

## The Survey

The survey was distributed from the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 by:

- E-mail
- Virtual meetings



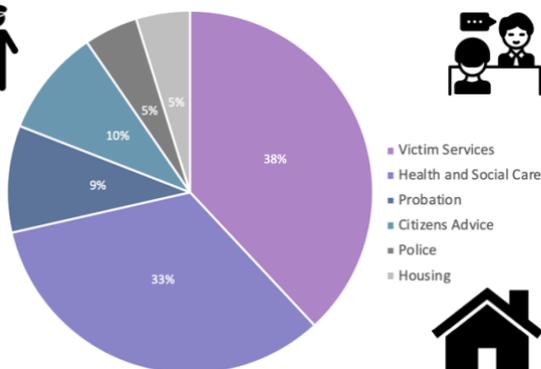
**100+** partner organisations were contacted to complete the survey via:

- The Lancashire DAV Forum
- All DAV Steering Groups
- A 3<sup>rd</sup> sector network distribution list

## Responses

**21** total responses

### Which organisations responded?



### What services do these organisations provide?

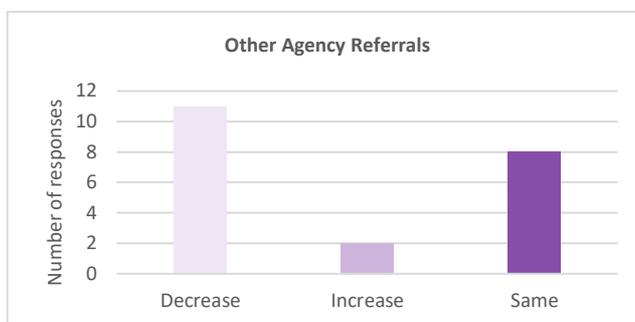
Of the **21** respondent organisations:

- **5** primarily provide DAV support
- **3** primarily provide sexual abuse support
- **18** provide support for females
- **16** provide support for males
- **16** provide support for children
- **17** provide family support
- **11** provide support for perpetrators
- **5** provide supported housing

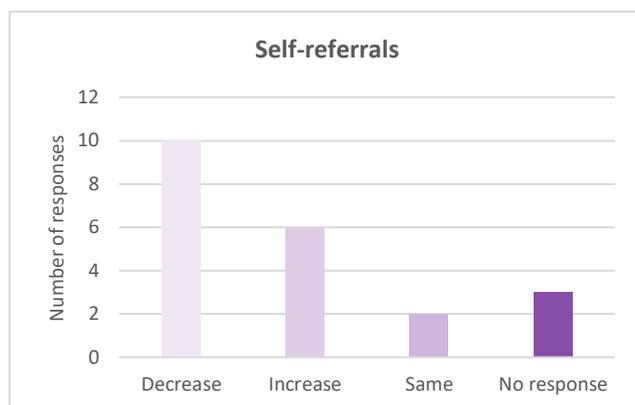


## Referrals rates

### Referrals from other agencies



### Self-referrals



## Professional judgements about referrals

### If lockdown continues for a further 3 months, what will happen?



- Mixed opinions
- **52%** believe there will be an increase
- **29%** believe there will be a decrease
- **14%** believe there will be no change
- **5%** did not answer

### Will referral patterns change when lockdown ends?

- The majority of respondents (**85%**) predict that referrals will increase
- **5%** think there will be a decrease
- **5%** unsure what will happen
- **5%** did not answer



# Referrals

## Professional judgements: Example comments (if change, how and why?)

### During lockdown

“Referrals from health, schools and children’s social care have gone down”.

“Self-referrals for support have reduced”.

“All agency referrals down”.

### If lockdown continues for 3 months...

“Concerns about the impact of lockdown on mental health, substance use and relationships”.

“[Referrals will] decrease due to children not being seen by professionals”.

“There will be demand built up and clients likely to approach in more vulnerable situations as early intervention not been possible”.

“...victims of DA in recovery from historical experiences of abuse are being reminded of feelings of isolation”.



### Will referral patterns change when lockdown ends?

“We are expecting an increase in referrals to our advice and IDVA service, as well as refuge provision”.

“Waiting lists for programme[s] for victims, perpetrators and children [are] growing daily as we are currently delivering 1:1 on-line programmes”.

“I imagine there will be more referrals from schools and other agencies as they start to see children face to face”.

“[We] envisage the number of referrals received will increase, also, when the various schemes that are in place end – expecting more debt referrals once the furlough scheme ends, an increase in the numbers needing housing advice once the suspension on possession order is lifted”.

“For BME women I would think disclosure may take place with any professional they are in touch with e.g. community groups, school, GP, etc.”.

“There may actually be a reduction once family units are not contained to the house, which is increasing the possibility of domestic abuse incidents”.



# Organisational Operations

## Working hours: Any changes?



## Timing, staffing and financing extra work

- 4 services: now working evenings
- 1 service: now working weekends
- 2 services: employed new staff
- 3 services: staff working longer hours
- 3 services: devised new rota
- 3 services: new/increased staff payment
- 5 services: no payment/staff goodwill

## Professional judgements: Example comments

### At the end of lockdown will the organisation change the way it works (if so, how)?

“Unlikely - there has been more remote working however it is not as productive”. / “the need for human contact will remain”.

### At the end of lockdown and in the next 6-12 months:

#### a) What will be the biggest change for the organisation?

“We will continue to use on-line chat service”. / “...try to embed some of the efficiencies we have found during lockdown i.e. virtual training/meetings”.

#### b) What support would be most helpful?

“More bed space”

“Better IT”

“Continued inter-agency co-operation and support”

“Access to up-to-date public health advice”

“Support from service commissioners”

## Domestic Abuse & Violence Patterns

## Sexual Abuse & Violence Patterns

During the pandemic... have you noticed an increase, decrease or the same levels?

**No change** → noticed in:

- Physical (including sexual abuse) (56%)
- Harassment and stalking (59%)
- Online and digital abuse (57%)
- Intergenerational abuse (63%)
- Sibling abuse (69%)
- 'So called' honour-based abuse / forced marriage and FGM (57%)

**An increase** ↑ noticed in:

- Emotional and psychological abuse (56%)
- Coercive control (47%)
- Financial and economic abuse (50%)

The majority had noticed **no change** → in levels of:

- Rape (64%)
- Unwanted touching (67%)
- Child sexual exploitation (67%)
- Adult sexual exploitation (67%)
- On-line and digital sexual abuse (73%)
- Sibling on sibling sexual abuse (73%)
- Historic sexual abuse (56%)



Note. The percentages presented correspond to the categories that were most frequently agreed with based on those organisations who responded to the particular forms of abuse and violence.

The majority of respondents (67%) believe that if lockdown continues for a further 3 months, there will be a change in domestic abuse and violence patterns.

The majority of respondents (58%) were unsure of what will happen to the patterns of sexual abuse and violence if lockdown continues for a further 3 months.

The majority of respondents (65%) were unsure of what will happen to the patterns of domestic abuse and violence in the next 6-12 months.

The vast majority of respondents (92%) were unsure of what will happen to the patterns of sexual abuse and violence in the next 6-12 months.

## Future professional judgements: Example comments (if change, how and why?)

### If lockdown continues for 3 months...

"...increase due to the stress and pressure of family units being 'isolated' in the same households".

"More physical abuse and control, more children will witness abuse".

"We expect to see more cases as issues with benefits, employment, debt and housing issues continue to increase".

"Possibly an increase in sibling abuse and intergenerational".

### In 6-12 months time...

"Reporting of DA will become more available when victims of DA are able to attend schools / appointments to see professionals".



### If lockdown continues for 3 months...

"More women will be pressured to conform".

"Concerns regarding the over use of technology during lockdown".

"Increase in familial abuse – not reported".

"Perpetrators having more opportunity, people in closer proximity with no cooling off periods could have an effect on the amount and intensity of abuse".

### In 6-12 months time...

"It will depend whether we're still in lockdown".

"Reporting of historical abuse may increase as people have more time to 'think' when not working / isolated".



## Domestic Abuse & Violence Patterns

The majority of respondents (67%) believe that there will be a change in domestic abuse and violence patterns when lockdown ends.

## Sexual Abuse & Violence Patterns

The majority of respondents (73%) were unsure of what will happen to the patterns of domestic abuse and violence when lockdown ends.

### Future professional judgements: Example comments (if change, how and why?)

#### Will patterns change when lockdown ends?

“Current lockdown rules are enforcing perpetrators power – stay at home, don’t meet your family / friends. When lockdown ends victims will no longer ‘obey’ the perpetrators demands, which could result in escalation”.

“If a pattern of abuse begins because of lockdown, would suspect the perpetrator to continue to be abusive after lockdown ends”.

“It may take weeks or months for a victim to get help as they will be very scared due to intensity [of] psychological abuse, gaslighting etc.”.

“Financial burden/loss of jobs may place further pressure/cause further abuse”.



#### Will patterns change when lockdown ends?

“Possible increase in reporting”

“People may be fearful of repercussions of breaking lockdown rules if they disclose that they have been raped recently” (e.g. whilst out of the house, such as at a party).

“Think the pattern will revert back over time but there will be more people seeking support at the end of lockdown”.

“Likely to lead to more women being able to escape”.



## Summary: Common Themes

### Key themes in relation to referrals and patterns of abuse and violence:

The majority reported referrals to be down.



Mixed opinions as to whether referral rates will go up or down if lockdown continues.

The majority (85%) believe there will be an increase in referrals post-lockdown.



Over half of respondents predict an increase in patterns of DAV post-lockdown.

Professionals are less certain about what will happen with the pattern of sexual abuse and violence post-lockdown.



### Key themes within the comments received included a need:

For joined up, integrated working and collaboration.



To share learning.

For improved I.T. and consistent use of virtual platforms.



Clear guidelines and advice.

Increased capacity (i.e. staffing) to provide suitable placements for children and process referrals / cases.



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