



Redcar and Cleveland

Adults Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

**Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence
& FGM**
March 2022

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OUR APPROACH TO THE JSNA

The needs assessment process aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current and future needs of the local population to inform service commissioning and help improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities. The Redcar and Cleveland Adults Joint Strategic Needs assessment (JSNA) uses data, intelligence and evidence to identify the current and future health and social care needs of the adult population in Redcar and Cleveland. It provides a compendium of evidence of the health needs of our local population for use by anyone working with, delivering or planning services for our local population.

The local authority and CCG have a joint statutory duty to produce and maintain the JSNA, and health and social care commissioners are obliged to have “due regard” to the JSNA in exercising their functions. Having an effective Adults JSNA underpins the effectiveness of local strategies, services and programmes for addressing poor health and care outcomes.

The Adults JSNA will help to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population by:

- Providing an up-to-date evidence-based resource to support health and wellbeing planning and commissioning
- Highlighting areas where there is a need to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the local community
- Identifying groups with greater or unmet needs (vulnerable groups)
- Supporting decision makers to allocate resources

To ensure that our local Adults JSNA is comprehensive and adequately describes the current and future needs of our local population it has been broken down into a number of individual needs assessments for specific topic areas or population groups. This document assesses the needs of adults living in Redcar and Cleveland in relation to domestic abuse, sexual violence and female genital mutilation. This JSNA topic will have links to many other JSNA topic areas and should be read in conjunction with these in order to give a more detailed assessment of local needs.

WHY IS DOMESTIC ABUSE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE & FGM IMPORTANT?

Why is this topic important?

The negative impact that domestic abuse can leave on the victim and their family is beyond measure. There is a wide held misconception that domestic abuse relates only to physical assault and violence - this is no longer the case. It is now recognised that emotional abuse, controlling, and coercive behaviour are also forms of abuse.

The legal definition by the Home Office in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 is:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological, emotional or other abuse between those aged 16 and over and personally connected to each other”.

Persons are 'personally connected' if:

- They are, or have been, married to each other.
- They are, or have been, civil partners of each other.
- They have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated).
- They have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated).
- They are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other.
- They each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child.
- They are relatives.

The act also recognises post-separation abuse through coercive and controlling behaviour. It no longer makes it a requirement for perpetrators and victims to either still be in a relationship or to still live together.

The act also recognises children as victims of domestic abuse. This is the first time that a child who sees or hears, or experiences domestic abuse, and is related to the person being abused or the perpetrator, is also to be regarded as a victim of domestic abuse in their own right.

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to; psychological, physical, sexual, financial and / or emotional.

Although Domestic Abuse cuts across socio-economic groups, prevalence would appear to be greater in areas of higher deprivation.

Why is this topic an important issue?

Cases of Domestic Abuse have been increasing year on year locally and nationally. Domestic abuse is often a hidden crime that is not reported to the police. Therefore, data held by the police can only provide a partial picture of the actual level of domestic abuse experienced. Many cases will not enter the criminal justice process as they are not reported to the police.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a new duty on local authorities to assess the need for, and commission support to, victims and their children in domestic abuse safe accommodation in England. The new duty was backed by £125 million funding of which Redcar & Cleveland has been awarded **£315,512 for 2021/22**

Redcar and Cleveland have developed a new strategy, starting with defining a clear picture of local need, demand and options available. A key change that the duty will require is that in future, those victims currently turned away from refuges and safe accommodation will be able to access life-saving support in future to help them recover and rebuild their lives. The Act is in response to, and acknowledgement of the increasing need (nationally and locally) for support to victims and their families.

The National Picture

- The police recorded a total of **1,459,663 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes** in England and Wales in the year ending March 2021.
- Of these, 845,734 were recorded as domestic abuse-related crimes, **an increase of 6%** from the previous year, representing **18% of all offences** recorded by the police in the year ending March 2021.
- Estimates from our most recent Crime Survey for England and Wales year ending March 2020 show **5.5% of adults aged 16 to 74 years (2.3 million) experienced domestic abuse in the 12 months prior**.
- There were **362 domestic homicides** recorded by the police in the three-year period between year ending March 2018 and year ending March 2020. This represents **19% of all homicides** where the victim was aged 16 years and over during this period.
- An estimated 751,000 (19.3%) children aged 10 to 15 years were living in households with an adult who reported going through one or more of the aspects associated with mental ill-health, domestic abuse or substance misuse in the previous 12 months. Parental mental ill-health, domestic abuse and substance misuse are three factors (also referred to as the “toxic trio”) that have been identified as commonly present in the lives of many vulnerable children.
- Domestic abuse is the **most commonly cited factor** when children are assessed by children’s social care services with respect to support needs.

The Local Picture

- There were **3,888** domestic abuse crimes and incidents in Redcar & Cleveland reported to the police during Jan to Dec 2021, which equates to a rate of 28.3/1000 population.
- **76% of victims of domestic abuse are females**, which is the same as the previous year.
- In the last three years there has been **two deaths** due to domestic violence.
- In 2020/21 **58 victims were repeat victims**
- In 2020/21 **44 offenders** repeated an incident or crime pertaining to domestic abuse.
- In 2020/21 **14 were serial offenders**, abusing more than one victim.
- **44%** (1097) of children’s social care assessments **included domestic abuse** as a factor
- The wards with the highest number of domestic abuse crimes during 2020/21 were Grangetown, Eston, Coatham and South Bank.
- **Sexual offences have increased by 31%** from 2019/20 to 2020/21.
- Most victims (**80%**) of sexual offences were female.
- The wards with the highest number of sexual offences during 2020/21 were South Bank, Grangetown, Eston and Coatham.

What are the risk factors?

Multi-layered, complex and often, completely concealed until crisis point, the immediate and long-term impact of domestic abuse can have devastating consequences on the health, wellbeing and life chances of the victim and their family, and this can remain the case for generation after generation destroying lives. 70% of child social care assessments included domestic abuse as a factor. Victims often become perpetrators - we need to break the cycle of violence and abuse that many suffer and often accept as normal, and we plan to achieve this through the development and delivery of an education programme built around understanding and prevention.

Whilst statistics are essential in helping to establish the extent, diversity, and impact of domestic abuse, many cases remain hidden either by the victim or in some cultures, by their community. As such it can be difficult to accurately capture and record the true levels of domestic abuse and the context in which it is being perpetrated.

This makes it difficult to assess the impact of the abuse on those individuals and families who experience it. Victims often feel afraid, un-willing or unable to report or disclose domestic abuse.

There are countless reasons why people do not report domestic abuse or why they do not seek help, often those suffering abuse, are either unaware that this is what they are experiencing, and/or they may have additional issues to consider before they feel able to seek help for themselves.

Domestic Abuse is now recognised as a public health concern within society. It impacts on the individual and their family, regardless of social demographic, geographic or cultural background. Victims of domestic abuse can require the involvement of numerous public services and agencies such as police, housing, education, health and as such, victims often find themselves having to repeat their story and therefore having to relive their trauma time and time again.

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF NEED?

Statistics for Redcar & Cleveland from the Cleveland Police Strategic Intelligence Assessment show that recorded crimes, sexual violence offences and domestic abuse incidents are on the increase. No female genital mutilation (FGM) offences have been recorded. There was a 31% increase in Sexual offences in 2020/21.

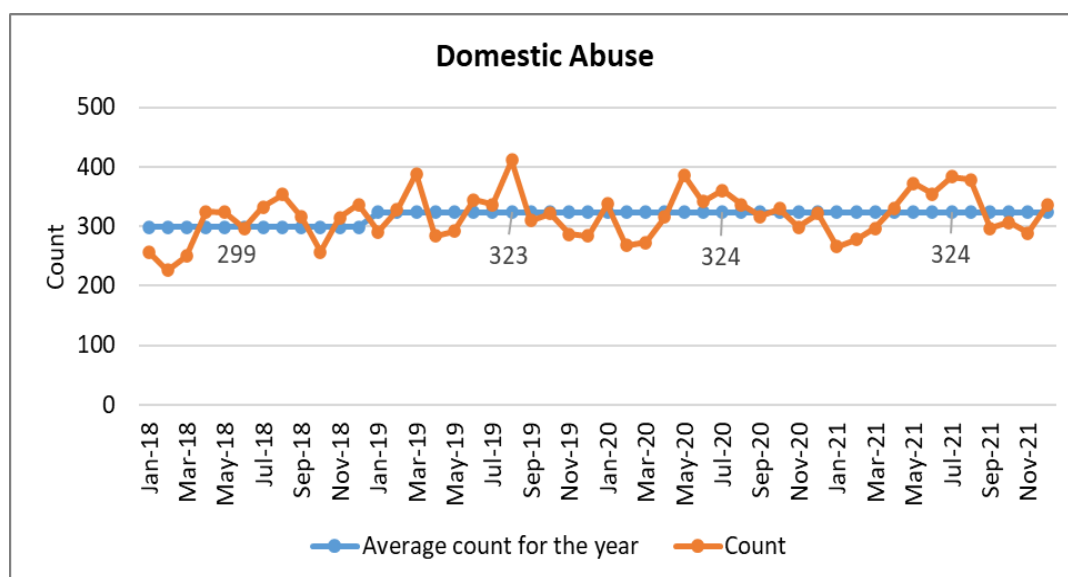
Table 1: To show number of recorded domestic abuse, sexual violence and FGM incidents and crimes (Oct 2020 to Sept 2021).

	Direction Of Travel	2019/20	2020/21	Change	% Change
Cleveland Police					
Total Crime	↑	13109	13967	858	7%
Sexual Offences	↑	326	426	100	31%
Domestic Incidents	↑	3814	3867	53	1%
Female Genital Mutilation	-				

Source: Police Strategic Intelligence Assessment; Dataset October – September 2021.

The following graph shows the number of recorded domestic abuse crime & incidents in the past four years in Redcar & Cleveland. These are counts of records, and one individual could be a victim of domestic abuse several times and account for several records.

Graph 1: To show the trend in domestic abuse over time in Redcar & Cleveland, Jan 2018 to Dec 2021.



Source of data: Cleveland Police

The graph above shows there is a slight upward trend in the recording of domestic abuse incidents and crimes. The blue line in the graph above shows that during 2018 there were on average 299 incidents and crimes per month. This went up to 323 in 2019 and then increased further to 324 in 2020 and 2021. The orange line shows the monthly fluctuations in domestic abuse incidents and crimes.

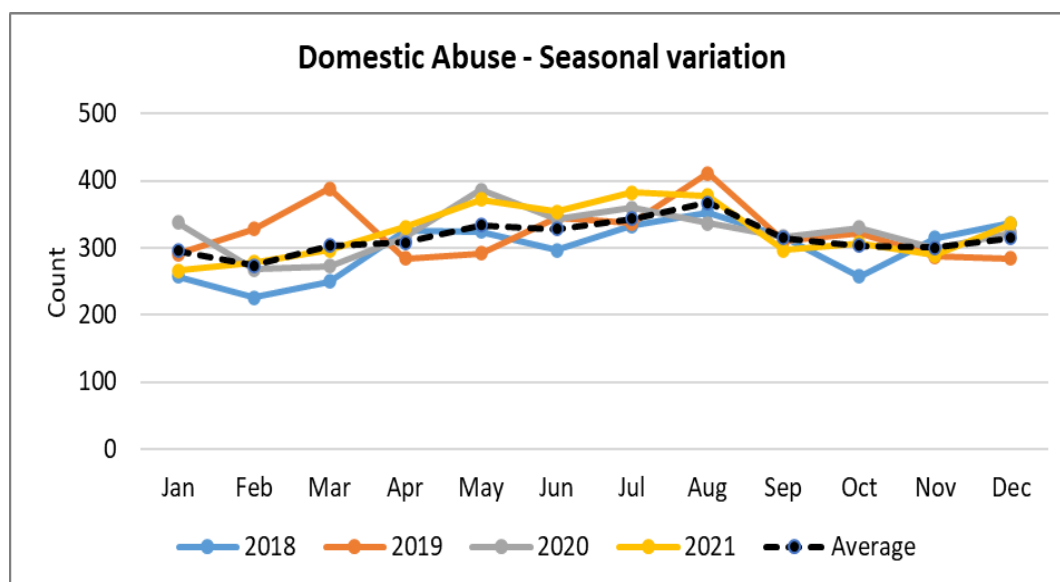
Table 2: To show the total number of domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded per year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Per 1,000 population (137, 150)
2018	257	226	250	325	324	297	333	353	316	257	315	337	3590	26.1
2019	291	328	388	284	292	345	337	411	310	322	287	284	3879	28.2
2020	338	268	273	316	386	342	360	337	317	330	299	322	3888	28.3
2021	266	278	297	331	372	354	383	378	297	307	289	336	3888	28.3

Source of data: Cleveland Police

The total number of domestic abuse incidents increased from 3,590 in 2018 to 3,888 in 2021. The rate increased from 26.1/1,000 population to 28.3/1,000 population.

Graph 2: To look at seasonal trend of domestic abuse incidents and crimes in Redcar & Cleveland.



Source of data: Cleveland Police

The black dotted line is an average of the four years to see if there is a seasonal trend. It shows a gradual increase in domestic abuse incidents and crimes from Jan (295) which peaks in August (367) and then falls to November (300) and a slight increase in December (314).

Table 3: To compare deaths due to domestic abuse (financial year, 1st April to 31st March)

Indicator	Direction of Travel	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Deaths due to domestic abuse in Redcar & Cleveland	↓	1	1	0

Source: Community Safety Partnership (JH)

The table above shows there have been no deaths due to domestic abuse in 2020/21.

Table 4: To show the number of safeguarding concerns received relating to adults with care and support needs for domestic abuse.

Year	Number of safeguarding concerns	Number which related to Domestic Abuse	Safeguarding concerns relating to domestic abuse (%)
2018/19	1,338	77	5.8%
2019/20	1,633	114	7.0%
2020/21	1,528	88	5.8%
2021/22	1,446	102	7.1%

Source: RCBC (SD)

The table above shows that between 5.8% to 7.1% of all safeguarding concerns received relating to 'adults with care and support needs' were related to domestic abuse.

Table 5: To compare Children's social care assessments which include domestic abuse as a factor in Redcar & Cleveland (financial year)

Indicator	Direction of Travel	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of children's social care assessments included domestic abuse as a factor	↑	556	901	1097
Percentage of children's social care assessments included domestic abuse as a factor	↑	37%	41%	44%

Source: Protocol RCBC (IL)

The table above shows in 2020/21 that 44% (1097) of children's social care assessments included domestic abuse as a factor, this is an increase on the previous years. Note: there are 3 different assessment factors relating to domestic abuse, split into child, parent and other person in household. Some of the published data can sometimes add together the 3 numbers, which doesn't give an accurate picture as there can be children where multiples are selected depending on the situation. So the numbers above are based on the number of assessments where at least one of the 3 factors were selected.

Table 6: To compare the number of incidents and crimes for domestic abuse per ward for the years 2019 to 2021.

Table 6a

Domestic Abuse incidents	2019	2020	2021	Diff 2021 and 2020
ESTON	107	118	137	19
KIRKLEATHAM	92	144	111	-33
GRANGETOWN	116	144	110	-34
COATHAM	109	102	103	1
SOUTH_BANK	97	85	101	16
BROTTON	86	79	80	1
DORMANSTOWN	62	74	74	0
SKELTON_EAST	57	45	66	21
GUISBOROUGH	77	61	66	5
NORMANBY	51	67	52	-15
TEESVILLE	59	60	47	-13
LOFTUS	84	58	46	-12
NEWCOMEN	37	51	45	-6
ST_GERMAINS	35	33	41	8
HUTTON	28	39	34	-5
ORMESBY	56	35	31	-4
ZETLAND	43	42	31	-11
WEST_DYKE	42	44	29	-15
SKELTON_WEST	41	45	27	-18
WHEATLANDS	12	24	26	2
SALTBURN	43	41	21	-20
LONGBECK	13	24	20	-4
BELMONT	10	19	17	-2
LOCKWOOD	18	18	10	-8

Source: Cleveland Police

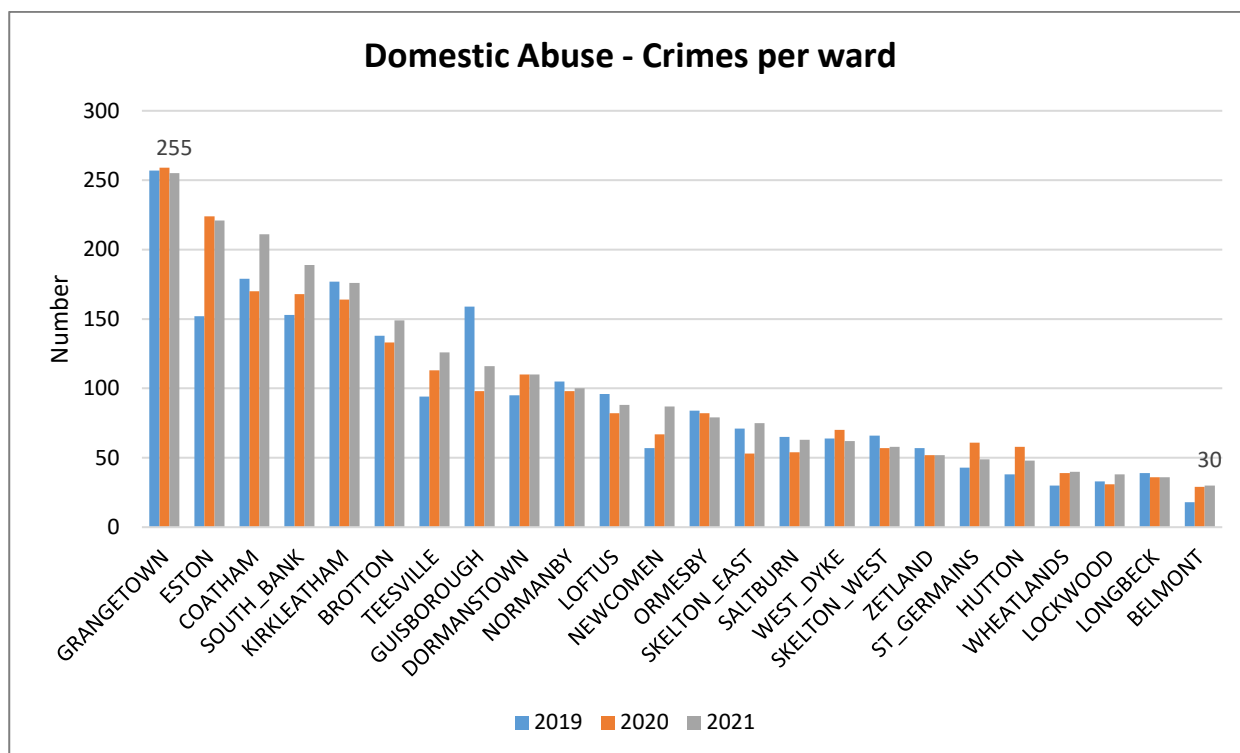
Table 6b

Domestic Abuse crimes	2019	2020	2021	Diff 2021 and 2020
GRANGETOWN	257	259	255	-4
ESTON	152	224	221	-3
COATHAM	179	170	211	41
SOUTH_BANK	153	168	189	21
KIRKLEATHAM	177	164	176	12
BROTTON	138	133	149	16
TEESVILLE	94	113	126	13
GUISBOROUGH	159	98	116	18
DORMANSTOWN	95	110	110	0
NORMANBY	105	98	100	2
LOFTUS	96	82	88	6
NEWCOMEN	57	67	87	20
ORMESBY	84	82	79	-3
SKELTON_EAST	71	53	75	22
SALTBURN	65	54	63	9
WEST_DYKE	64	70	62	-8
SKELTON_WEST	66	57	58	1
ZETLAND	57	52	52	0
ST_GERMAINS	43	61	49	-12
HUTTON	38	58	48	-10
WHEATLANDS	30	39	40	1
LOCKWOOD	33	31	38	7
LONGBECK	39	36	36	0
BELMONT	18	29	30	1

Table 6a above has been sorted to show the wards with the highest number of incidents, the number of incidents on Eston ward have increased by 19 from 118 to 137. However Kirkleatham ward also has a high number of incidents but their figure has reduced by 33 going down from 144 to 111. Grangetown has followed in the same way. Skelton East has seen the biggest increase.

Table 6b shows the crimes per ward. Grangetown has the highest number of crimes of domestic abuse, 255 crimes were recorded in 2021 but this is a reduction of 4 from 259 in 2020. The same follows for Eston ward. However Coatham ward has seen the biggest increase, the domestic abuse crimes rose from 168 in 2020 to 189 in 2021. South Bank ward also saw an increase in domestic abuse crimes

Graph 3: To show the level of domestic abuse crimes per ward.



Source: Cleveland Police

Graph 3 shows the wards with the most domestic abuse crimes are Grangetown, Eston, Coatham and South Bank. The ward with the biggest increase in domestic abuse crimes is Coatham ward.

The wards with the lowest numbers of domestic abuse crimes are Belmont, Longbeck and Lockwood wards. The wards with the biggest decrease in domestic abuse crimes are St Germain’s and Hutton wards.

Gender

Home Office data for police recorded crime from 28 forces shows the proportion of domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by sex of victims for year ending March 2020 is that 74% of victims are female and 26% are male. Note: Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.

Source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendixtables> (tab 16 and 21)

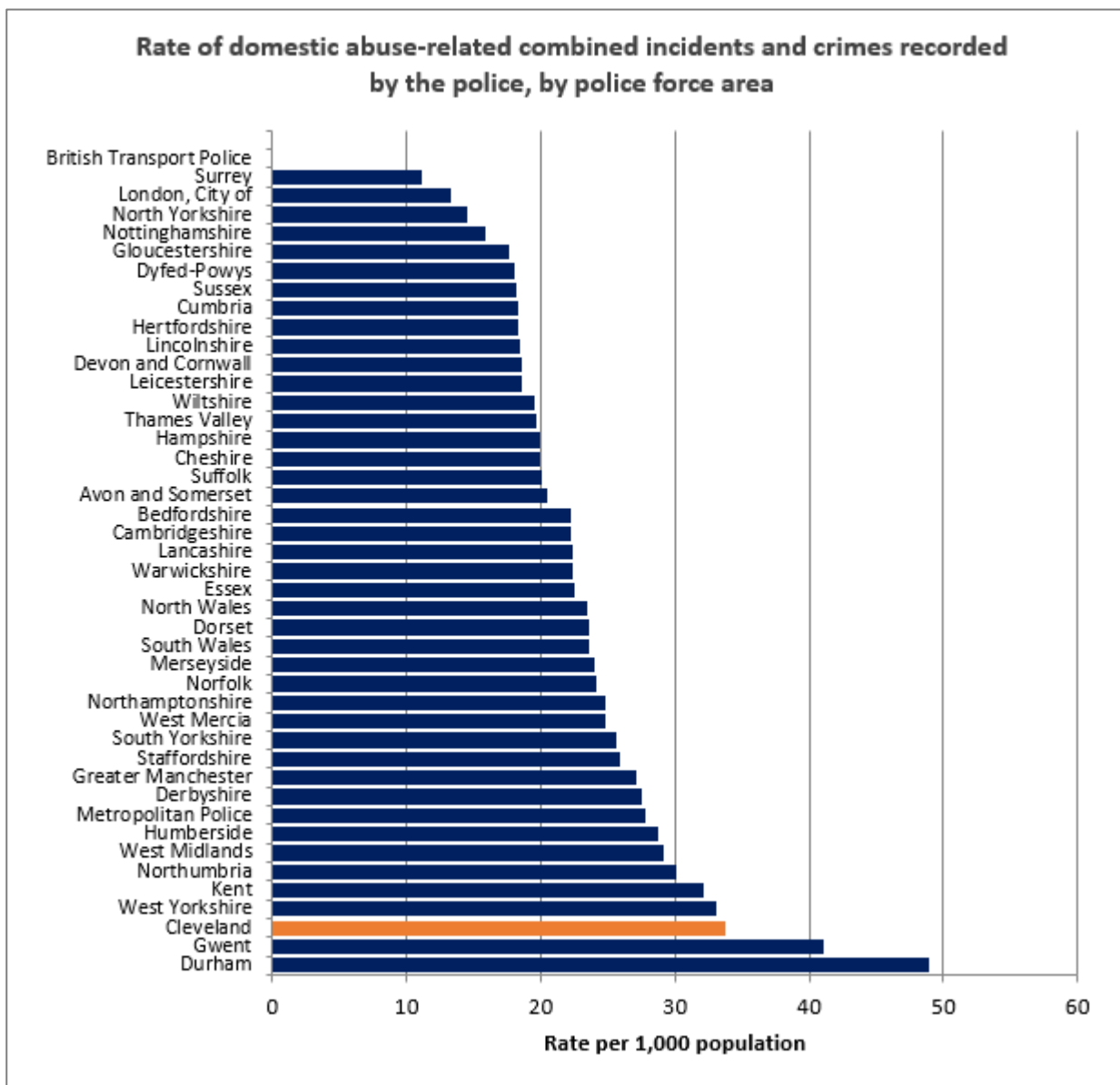
Local data from Cleveland Police reflects this, with the proportion of victims in Redcar & Cleveland showing 76% are female and 24% are male.

Rates of domestic abuse compared to other Police Force areas

Redcar & Cleveland data are included in the Cleveland Police Force Area dataset.

The graph 4 below shows that during April 2020 to March 2021 in the Cleveland Police area, which includes Middlesbrough too, there were 19,205 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes. Equivalent to 34 incidents and crimes for every 1,000 people in the population for Cleveland Constabulary. Surrey Police Force has the lowest rate (11/1,000) and Durham Police Force has the highest rate (49/1,000). The graph below is to demonstrate that Cleveland Police Force has one to the highest rates of recorded domestic abuse and crime. This raises the question - Do we have more domestic abuse incidents than other Forces or do our residents report it more readily?

Graph 4: To show the rate of domestic abuse incidents & crimes by Police Service. Year end March 2021.

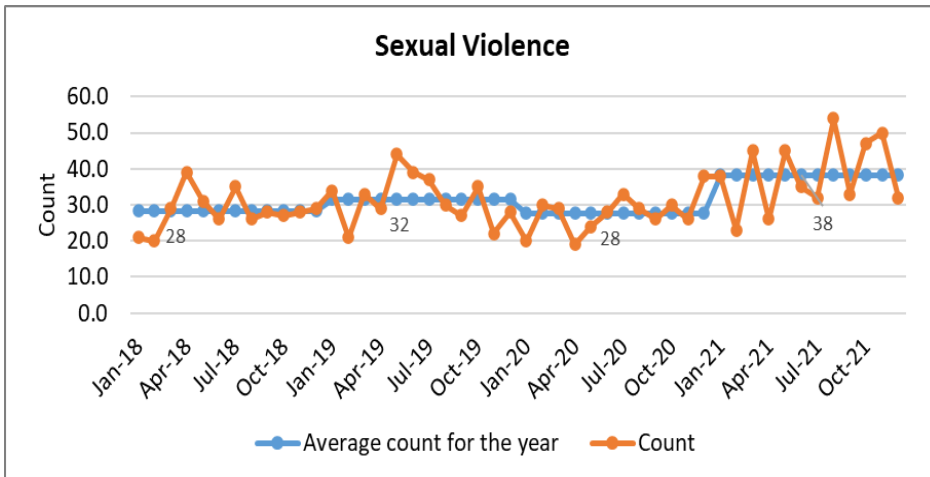


Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesdatatool>

Sexual Violence

The following graph shows the number of recorded sexual violence offences in the past four years in Redcar & Cleveland. These are counts of records, and one individual could be a victim of sexual violence several times and account for several records.

Graph 5: To show the trend in sexual violence offences over time in Redcar & Cleveland.



Source of data: Cleveland Police

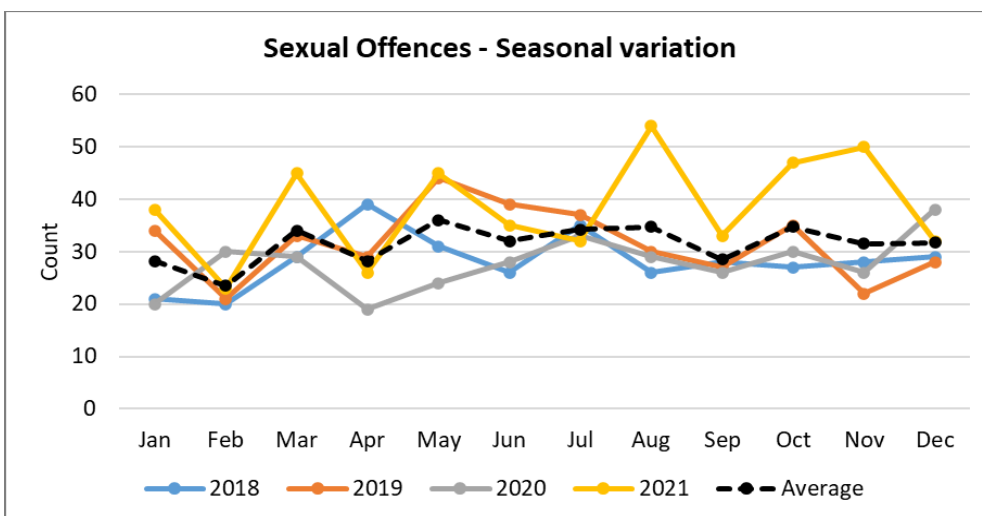
There is an upward trend in the recording of sexual violence offences in the previous year. The blue line in the graph above shows that during 2018 there were on average 28 offences per month, in 2019 this went up to an average of 32 offences per month however in 2020 it decreased back down to 28 offences per month but has now risen dramatically to 38 offences per month. The orange line shows the actual monthly fluctuations in sexual offences.

Table 7: To show the total number of sexual violence offences recorded per year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Per 1,000 population (137,150)
2018	21	20	29	39	31	26	35	26	28	27	28	29	339	2.4
2019	34	21	33	29	44	39	37	30	27	35	22	28	379	2.7
2020	20	30	29	19	24	28	33	29	26	30	26	38	332	2.4
2021	38	23	45	26	45	35	32	54	33	47	50	32	460	3.3
Average	28	24	34	28	36	32	34	35	29	35	32	32		

The total number of sexual offences increased from 339 in 2018 to 460 in 2021. The rate is currently at 3.3/1,000 population.

Graph 6: To look at seasonal trend of sexual violence offences in Redcar & Cleveland.



Source of data: Cleveland Police

There does not appear to be any seasonal variations, but the yellow line shows the large increase in summer 2021 and again in Oct / Nov compared to the other years.

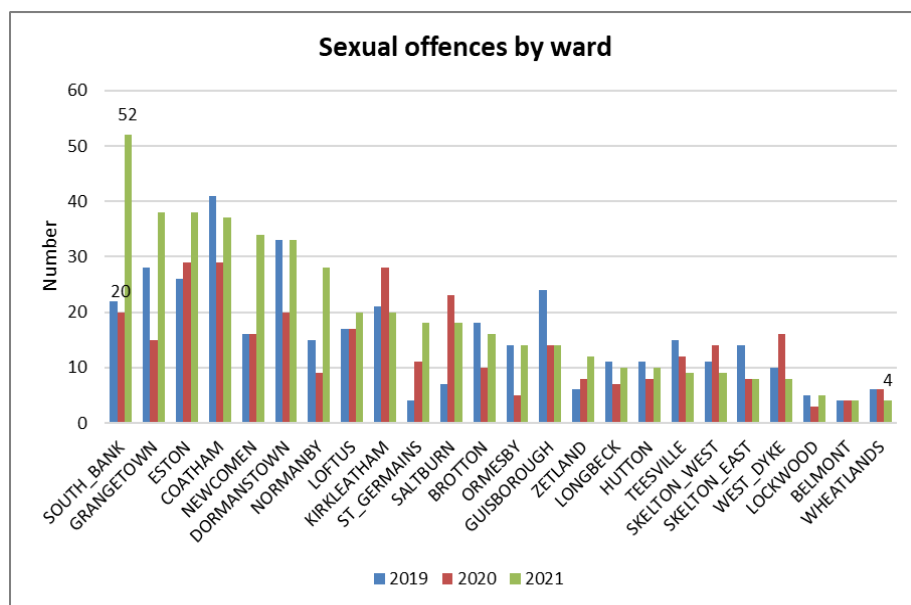
Table 8: To compare the number of sexual offences per ward for the years 2019 to 2021.

Sexual Offences	2019	2020	2021	Diff 2021 and 2020
SOUTH_BANK	22	20	52	32
GRANGETOWN	28	15	38	23
ESTON	26	29	38	9
COATHAM	41	29	37	8
NEWCOMEN	16	16	34	18
DORMANSTOWN	33	20	33	13
NORMANBY	15	9	28	19
LOFTUS	17	17	20	3
KIRKLEATHAM	21	28	20	-8
ST_GERMANS	4	11	18	7
SALTBURN	7	23	18	-5
BROTTON	18	10	16	6
ORMESBY	14	5	14	9
GUISBOROUGH	24	14	14	0
ZETLAND	6	8	12	4
LONGBECK	11	7	10	3
HUTTON	11	8	10	2
TEESVILLE	15	12	9	-3
SKELTON_WEST	11	14	9	-5
SKELTON_EAST	14	8	8	0
WEST_DYKE	10	16	8	-8
LOCKWOOD	5	3	5	2
BELMONT	4	4	4	0
WHEATLANDS	6	6	4	-2

Source of data: Cleveland Police

The table above shows that the wards with the highest number of sexual offences are South Bank, Grangetown, Eston and Coatham wards. Grangetown and South Bank ward also saw the biggest increases when compared to the previous years. The biggest decrease in Sexual offences was seen in Kirkleatham ward which dropped by 8 from 28 to 20 offences in a year.

Graph 7: To show the level of sexual violence offences by ward.



Source of data: Cleveland Police

The graph above shows the wards with the most sexual offences are South Bank, Grangetown, Eston and Coatham wards. The ward with the biggest increase in sexual offences is South Bank ward (20 offences in 2020 to 52 offences in 2021).

The wards with the lowest numbers of sexual offences are Lockwood, Belmont and Wheatlands. The wards with the biggest decrease in sexual offences are Kirkleatham, West dyke, Saltburn and Skelton West wards.

Gender

Home Office data for police recorded crime from 28 forces shows the proportion of sexual offences recorded by sex of victims for year ending March 2020 is that 94% of the victims are female and 6% are male.

In the Cleveland Police Force during 2016/17 to 2018/19 there were 8 female and 2 male domestic homicides aged over 16 years. Note: Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.

Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendixtables>

Local data from Cleveland Police for Redcar and Cleveland shows that the proportion of sexual offence victims are slightly different with 85% female and 15% male.

FGM

National picture

For the National 3-month period for July to Sept 2021 the Female Genital Mutilation data from NHS Digital shows:

- There were 1,530 individual women and girls who had an attendance where FGM was identified in the period between July 2021 and September 2021. These accounted for 2,550 attendances reported at NHS trusts and GP practices where FGM was identified.
- There were 665 newly recorded women and girls in the period between July 2021 and September 2021. Newly recorded means that this is the first time they have appeared in this dataset. It does not indicate how recently their FGM was undertaken, nor does it mean that this is the woman or girl's first attendance for FGM. The number of newly recorded women and girls has reduced over time. This is to be expected as the longer the collection continues, the greater the chance of a woman or girl having been recorded in it previously.
- Between July 2021 and September 2021, 80 NHS trusts and 16 GP practices submitted one or more FGM attendance records.

Source: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation>

- Redcar and Cleveland - No FGM offences have been recorded in Redcar & Cleveland for the last four years.

Source: Cleveland Police

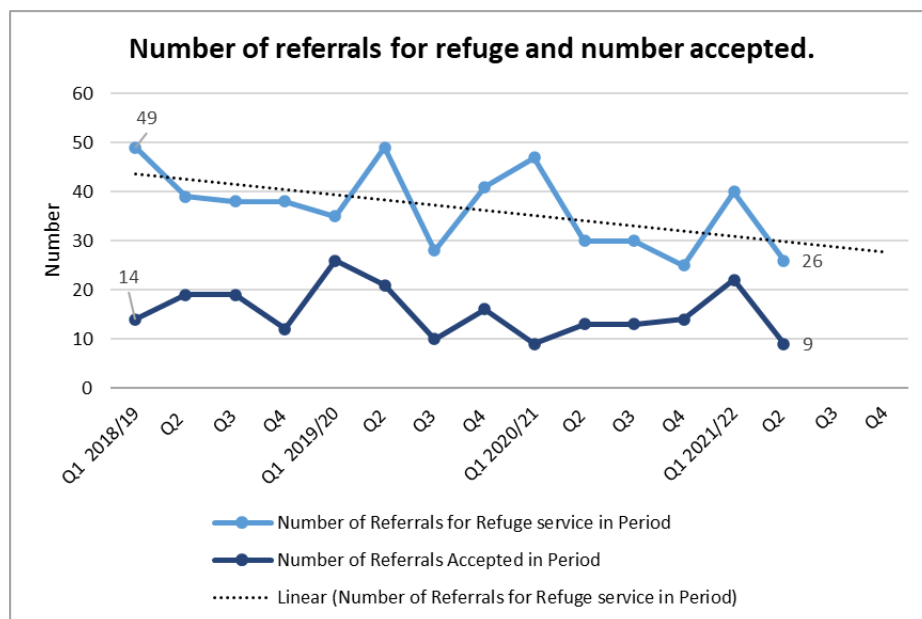
Demand for the Domestic Abuse services.

Please note: The data is from our commissioned domestic abuse service (we commission the refuge accommodation and support, dispersed properties, and other support services). However, there are other domestic abuse services that operate in Redcar & Cleveland that we do not commission and do not get data from so we will still not have the full picture.

So, all the following data is from the domestic abuse commissioned service provider known as Foundation.

Foundation measures how many referrals are coming into the Redcar Refuge. Referrals come from many sources.

Graph 8: To show the trend over the years in referrals to Redcar Refuge and numbers accepted since 2018.



Source: Foundation

There has been a downward trend in referrals to the Redcar Refuge, in Q1 2018/29, 28.6% were accepted into the refuge, in Q2 2021/22, 34.6% were accepted into the refuge.

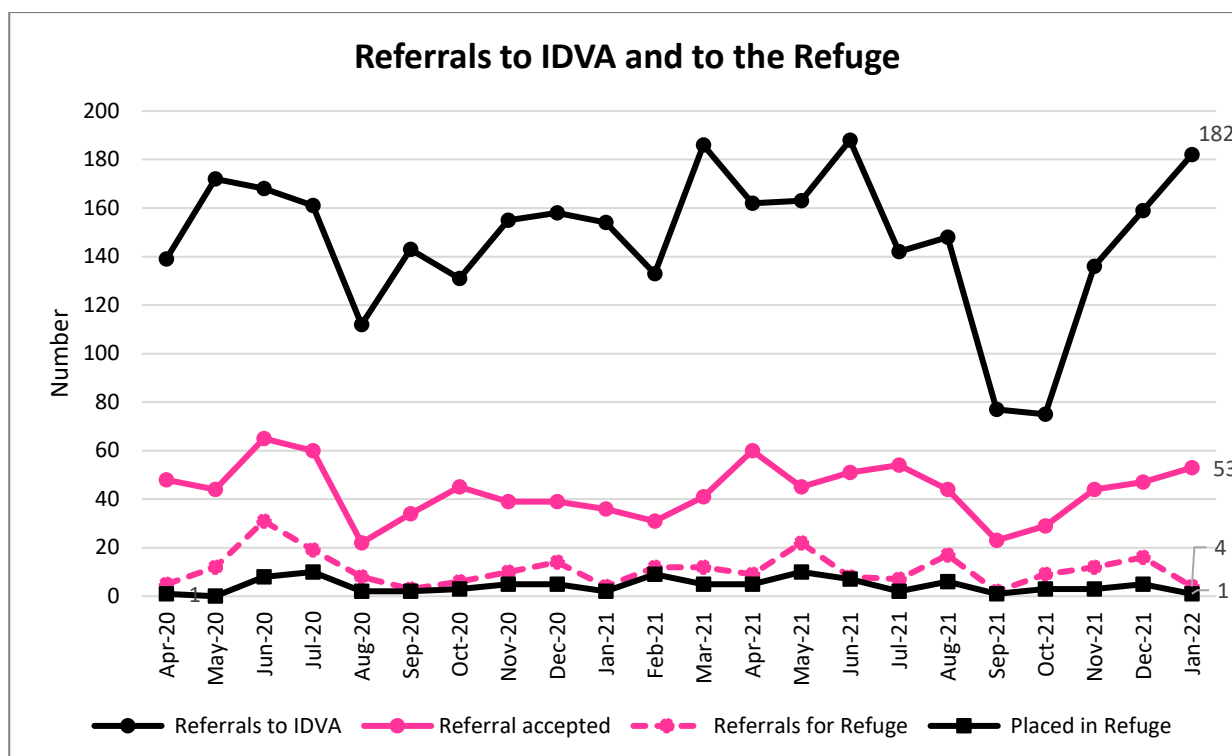
Table 9: To show the number of referrals to the Redcar Refuge

Referrals	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of Referrals for Refuge service in Period	164	153	132
Self	34	18	22
Social Services	42	26	18
Health Agency	4	1	0
Police	26	45	36
Housing	20	28	12
Women's Aid	1	0	1
Other Redcar Agency	7	11	10
Other Agency - out of Area	30	15	32
Other	0	9	2
Number of Referrals Accepted in Period	64	73	49

Source: Foundation

Table 9 shows the total number of referrals to Redcar Refuge has decreased compared to the previous year. Most referrals are from the Police followed by Other Agency – Out of area.

Graph 9: To show the trend in the number of referrals into the IDVA service and into the refuge over the past 20 months (monthly data).



Source: Foundation

Graph 9 shows the number of referrals to the IDVA service. In Jan 2022 we saw an increase in referrals back up to 182, of these 53 accepted support. There were 4 referrals for the refuge and 1 placed.

IDVA service – From April 2020 to Jan 2022 (inclusive) there were 3,244 referrals to the IDVA service and 954 accepted.

Refuge – From April 2020 to Jan 2022 (inclusive) there were 242 referrals received for the refuge and 95 placed in the refuge which means 147 were not placed.

Why the drop in IDVA referrals in Sept – Oct 2021? Foundation states, we saw a decrease in referrals to the IDVA service in September and October, and unfortunately, we do not know why. Sometimes we see these fluctuations. The graph shows that there is a similar pattern for refuge referrals too and a reduction over those months. It could be linked to covid or linked to children being back at school and parents being back at work. Meaning relationships are less strained, and therefore less referrals are received to the service. It could be linked to alcohol and drug use reducing after the summer months, again putting less strain on relationships and less referrals into services. It could be linked to the various agencies who make the referrals to our IDVA service and their staffing.

Why has there not been a rise in refuge referrals when we see a steep rise in IDVA referrals? Foundation states that “You will see from the data that we did not experience the steep rise in referrals for refuge accommodation, as we seen with outreach IDVA (Graph 7). There are several factors which could have impacted refuge accommodation referrals:

- Lockdown with a perpetrator would mean victims not having safe opportunities to access support.
- Less opportunity for victims to flee.
- Victims not being aware that they could still access refuge accommodation during covid/lockdown.
- Telephone/digital domestic abuse support platforms meant victims could access support at a safe time for them.
- Less face-to-face contact with other agencies who may have referred victims to refuge, such as adult or children’s social care.”

Table 10: To show the reasons for not being accepted into the refuge, by year since 2018/19.

Reasons not accepted	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of Referrals unable to access during the period	100	80	83
Ineligible	3	1	0
Affordability	0	1	3
Withdrew - Declined Support	13	6	2
Service no longer required	0	0	1
Moved out of area	0	0	0
Found Alternative Refuge	1	1	1
No vacancy - unable to wait	75	66	67
Not priority for available vacancy	5	1	1
Risk too High	1	2	3
Other	2	2	5
Number moved into Refuge in period	64	73	49
Number of People on Waiting List	0	0	0

Source: Foundation

The table above shows the main reason for not being accepted into the refuge was 'no vacancy', the data also shows there were 'nil' on a waiting list.

Table 11: To show the outcomes for those not accessing the refuge, by year since 2018/19.

Outcomes	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Outcomes for those not accessing Refuge	100	80	83
Signposted to Navigator service	1	1	0
Signposted to other services	38	61	67
Not known - refused refuge and no further contact	1	5	3
Not known - did not engage	6	11	6
Place found at other refuge	1	1	5
Did not meet criteria	2	1	1
Remained at home	3	0	1
Signpost to another Refuge	47	0	0
Accommodated by Homeless	1	0	0

Source: Foundation

The table above shows the main outcome from the refuge was 'signposted to other services'.

Table 12: To show the departures from the refuge, by year since 2018/19

Departures	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Staying with friends	5	2	2
Staying with family members	7	12	5
Moved into bed and breakfast accommodation	0	4	2
Moved into supported housing	6	14	2
Moved to Women's refuge	2	0	0
Moved with RSL Tenancy/LA Tenancy	22	10	11
Moved into accommodation as an owner occupier	0	0	0
Renting privately owned accommodation	1	3	8
Returned to previous home without partner	10	14	4
Returned to previous home with partner	9	4	2
UNPLANNED MOVES	0	9	12

Source: Foundation

The table above shows main departures in 2020/21 from the refuge were unplanned moves or moves to Registered Social Landlord (RSL) tenancy.

When domestic abuse occurs, the victim may require a safe place to live, the following table shows the total number of safe accommodation places available in the Borough.

Table 13: To show the number of safe accommodation places available in RCBC.

Refuge Accommodation – commissioned (Foundation)*	Dispersal Properties – commissioned (Foundation)	Other Accommodation – Non – commissioned (EVA Women’s Aid)
2 x 1 bed flats 6 x 3 bed flats 2 x 4 bed flats 2 x 6 bed flats	2 x 2 bed house 1 x 3 bed house	2 x standard 1 x 45+ 1 x specialised mental health
Total = 12 flats	Total = 3 houses	Total = 4 houses

Source: Foundation and EVA

*Some of the flats can accommodate cots/temp beds if needed, so the refuge can sleep 43 individuals in total if needed.

Table 13 shows there were a total of 12 flats and 3 houses for safe accommodation available in Redcar and Cleveland during 2020/21, the number of safe places available has increased over the years.

Foundation states that “We currently have 3 dispersed properties on our Thrive Project and these properties are consistently full. The leases started on 11/11/2019 and two on 02/12/2019 and each property has a management/lease agreement in place between the Landlord and Foundation. The only time a dispersed property may be empty is when there is a need for extensive redecoration when a client has vacated. Currently the demand, and need, for suitable community-based accommodation is high and we could fill these dispersed properties several times over if we had the provision. We don’t have any referral data for dispersed properties because we only place Foundation clients, usually as a move on from refuge accommodation, within those properties and do not take external referrals.

We know there is a gap in provision for suitable community-based accommodation, and to offer this as an alternative to refuge accommodation. In being able to provide safe accommodation in the community it would enable us to support clients who have a larger family, males and LGBTQ+ community or those who may not be suitable for refuge accommodation due to risk to themselves or others.

Currently Foundation provides an effective Sanctuary Scheme and IDVA service which allows people to remain in their own homes, which may also be a contributing factor to refuge referral numbers”.

EVA has the following safe house accommodation (non-commissioned) in R&C. All for females aged 16 and over – 4 houses (2 standard, 1 x 45+ and 1 x specialised mental health). EVA is not the core commissioned service provider in Redcar & Cleveland, but they play a big role in the delivery of safe accommodation in the Borough.

Safeguarding concerns received relating to children for domestic abuse.

Information from Children’s Services shows that in the nine months from April to December 2021 there was a total of 9,507 contacts to the Redcar & Cleveland Multi-Agency Children’s Hub (MACH). Contacts relate to any request for a service/information in respect of a child in the Redcar & Cleveland area. These are made by a range of professionals and members of the public and cover early intervention, child in need and child protection services.

Redcar MACH noted that domestic abuse is the most common presenting issue as 1,384 (14.6%) of those featured domestic abuse by parent carer as the presenting issue; and 91 (1%) featured domestic abuse by child/young person. The next highest presenting issue is ‘behavioural difficulties.

WHAT ARE WE CURRENTLY DOING?

What are we currently doing?

Domestic Abuse – Service Provision Summary

Current support provisions accessible to those living within the borough are listed below.

As mentioned, a total of **2,088** referrals were made into Redcar & Cleveland Specialist Domestic Abuse Services between April 2020 and March 2021.

Current Commissioned Services

- The Refuge - 12 self-contained flats
- IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors)
- Outreach Support
- Support groups
- Route 2 (Abuser Education Programme)
- Children's Therapy Service
- Children's Support
- Sanctuary Scheme – Homes Security Support
- Volunteering opportunities
- In house access to external services such as substance use & alcohol services
- counselling, legal advice, welfare, and benefit advice.

Non-Commissioned Refuge and Support services

- Safe House Accommodation (for females aged 16 and over) - 4 houses (2 standard, 1 x 45+ and 1 x specialised mental health)
- Keyworker Support
- Counselling, support groups and programmes
- Training
- IDVA service (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate), specially trained to work with young people
- Fitness and Well-being support
- Volunteering opportunities
- Advocacy, Advice and Information
- Training/awareness-raising workshops/talks and presentations to the local Community

- Team of Specialist Children and Young People Counsellors work with ages 4-18.

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO ACHIEVE?

What would we like to achieve?

We want to prevent domestic abuse from happening, provide refuge, ongoing and sustainable help, and support to those experiencing and escaping domestic abuse, and offer rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators who need help and support to help them break the cycle of abuse. We will achieve this by:

- 1. Increasing awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and its impact.**
 - We will work with schools, workplaces, and community groups and organisations to educate people to better understand what domestic abuse is, why it is wrong and how to seek help.
 - We will develop and deliver a domestic abuse awareness campaign throughout Redcar & Cleveland, in partnership with those who have been impacted by the effects of it and those who support them. We will make Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business.
- 2. We will develop our services to address the way in which people feel when they are supported and the impact of this.**
 - We will design and implement a domestic abuse awareness training plan, which will improve knowledge, skills and understanding within the Council and across all other services and agencies.
 - We will develop an approach within Redcar and Cleveland to include personal, professional, and community-based approaches. In doing so, this will provide a consistent approach from all, have a positive impact on people's ability to offer effective support and in turn, improve the way in which people experiencing domestic abuse feel about the support they receive, which will encourage further positive engagement.
- 3. We will develop a framework offering different types of support to meet different levels of need over varying time frames.**
 - We will work together with partner agencies and organisations to give people choices by developing a menu of support to meet the differing levels of need and ranging from Prevention – Early Intervention – Crisis – Rebuilding – Lifetime Access offered to all victims, abusers and all others affected or impacted by domestic abuse (i.e. - friends/family). These will be facilitated by a collaboration of statutory and voluntary organisations and will include volunteers, peer support, support workers, practitioners, and specialist staff.
- 4. We will provide streamlined, easy access to and through support services providing clear support information, pathways and processes that will link together.**
 - We will work together with partner agencies and organisations to create and promote a clear support pathway that is inclusive and accessible to all. A standardised referral system and central point of access for all domestic abuse support and information will offer a menu of support ensuring people get the right support from the right person at the right time.
- 5. We will provide additional and bespoke support for complex needs – a more streamlined and collaborative approach.**
 - For those with complex needs, a variety of support services will be available via The Integrated Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse Model.
- 6. We will develop an inclusive Multi agency strategic and operational approach – clear, consistent, and standardised approach to domestic abuse within the borough.**
 - Continue to build relationships and develop partnerships with all agencies and organisations within Redcar & Cleveland and Tees Valley. To re-structure the domestic abuse partnership to include

both strategic and operational groups along with a new service user group, all of which will continue to inform, review, and advise the domestic abuse strategy and work plan moving forward. Updates will be regularly provided to relevant partnership boards and forums within Redcar and Cleveland i.e. – Community Safety Partnership, Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Health and Wellbeing Board.

WHAT DO LOCAL PEOPLE SAY?

What do local people say?

In 2019/20, we held a consultation with, a diverse mix of people of varying age, culture, race, sexuality, and gender, all of whom had their own unique experience of domestic abuse, the impact of their abuse and the support (or lack thereof), that had been available to them.

What people told us:

- We need to raise awareness and promote understanding of what domestic abuse looks like. People wished that they had been given more information and education about domestic abuse when they were younger. Most people were not aware that domestic abuse could be emotional, psychological, financial, sexual as well as physical and did not just happen between partners. Many did not recognise that they were in abusive relationships – it happened slowly, or it was 'normal' behaviour to them and as such they were unclear who could/would help or where to go for help.
- Reaching out for support can be difficult - children's social care, housing services, financial and benefits advice, work, relocating, uprooting children and the legal systems are all too complex to think about navigating. Often people accessing the same service would have very mixed and often extreme experiences. Most people would rather tell family, friends, community, or colleagues about their situation before they would tell a professional.
- When victims accessed Help and Support, how they were treated and made to feel on first contact had a big impact on how much or how little they will engage with support, both in the now and in the future. These positive or negative experiences are not about the type of 'intervention' – but are determined by how individuals are made to feel by the person/people offering the support. When we asked people what they needed when seeking help, they told us that they just needed people to "be kind, not judge, be patient, understand, listen and 'don't give up on me'".

What would have helped:

- People told us that seeing less professionals would help as having to repeat their story (and relive their trauma) time and time again was sometimes harder than living with the abuse. Having one main professional who they could build a relationship with would be beneficial. They were put off by the number of appointments to attend, and paperwork that had to be filled in especially at such a tough time.
- Life for those experiencing domestic abuse is not easy, people told us that there should not be a time limit on support and that because the impact of domestic abuse lasts a lifetime, support should be available long after the initial crisis. Individual needs and feelings change, people told us they need to be able to 'dip in and out' of different types of support easily and that support should be available for as long or as short a duration as the individual needs and at any point in time. Support should not take the form of a 'one-size fits all' programme.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES & CHALLENGES?

What are the key issues and challenges?

The impact of the pandemic presents several issues and challenges for Domestic Abuse services within Redcar and Cleveland and nationally.

- Many services have adopted a predominantly virtual service offer which has inhibited ease of access to services.
- The pandemic initially prevented move on from refuges which reduced the availability of refuge spaces.
- The national restrictions may have presented additional barriers for victims leaving abusive relationships – possible exposure to worsening abuse at home and reducing opportunities to access support.
- Loss of income, staff shortages and increased costs for remote working due to the pandemic.

What are the key service issues/challenges?

Our ambitions for the Integrated Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse (IDAS) model are reliant upon the input and collaboration of several different service areas and agencies. Therefore, we need to ensure we get commitment from other service areas to deliver a multi-faceted, innovative model of support.

Are there challenges/issues to partnership and system working?

The main challenge faced is a lack of knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse across social care and non-specialist agencies. A lack of understanding could mean that domestic abuse victims who present to services with other needs, may not be supported to access specialist support for domestic abuse.

Are there issues with data, gaps in available information?

Many incidents of domestic abuse go unreported, so the statistics that are provided do not provide an accurate picture of the prevalence of domestic abuse, both locally and nationally.

Are there any financial or resource limitations?

Specialist agencies are reliant upon time-constrained funding and can often only commit to service delivery for a determined period and because of this, they can often only offer time-limited support to victims.

To drive forward our domestic abuse agenda, it is important that we gain commitment and resource from relevant partners and agencies, to ensure we can upskill relevant professionals and gain buy in to work collaboratively in embedding a whole system approach to domestic abuse.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS?

Opportunities

There are opportunities to strengthen links with schools, community groups and other agencies. By working in partnership with communities and organisations to drive the agenda, we could raise the profile of domestic abuse, share knowledge, and target early intervention. The agenda would target changing attitudes and behaviours around domestic abuse.

What are the recommendations?

- Adopt a whole system approach to domestic abuse, recognising the need for increased partnership working to ensure victims can access multi-faceted support, regardless of their primary need or point of entry into services.
- Develop early intervention and education around domestic abuse to ensure children can recognise abusive relationships and the different types of abuse. This would aim to break the cycle of those who are exposed to abuse at a young age, becoming an abuser as an adult and look to rehabilitate perpetrators (many of whom have been victims themselves).
- Establishing a first point of contact for domestic abuse within services, who can establish the need and appropriate support pathway, so victims do not have to tell their story more than once.
- Upskill professionals across all relevant services and agencies for example, social care, health services and education, to enable them to recognise and act as a first point of contact for victims. This will provide individuals with more opportunities to present and break down barriers in accessing specialist services, by equipping professionals with the skills needed to provide initial support and making domestic abuse everybody's business.

Recommendations for Health and Care Commissioning/Service Changes

We are developing an Integrated Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse service which will provide a whole system approach to domestic abuse. Recognising that victims often have additional needs and domestic abuse may not always be the primary need, a holistic and multi-faceted support model will enable us to move away from a 'one size fits all' approach and build a tailored package of support for victims which aims to break the cycle of abuse and provide specialist support for multiple needs.

Priorities - Greatest Increase in Met Needs/Potential Health Gain

Adopting a whole system approach to domestic abuse through the commissioning of the new integrated model would provide the greatest potential in health gain within the population. The model would address the multi-faceted and often interrelated needs of victims and enable seamless access to multiple types of support. The package of support must be flexible and not time limited to ensure the offer is sufficient in addressing the needs of victims over an appropriate time period. This type of intervention is most likely to prevent repeat referrals into the system and tackle multiple public health issues.

By upskilling professionals, we would also provide increased opportunity for victims to present themselves to services and provide multiple routes for referral. This needs to be done as part of a cohesive awareness and education programme, which would not only upskill professionals but also target early intervention and awareness. This will mean that incidents are less likely to go unreported and will help to break down the stigma around domestic abuse, through increased understanding and knowledge across services.

In addition, we need to ensure we are providing an appropriate programme of support and rehabilitation for perpetrators, to make them less likely to abuse in future.

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