Nov 22	Sevenoaks; Tonbridge & Malling; Tunbridge Wells
Oasis	Just So You Know	Healthy relationship workshops and training in schools and community settings. The workshops are interactive, focussing on exploring issues around consent, understanding the dangers and dynamics of grooming and the importance of assertiveness (group work over 2 / 3 sessions) No current funding – previously funded by small grants	County-wide
Oasis	Guiding Lights	Girls at risk of CSE or being in a coercive and controlling relationship. The programme supports them to be safe, gain confidence, self-worth, knowledge and to reengage with their communities and build positive relationships which will lead to an increase in aspirations (8 to 10 weeks one to one or group work) No current funding - previously funded by the PCC	Dartford; Dover; Gravesham; Maidstone; Thanet
Rising Sun	Guiding Lights	Girls at risk of CSE or being in a coercive and controlling relationship. The programme supports them to be safe, gain confidence, self-worth, knowledge and to reengage with their communities and build positive relationships which will lead to an increase in aspirations (8 to 10 weeks one to one or group work) Funded until November 2024	Ashford
Salus	StandUp!	Pupils in year 8/9 have the opportunity to become Healthy Relationship Ambassadors within their schools, participating in a project which addresses the pervading attitudes and popular myths which surround healthy and unhealthy behaviours in young relationships (12 weeks of group sessions) Lottery funded until March 2023	Folkestone & Hythe
SATEDA	#wisewords	Social media campaign where young people's thoughts and views on healthy and unhealthy relationships are shared on Instagram	Swale

All delivered to mostly 10 to 16 year olds

# School curriculum - PHSE

Since 2020, DfE guidance has been that relationship education is mandatory in primary schools and relationship and sex education is mandatory in secondary schools and Ofsted inspections now routinely place more emphasis on this.

Women's Aid state that 'Educational programmes focusing on healthy relationships, and challenging gender inequality, sexual stereotyping, and domestic abuse, should be integrated with work on anti-bullying and conflict resolution as a mandatory part of the PHSE curriculum in all schools. These would act as important preventive measures'

To what extent schools in Kent are delivering PHSE, with a specific focus on DA, is unclear and could potentially be looked into further

# Providers – Non-DA specific C&YP support\*



Provider	Description	Areas
Canterbury and District Early Years Project	The focus is primarily on prevention and early intervention so that problems within families are less likely to arise, and, if they do, they can be addressed positively. The charity offers parenting support programmes, play sessions, short courses, family events, support groups and much more to promote strong family relationships and positive outcomes for children. (ages 0 to 5) Funded through charity donations	Canterbury
Kooth	Online support and counselling (ages 10 to 24) Funded by Kent & Medway Clinical Commissioning Group until April 2023	Countywide
Rubicon	Counselling for people affected by crime (6 to 8 sessions) Funded through charity donations	Countywide
Salus	Mentoring to support with emotional wellbeing, social skills and mental health. (10 sessions for 8 to 18 year olds) Lottery / Reconnect funded until March 2023	Countywide
The Young Lives Foundation	Mentoring to support with emotional wellbeing, social skills and mental health. (6 months of support for 8 to 18 year olds) Lottery / Reconnect funded	Countywide

# Examples of C&YP DA support in other Local Authorities

Some other LAs\* spoken to all have **dedicated children's workers in their refuges**

## Interventions / support for C&YP

Young people's IDVAs / ISVAs  
Teen advocacy  
Trauma informed therapeutic interventions & support  
Counselling  
Outreach services

## *Other support included:*

### Interventions / support for families

Moon Project – therapy and enrichment  
Stronger Families (children & mums)  
Strengthening Families (survivor & siblings group)

## Training & guidance

'Healing Together' – school / EH deliver support in their roles  
AVA guidance for professionals

### Prevention / early intervention

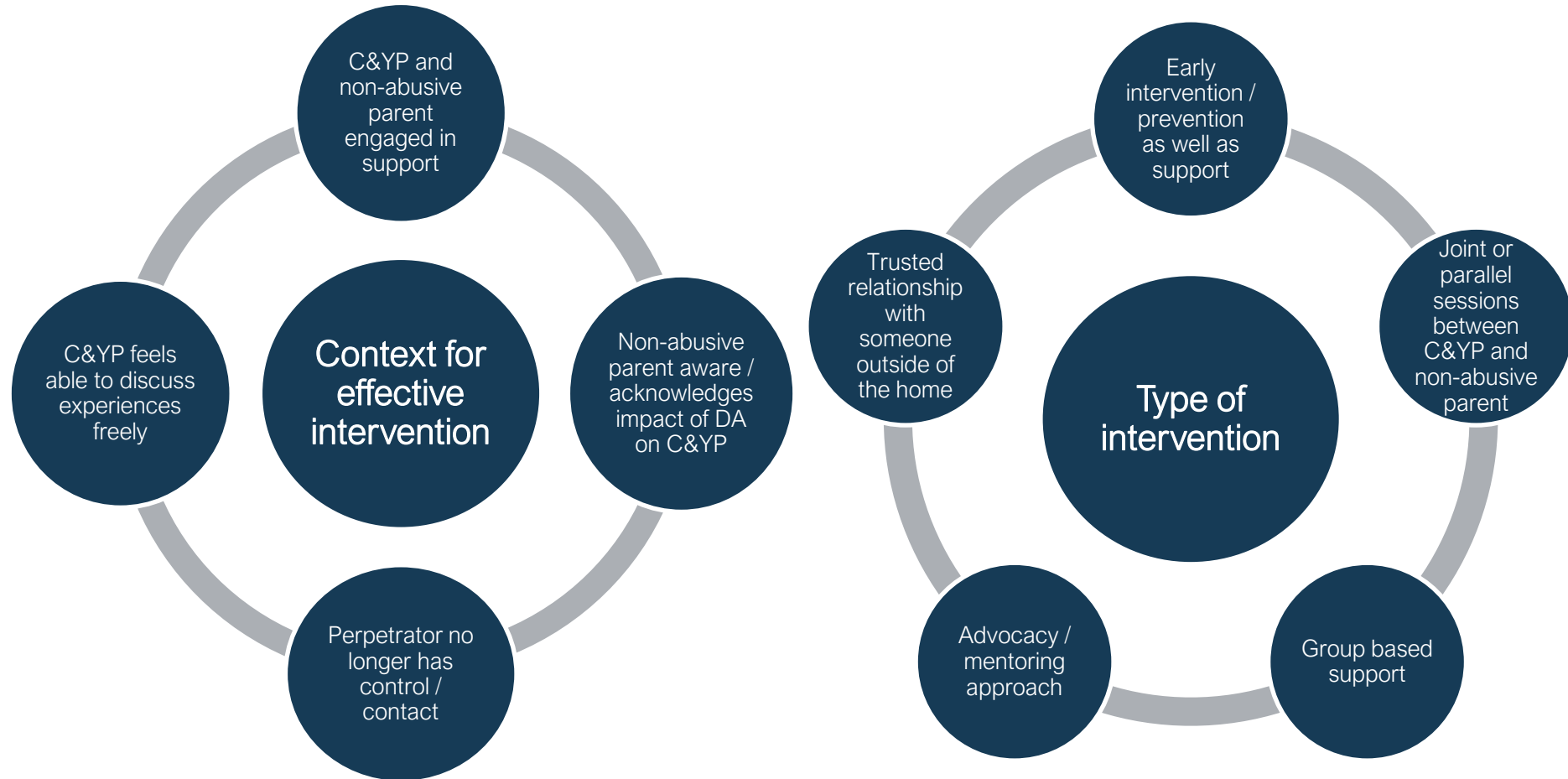
Escape the Trap  
Expect Respect  
GREAT healthy relationships (primary)  
Equate healthy relationships (secondary)

\*Responses from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Nottinghamshire, Suffolk and West Berkshire

# Models of care

# Models of care - literature

Literature review carried out by Kent Analytics in August 2022



# Models of care - literature

When exploring the available literature on what models of care are effective in supporting C&YP impacted by DA, the following was found:

There is limited evidence on the acceptability and effectiveness of interventions to improve outcomes of C&YP exposed to DA (Brooks 2014; Howarth et al 2016; Howarth et al 2019; Bartlett & Smith 2019) and there should be a focus on the systematic evaluation of existing programmes (Manship & Perry 2012; Howarth et al 2016).

A mothers parenting can be adversely effected by DA (Stanley 2011; Smith et al 2015).

Engagement in support by both the C&YP and non-abusive parent assists effective intervention. The non-abusive parent must be aware and acknowledge the impact of DA on the C&YP and engage from the C&YP's perspective. Without the support of their family it is difficult for C&YP to make changes to their attitude and behaviour (Stanley 2011; Manship & Perry 2012; Smith et al 2015; Howarth et al 2016; Howarth et al 2019).



# Models of care - literature

Contact with the perpetrator can limit the positive effects of interventions and the C&YP should be in a place of safety where the perpetrator no longer has control over interactions (Smith et al 2015; Gregory et al 2020).

A trusted relationship with someone outside the home helps those affected by DA to talk about their experience and adults in the C&YP social contexts may know much about the situation and should be considered by professionals as potential assets for DA exposed C&YP (Stanley 2011; Bartlett & Smith 2019; Gregory et al 2020; Royal College of Psychiatry 2022).

C&YP need to feel able to 'break the secret' and discuss experiences freely. Parental anxieties about C&YP sharing information about abuse is a psychological barrier to engagement in support (Howarth et al 2019; Royal College of Psychiatry 2022).

# Models of care - literature

Victims need to access services early and primary prevention strategies, usually school based, are key to promoting and supporting secondary prevention. Early intervention programmes have been successful at reducing risks (Stanley 2011; Cleaver et al 2019).

Joint sessions or sessions running in parallel between the C&YP and non-abusive parent are effective (Stanley 2011; Smith et al 2015; Howarth et al 2016).

Group based interventions are effective at improving wellbeing (Smith et al 2015; Howarth et al 2016).

Interventions that adopt an advocacy or mentoring approach appear to have more impact (Manship & Perry 2012; Cleaver et al 2019).

# Case studies

## Dandelion Time

### Background

Anna (age 8) had been affected by a life of emotional and physical abuse. Due to past domestic abuse, her life had been isolated from extended family and she and her Mother were prevented from contact with the outside world. She had become a motherly figure for her younger brother at just 4 years old, as her Mum had mental health issues and was unable to care for her children. Anna and her brother were removed from the family home and placed with loving and caring relatives, but Anna was left with emotional issues linked to the trauma she had experienced. Anna was referred to Dandelion Time by her school, who were concerned for her self-esteem, as she would regularly get upset and struggled to form friendships.

### Outcome of support

During Anna's time at Dandelion Time her confidence and self-esteem grew. Gradually throughout the weekly sessions she was able to talk about her past with her Grandmother. She started to work through her past traumas and was able to have open discussions both at Dandelion Time and at home. She became much more settled at home with less frequent outbursts and began to understand and regulate her own emotions. Her Grandmother reported that there were less tears and how much more confident she had become, and her friendships at school grew. Anna's relationship with her brother also improved, resulting in less conflict and sibling rivalry. Anna was able to relinquish the role of a motherly figure over to her Grandmother, allowing Anna to be free of the responsibility this role.

# Case studies

## Barnardo's Positive Relationship Service

In 2021/22, 87% of C&YP were satisfied with the support.\*

*"I really liked the square breathing. I find it really relaxing and it really helps me, it's made a big difference"*

*"Just a little appreciation. [The project worker] was absolutely incredible she was so sweet so funny and really easy to talk to. she found things we had in common and used that to help. Everything was great thank u so much."*

*"The sessions all worked fab for me. Your staff are amazing."*

\*Based on service user feedback from 250 C&YP

# Case studies

## DAVSS DAY Programme

- 92% of children said, after DAY, they would know what do to if they experienced abuse.
- 67% of children said, after DAY, they were very confident at saying no to something they didn't want to do.

## DAVSS Children's Freedom Programme

- 100% of parents felt their child needed support with confidence and self-worth. 92% of parents felt their child improved in this area.
- 56% of children were confused about abusive and non-abusive actions and by the end of the programme, 100% of children understood the difference.
- 76% of children felt at fault for abusive behaviour in their home. Following the programme, 96% of children no longer felt at fault.

## Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART)

The original evaluation of DART (Smith 2015) provided positive results indicating that mothers' self-esteem, confidence in her parenting and relationship with her child significantly improved after attending DART, based on pre and post programme standardised measures scores. Additionally, children's emotional and behavioural difficulties reduced significantly after DART, and significantly more than a comparison group of children from a women's refuge.

Qualitative interviews identified programme facilitators, such as creative activities which helped children to share their perspective of the abuse, giving mothers a fuller understanding of how they had been affected. Some mothers said realising the extent to which their child had been affected by the abuse had reinforced their decision not to resume a relationship with their former abusive partner. Having supportive peers in the group who had also experienced domestic abuse was also described by mothers and children as something that made them feel less alone. Some maintained friendships after the group, providing them with more informal support networks after the group had ended.

# Voice of C&YP

# What C&YP say they need for support and education around DA – literature



When exploring the available literature on DA services from a C&YP perspective, the following was found:

Children can often feel that their voices have been ignored by services or authorities, and **being seen and heard by the authorities is paramount for children** (Mullender et al 2003; Swanston et al 2013; Arai et al 2019). Therefore, it is important for those both **commissioning and providing services that there is adequate provision for the voice of the child to be heard.**

When asked about different services to support them, children were able to make a number of recommendations including; **having someone to talk to outside the immediate family, such as a teacher, peer or other professional**, who this varies by age (McGee 2000; Buckley et al 2007).



# What C&YP say they need for support and education around DA – literature

Older children felt that **support in school needed to be improved and that greater awareness of DA is needed by school staff** and how this may impact on a child's behaviour (Buckley et al 2007).

Swanston et al (2015) highlight how the support often given to children and their families who have experienced DA by **community charities is often seen as invaluable**.

Arai et al (2019) provide a summary of recommendations for service providers, stating that; **professionals need to be mindful in relation to the diversity of children's experiences, assumptions should not be made, and individual accounts should be listened to carefully**.

All support services need to **consider the individual experience of the child, their age, developmental level, and cultural factors** (Buckley et al 2007; Swanston et al 2013).

# What C&YP say they need for support and education around DA – Kent (Rising Sun report)

In late 2021, Rising Sun (domestic violence & abuse charity) conducted a piece of research on behalf of KCC.

The purpose of the research was to develop a better understanding of how KCC could support C&YP impacted by DA through gaining C&YP's perspectives around what support should be offered and what it should look like.

- 8 C&YP were interviewed
- 4 girls and 4 boys
- Range of ages: 9, 9, 10, 12, 12, 14, 18, 20
- All aged under 18 had an adult present, whether parent or keyworker
- 2 adults were interviewed who had experienced DA as a child (mothers of the children interviewed).
- Perspectives of Rising Sun keyworkers were also gained through an online questionnaire.

# What C&YP say they need for support and education around DA – Kent (Rising Sun report)

Key findings of this research were:

- C&YP want to talk to someone they can **trust**.
- If given the opportunity to know how to respond, **trusted adults** involved in the lives of C&YP are in a unique position to support C&YP experiencing DA.

*“I think, just like, someone to talk to about it, like, yeah, I think someone to just talk to in general because like, sometimes you don’t want to talk about it to your parents, you don’t want to talk about it to your friends.. a professional or someone, someone who you feel like you can trust”*

*“I feel like someone, like close, like maybe a teacher or a friend or a person you know [would be helpful to talk to]”*

# What C&YP say they need for support and education around DA – Kent (Rising Sun report)

**One to one support** – All C&YP interviewed raised the importance of having someone to talk to in a **one to one capacity**, whether mentoring or counselling, and preferably long term.

- Support should be **needs led** and there should be a **flexible approach to service provision**.
- Support should be at least for **12 sessions minimum**, meeting consistently each week.
- **Time is needed prior to the support starting to assess the needs** of the C&YP and plan the types of support needed, including preferences of the location of support.
- **Assessment at the end is needed to review** if additional support or another type of support is needed.
- Those supporting **need to understand the complex, ongoing impact of DA on C&YP and families**.

# What C&YP say they need for support and education around DA – Kent (Rising Sun report)

**Group support** – One to one support was the main support desired, however, the provision of **support within a group format of peers** (either in the form of structured groups or recreational outings) was raised by those interviewed as **providing additional benefit that cannot be gained from just one to one support.**

**Family support** – involving the non-abusing parent/carer in the support increases the effectiveness of the work.

Consideration should be made to:

- Involve the non-abusing parent/carer at assessment stage.
- Give the non-abusing parent/carer (and siblings if appropriate) the opportunity to join some sessions.
- Provide joint sessions together as a family, with a separate family worker (so perhaps a different worker to those providing mentoring to the child or support to the parent).
- Provision of support for the non-abusing parent/carer as well as C&YP.

# What C&YP say they need for support and education around DA – Kent (Rising Sun report)

**Prevention work** – Schools hold a unique position within communities and present opportunities to **enable prevention and intervention programmes**, providing sessions within schools for all ages around healthy relationships and signs of DA.

**Early Intervention** – Older interviewees highlighted a **lack of support when they were younger** and said how it would have been beneficial. The role of schools is important in spotting children who may need support at a younger age.

*“It may be more just a case of I wouldn’t say at that younger age I wouldn’t have the ability to arrange that for myself, but also I don’t think my mother was in a position to do that either. I think support for me came as soon as was possible in terms of when it was available, and when mum was in the place to know what actions to take to reach out to someone and take action”*

# What C&YP say they need for support and education around DA – Kent (Rising Sun report)

**DA training for other services** – Those in close everyday contact with C&YP need to be able to **identify signs of DA and understand the impact on C&YP.**

Training (especially for school staff) could:

- Raise awareness of the prevalence of DA
- Provide tools and skills to recognise and respond to DA
- Enable them to feel confident to ask and know where to signpost for support
- Explain the dynamics of DA both pre and post separation
- Highlights and challenges victim blaming and judgemental language, and provides alternatives to demonstrate empathy, understanding and validation

*“Supportive teachers because they spend....Most of the time there. Then I think if they had a chance to talk to someone...[....]..But it's important, that teachers, I think are trained. You know to pick up some, things..”*

# What C&YP say they need for support and education around DA – Kent (Rising Sun report)

Suggested potential areas for future research made by Rising Sun:

- Those who had previously disengaged from support to understand why.
- Those who received support as a younger child (primary school) as well as an older teenager (16 to 18) to understand the different needs in those age groups.
- The views of school staff around DA support provided to C&YP (training / needs of C&YP / impact of DA on C&YP school life / role of external support services / DA in the curriculum).
- C&YP past experiences of DA.
- Impact on C&YP of ongoing contact with perpetrator and what type of support is needed.



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# Previous Needs Assessment Recommendation Updates

# 2020 Needs Assessment updates



2020 recommendation	Update
<p>Service mapping around client group (which also recognises the intersectionality of the family) should be completed across the partnership to strengthen awareness and understanding of referral options, and how different services can support each other.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mapping around children being undertaken for the Needs Assessment refresh</li><li>• The Reducing Abusive Behaviour Subgroup has worked to understand availability of services for those using harmful behaviour</li><li>• The Co-occurring Conditions group are looking at the service needs for those with additional barriers to support</li></ul>
<p>This needs assessment highlights high levels of DA within Kent and Medway. We must develop a picture of how well service capacity meets need in order to shape future commissioning. Linked to this recording of protected characteristics including ethnicity and disability should be strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 2021 needs assessment focused on service capacity for safe accommodation</li><li>• The Domestic Abuse Data &amp; Evidence group are looking to comparing Police and provider data to ensure equity of access to service</li></ul>

# 2020 Needs Assessment updates



2020 recommendation	Update
<p>Service users' views through qualitative methodologies should be sought and incorporated into the design of future needs assessments, both Kent and Medway are seeking routes to enable this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KIDAS impact data includes feedback surveys for service users which can be incorporated into reviews and assessments</li> <li>• The Lived Experience Engagement Programme has been scoped and awaits commissioning capacity. This will provide an officer who can liaise with service user groups, recruit for and run reference groups to gather feedback, experience and ideas.</li> <li>• Service user groups are being attended to promote voice through the governance structure</li> <li>• Rising Sun were commissioned to provide qualitative research capturing the child's voice and the way they would like services to see after experiencing abuse in the home</li> </ul>
<p>Given the high numbers of women who have children who engage with IDVA services it is key that the interconnectedness of services supporting adults and children is recognised, and children are understood as survivors in their own right.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DA Act 2021 formalised children as victims in their own right</li> <li>• A CYP subgroup being set up take forward actions from the strategy and delivery plan pertaining to children.</li> <li>• Children's commissioning have been scoping a new children's service for safe accommodation</li> </ul>

# 2020 Needs Assessment updates



2020 recommendation	Update
<p>Review whether utilisation of the MARAC process is low in Kent (and capacity requirements if there was a need to increase MARAC referrals). Increase awareness of referral routes outside of Police. Improve data recording of protected characteristics if required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MARAC Steering group was set up to explore review and propose a new model</li><li>• Proposal put together and sent to governance structure</li><li>• Funding TBC</li><li>• Model includes CMS for better data collection and utilisation</li></ul>
<p>Consider stronger coordination across One Stop Shop (OSS) provision, and how to support access of services to those who do not attend OSS (younger people/older people, men). Consider the geographical placement of OSS given data on need included within this assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grants to DA Forums to increase and diversify community access points reach</li><li>• Lack of capacity delayed but will be picked up</li><li>• OSS data returns were reviewed in 2021 and updated mix of virtual and in person provision</li></ul>

# 2020 Needs Assessment updates



2020 recommendation	Update
<p>This strategic assessment highlights disparity between numbers referred and those who receive support from services. This disparity should be further explored including disparities in relation to gender (men are more likely not to receive support).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A male refuge pilot is being scoped to provide refuge style safe accommodation as well as the other forms of safe accommodation available</li><li>• Work to increase accessibility and knowledge of services via the DA Media and Comms work</li><li>• The Domestic Abuse Data &amp; Evidence (DADE) group are exploring options for referral data analysis</li></ul>
<p>In preparation for the next iteration of the strategic assessment, principles should be provided to those being asked for data in advance, so that they are able to collect comparable information as part of their commissioning processes where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The DADE exploring possibility of routine data subgroup to promote comparable data set usage</li></ul>



# 2021 Needs Assessment updates



2021 recommendation	Update
A need for increased support options for men who have experienced abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Male refuge pilot being explored</li></ul>
A requirement for consistent provision for children across safe accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CYP commissioning are scoping a unified service for flexible therapeutic support in safe accommodation</li><li>• The need to replicate this across community services is acknowledged</li></ul>
Older survivors of domestic abuse are identified as being less likely to make a report to the police, and less likely to use refuge services. Further work is recommended to explore the needs of older survivors and other cohorts who do not currently access commissioned refuge services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Adult Social Care and Health group are exploring this issue – promoting awareness and good practice via a number of training and learning initiatives</li><li>• The DA Media and Comms group have worked to raise awareness that ‘Domestic Abuse has no Age limit’ with specific campaign material and created briefings for professionals on world elder abuse day</li></ul>

# 2021 Needs Assessment updates



2021 recommendation	Update
Qualitative research amongst providers evidenced a perceived need for flexibility in accommodation type.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providers are exploring more flexible and dispersed models of accommodation provision</li><li>• The Delivery Plan focusses on expanding our use of multiple forms of safe accommodation, including privately rented via rent deposit schemes, tenancy support officers, DAHA accreditation &amp; Sanctuary schemes being utilised</li></ul>
An audit of sanctuary schemes in Kent has illustrated a high degree of variation across the County in terms of provision of sanctuary schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pilot to increase consistency of sanctuary offer is being explored</li></ul>
Providers identified a need to develop further relationships with other service providers, especially in relation to mental health and drugs and alcohol support to provide not only continuity of service but a more integrated service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-occurring conditions and DA subgroup formed to explore increasing access to services for this group</li><li>• Scoping event planned for November</li></ul>
There was agreement amongst providers that additional 'move on' type accommodation where survivors could be housed to regain some independence when they are ready to leave the refuge setting would be advantageous.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tenancy support officers have been put in place for KIDAS providers to support</li></ul>