2024

Nottingham Domestic Violence and Abuse Needs Assessment



Nottingham Community Safety Partnership

Working in partnership to build a safer and stronger city

Performance and Intelligence and Domestic Abuse Teams
Nottingham Community Safety Partnership

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Introduction

Following the Domestic Abuse Act 2021[1] the Nottingham Community Safety Partnership (then the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership) produced a Domestic Violence Safer Accommodation Needs Assessment 2021[2] and a subsequent Safer Accommodation Strategy 2021-2024[3]. This strategy outlined how Nottingham proposed to ensure that domestic abuse survivors have access to safe accommodation and necessary support services.

The Nottingham Community Safety Partnership—which serves as the city's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board—oversees the strategy. A key component of the strategy includes funding for survivor engagement, to incorporate their voices and build a survivor-focussed response to domestic violence and abuse (DVA) strategies and service commissioning throughout the city. This led to the commissioning of the Survivor Engagement Project, whose report into safer housing in Nottingham City is referenced in the relevant part of this report.

This needs assessment provides insight to:

- Inform the Safer Housing Strategy, recommendations and commissioning decisions.
- Identify gaps and emerging issues that survivors in Nottingham face.
- Ensure that domestic abuse responses and services are shaped and co-produced with survivors, recognized as experts through their lived experiences.
- Strengthen the community's coordinated response to domestic abuse.
- Enhance skills of those responding to domestic abuse situations.

This document is the refresh of the 2021 Domestic Violence Safer Accommodation Needs Assessment, which is being produced to inform the next iteration of the Safer Accommodation Strategy.

[1] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1089015/Domestic_Abuse_Act_2021_Statutory_Guidance.pdf
[2] DSVA Needs Assessment 2021 NCC Final Version .pdf
[3] Nottingham Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-2024 Final Version_DLUHC.pdf

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this document is to Interrogate the data and intelligence to understand the accommodation-based needs for survivors of domestic abuse and their children; the suitability of service provision and identified gaps and barriers to be able to produce a strategic response through a Safer Accommodation Strategy and other associated Community Safety Strategies and inform commissioning decisions.

These strategies will then aim to Increase reporting, decrease repeat reports and reduce prevalence of domestic abuse. Improve the partnership response to adult and child survivors of domestic abuse and hold perpetrators to account as part of a coordinated community response.

The report will also fulfil the statutory requirement to assess the need for support in the Local Authority area for all victims of Domestic Abuse in relevant safe accommodation.

Methodology

The Performance and Intelligence team requested available data since 2021 from all Community Safety partners, Nottingham City Council Housing Solutions and Homelessness departments, Nottingham City Council Safeguarding Teams and refuge services.

Where data was not available open-source data from the Office of National Statistics or other government organisations or departments was sourced and used. The data sources used for information are listed throughout the document.

Refuge data is returned by service providers to Nottingham City Council / Nottingham Community Safety Partnership quarterly. Some trend data has been extracted from the yearly returns to government. The data for the refuge analysis has been taken from the returns from refuges for 2023/24. The templates for refuges are currently being reviewed as part of a longer-term plan to ensure refuge data meets the needs of all Needs Assessments as well as performance monitoring.

A data template was created and circulated by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for use in creating this Needs Assessment. Using this template as a basis, NCSP created bespoke versions of the template for each area of business (Refuges, Equation (male specialist support service), Statutory Partners (i.e. Police,

Health) and Housing Solutions & the Sanctuary Scheme. This enabled tailoring of the data template to best fit the data available to each partner and increase the quality of data returns.

Data analysis has been undertaken by the Performance and Intelligence team with the support of the Community Safety Team to provide a sense check. There were many limitations encountered across all data, the most prominent of which are detailed in the relevant sections of the report.

Some data sets are new and under use for the first time, such as data from Public Health partners, so should be treated with caution. Many data sets are incomplete or have large areas where completion is not clear, characteristics are not stated or fall into other, unknown or miscellaneous categories which prevent further analysis and severely limit degrees of confidence in suggested outcomes or patterns. Time periods are not always consistent.

Every effort has been made to overcome these issues, and where there are obvious weaknesses or issues with the data this will be highlighted in the analysis.

This document has passed through consultation with all partners and stakeholders prior to publication.

National and Local Domestic Abuse Landscape

Domestic abuse affects every aspect of a victim or survivor's life and represents a significant public health and societal concern. A 2017 report[4] estimated the annual social and economic cost of domestic abuse in the UK to be approximately £66 billion, accounting for the physical and emotional damage to victims, as well as civil and criminal justice costs and lost work time.

In recent years, key events have influenced how agencies respond to domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, enacted in April 2021, introduced 123 legislative and non-legislative measures aimed at raising awareness, protecting and supporting victims and their families, prioritising victim safety in the justice process, and improving responses to perpetrators across local areas and sectors. This Act established new provisions, including a statutory definition of domestic abuse, the appointment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner, and the recognition of children as victims, along with new offences like non-fatal strangulation.

Domestic abuse can affect anyone, irrespective of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion, or belief, manifesting in various ways across different communities[5]. However, data indicates that women are disproportionately affected, being more likely to experience homicide, while men are more often the perpetrators[6]. Although the statutory definition is gender-neutral, recent government reports have acknowledged the gendered dynamics of domestic abuse.

In July 2021, the government launched the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)[7] Strategy, following a Call for Evidence sparked by several high-profile cases of violence against women and girls. This led to the introduction of the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan[8] in March 2022, which aims to reduce domestic abuse and homicides by providing essential support to victims. The plan is centred around four key objectives:

[4] The economic and social costs of domestic abuse (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[5] Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[6] Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
[7] Tackling violence against women and girls strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[8] Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

prevention, victim support, perpetrator accountability, and strengthening the overall system.

In response to criticisms regarding the VAWG strategy's lack of inclusion around male victims, the government released the "Supporting Male Victims"[9] position statement. This document highlights the prevalence of domestic abuse among male victims, noting that gay and bisexual men are twice as likely to experience such abuse compared to heterosexual men.

The Women's Health Strategy for England[10] 2022 emphasized the health implications of VAWG and called for better integration between mental health, substance misuse, and domestic abuse services. It outlined actions to enhance the health and care system's response to domestic abuse while prioritising violence prevention against women and girls, including the identification of perpetrators.

Several broader frameworks and strategies have also influenced responses to domestic abuse, such as the NICE quality standard guidelines[11] and the recent Serious Violence Duty. In 2016, NICE published guidelines for healthcare professionals on responding to domestic violence, recognising the vital role of health services in identifying such cases.

The Serious Violence Duty[12], introduced by the Home Office in December 2022, enables local authorities to adopt an evidence-based approach to defining "serious violence." It acknowledges that violence encompasses various forms, including domestic abuse and sexual offenses. Nottingham Community Safety Partnership has collaborated with local partners to make sure domestic abuse has been integrated into the serious violence framework for a comprehensive local response.

In January 2023, the government published the Standards for Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Interventions[13], aimed at establishing evidence-based practices for working with perpetrators. These standards were developed through literature reviews, stakeholder consultations, and input from victims and perpetrators. They target

[9] Supporting male victims - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[10] Women's Health Strategy for England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[11] Overview | Domestic violence and abuse | Quality standards | NICE
[12] Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[13] Standards for domestic abuse perpetrator interventions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

individuals aged 16 and above, excluding child-to-parent violence, which currently lacks sufficient intervention options. The guidelines also note the limited research surrounding honour-based abuse and domestic abuse involving multiple perpetrators, posing challenges for developing effective interventions in these areas.

In May 2024, the Victims and Prisoners Act[14] passed into law, designed to enhance victims' experiences within the criminal justice system. This act establishes statutory guidance for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and Independent Sexual Violence advisors (IDVAs and ISVAs), requires consideration of child victims in service delivery, and imposes a statutory duty on Police and Crime Commissioners, health services, and local authorities to jointly commission domestic abuse support services.

Social Housing Regulations have introduced new standards requiring all social housing providers to have a DVA policy – supporting a more consistent response across the housing sector.

[14] Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (legislation.gov.uk)

Local Demographics and Population Change[15]

Population

According to the 2021 census, Nottingham City Council's area had a population of 323,700, reflecting an increase of 5.9% (18,000 people) since 2011. The population is expected to grow further to 356,000 by 2043. The increase between 2011 and 2021 is slightly lower than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and the East Midlands (7.7%).

Regarding economic activity, 54.1% of Nottingham's population over 16 years old is economically active (including full-time students), with 48.8% in employment (including self-employed individuals) and 5.3% unemployed.

Age

The largest increases in population between the 2011 and 2021 census were observed in the 5-19 age group (+17.4%) and the 50-59 age group (+19.6%). Due to the large number of students attending the two universities in Nottingham, the city has a skewed age structure compared to the national average. Approximately 30.8% of Nottingham's population is aged 15-29, and nearly half (48%) are under 30 years old, compared to 18.3% and 35.7% respectively for England. The median age in Nottingham is 31, one of the lowest among local authority areas.

Sex, Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation and Legal Partnerships

There were 164,628 women (50.9% of the population) and 159,004 men (49.1%) in Nottingham. The split is almost identical to the national average.

Nottingham has a higher representation of LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transexual, and questioning/queer) individuals compared to the national average, at 14.7% suggesting a more diverse or open community in terms of sexual orientation.

Minoritised Communities

In 2021, 42.7% of Nottingham's population were from Black or minoritised groups, up from 34.6% in 2011. The largest non-White British groups were Other White (7.4%), Asian Pakistani (6.7%), and Black African (5.8%). Meanwhile, two ethnic groups saw significant decreases: Mixed White and Black Caribbean (-16.7%) and Asian Chinese (-28.8%).

[15] Census - Nottingham Insight

Regarding language, 85.7% of Nottingham's population listed English as their main language. An additional 11.3% could speak English very well or well, while 0.4% of the population (1,379 people) could not speak English at all. The most common other languages spoken include Polish, Urdu, Arabic, and Romanian.

In terms of religion, 41.2% of people in Nottingham reported having no religion, 34.7% identified as Christian, and 12.2% as Muslim. Excluding UK identities, the largest national identity in Nottingham is Polish (7,937 people), followed by Italian, Indian, and Romanian—all with over 3,000 people each. The Romanian and Italian populations increased the most between 2011 and 2021, with an additional 2,788 and 2,558 people respectively. Conversely, the number of residents identifying as Chinese dropped by 1,672 to 1,885 during this period.

A quarter of Nottingham's population was born outside of the UK, with the largest groups being from Pakistan, Poland, India, Nigeria, and Romania. Nearly half of the foreign-born residents have been in the UK for over 10 years, while only 17% have lived in the UK for less than two years.

Understanding local demographics is essential in ensuring the appropriate provision of translation services, information in other languages, and language specific communication channels to enable successful work around Domestic Abuse with all communities.

Disability

A total of 26,527 people in Nottingham are disabled under the Equality Act, and their day-to-day activities are significantly limited. 35.9% of households contain one or more people classified as disabled under the Equality Act.

There are 24,300 people in Nottingham (aged over 5) providing some form of unpaid care, with 7,700 providing more than 50 hours of care per week. Again, understanding the composition of our communities is essential in providing appropriate accessible services to all of our communities.

Households

The 2021 Census data classify households by four dimensions of deprivation: employment, education, health and disability, and household overcrowding. In Nottingham, 41.6% of households were not deprived in any dimension, lower than the national figure of 48.4%. Meanwhile, 366 households (0.3%) were considered deprived in all four dimensions, slightly higher than the national figure of 0.2%.

Only 45.1% of households own their accommodation, lower than the England average of 61.3%. In contrast, 25.5% of Nottingham's households are in social rented housing and 28.6% in private rented accommodation—both higher than the national averages of 17.1% and 20.5%, respectively. Additionally, 6% (7,533 households) had fewer bedrooms than required, compared to 4.4% in England.

Estimated Prevalence and Reporting

Domestic Abuse has been decreasing nationally according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) since 2005[16]. The decrease is marked, from around 11% of women and 6% of men over 16 years old in 2005, to just over 6% of women and just under 4% of men in the most recent data to March 2023. Even though the decrease has been large over the longer period, figures from the CSEW have been consistent from around 2015.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) year ending March 2023 estimates that across England and Wales 5.7% of women and 3.2% of men aged over 16 experienced domestic abuse in the 12 months prior.

For Nottingham City this would equate to approximately 13,000 survivors of domestic abuse for the year April 2022 to Mar 2023, when mapped against 2021 census data[17] for Nottingham City, with only approximately 4000 survivors making a recorded crime report.

Police recorded crime and incidents[18] for the same period indicate a total of just over 6,000 domestic abuse recorded crimes for the same period for Nottingham City for 2023/24, indicating an initial reporting difference of approximately 50% between self-reports and recorded crimes. Considering non-crime incidents (1401) this gap would fall to approximately 40%. This level of recorded crime equates to roughly 22 crimes per 1000 population for Nottingham City council area.

The total number of crimes and incidents is consistent over the last 5 years, which would indicate the increase in recorded crimes being driven by recording practices within Nottinghamshire Police, and that the overall consistency in prevalence over the same period seen nationally is matched locally.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) domestic violence data tool[19] for 2022/23 show that Nottinghamshire Police have a low number of incidents and crimes (19 per 1000 population) reported to them when compared to the other 42 Police forces,

[16] Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 24 November 2023, ONS website, article, Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2023
[17] Census - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
[18] Provided by Management Information, Nottinghamshire Police
[19] Domestic abuse in England and Wales – Data tool - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

although the percentage of reports recorded as crime (76% or 14 per 1000 population) is higher than the national average (63%). The CSEW suggests Nottinghamshire should be recording approximately 35 domestic abuse crimes / incidents per 1000 population. Where only Nottinghamshire information is available Nottingham City Council area accounts for approximately a third.

Table 1 Police Recorded Domestic Abuse tagged and Domestic Violence Crimes

Time Period	Non-Crime Incidents	DA (including DV)	DV	Total
Apr 2023 – Mar 2024	1401	6105	4668	7506
Apr 2022 – Mar 2023	1580	5967	4528	7547
Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	1832	5674	4401	7506
Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	1628	5216	4067	6844
Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	1982	5629	4309	7611

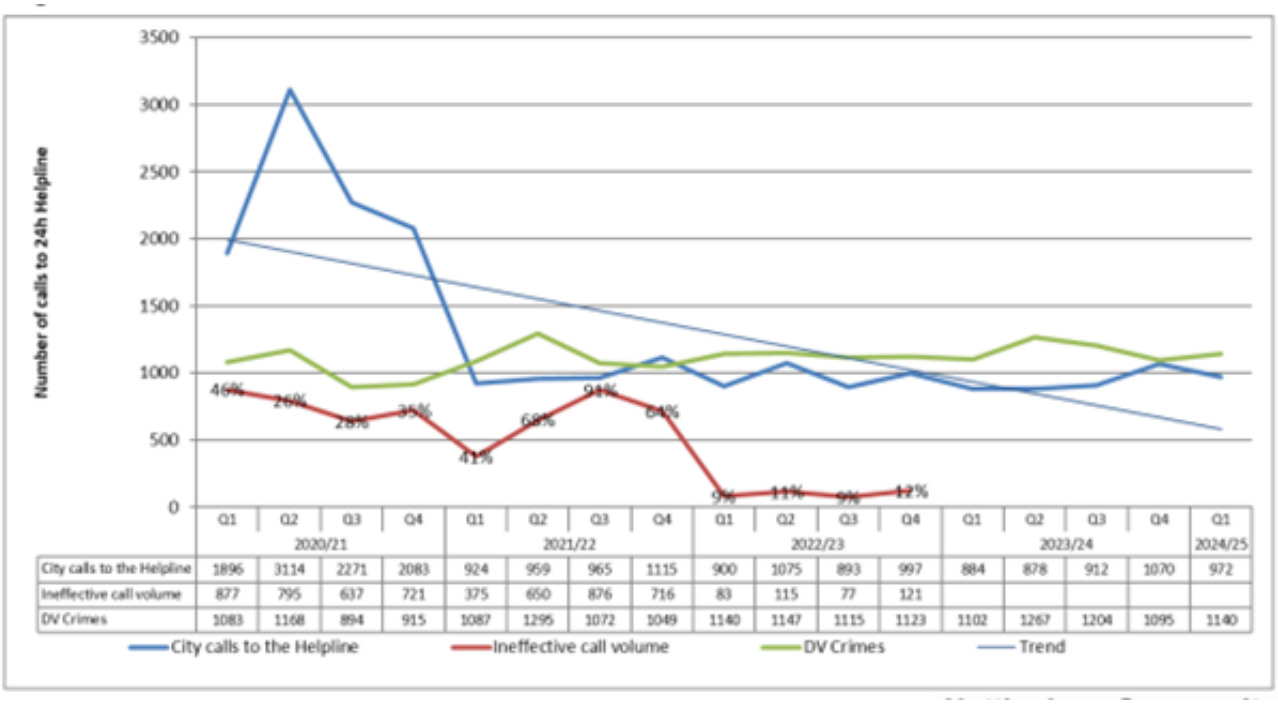
Table 2 Crime Survey for England and Wales self-reported survivors of Domestic Abuse as a proportion of whole population over 16 years old and related estimate for Nottingham City 2022/23

	% All	All (NCC)	% Women	Women (NCC)	% Men	Men (NCC)
All people 16+	4.4	12935	5.7	8194	3.2	4741

National data indicates that the national breakdown for survivor gender is 64% female and 36% male. Comparative figures for recorded crime in Nottingham City 2023/24 indicate that the proportion of female survivors was 73% and male survivors 27%, which differs substantially from the national breakdown, and indicates a higher proportion of female survivors reporting domestic abuse to Nottinghamshire Police in the council area.

JUNO Women's Aid 24 Hour Domestic Abuse Helpline

Figure 1Calls to the JUNO Women's Aid 24 hr DA Helpline, Nottingham City, 2020-24



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	2020/21				2021/22				2022/23				2023/24				2024/25
City calls to the Helpline	1896	3114	2271	2083	924	959	965	1115	900	1075	893	997	884	878	912	1070	972
Ineffective call volume	877	795	637	721	375	650	876	716	83	115	77	121					
DV Crimes	1083	1168	894	915	1087	1295	1072	1049	1140	1147	1115	1123	1102	1267	1204	1095	1140

This graph illustrates data related to domestic violence and abuse (DVA) in a city over multiple quarters from 2020/21 to 2024/25, focusing on three key variables: City Calls to the Helpline (blue line): This tracks the number of calls made to a 24-hour helpline for domestic violence. In Q2 of 2020/21, the number of calls peaked dramatically, exceeding 3000 calls. This may reflect a surge in domestic violence reports, potentially linked to external factors like the COVID-19 pandemic. Following this peak, there is a significant drop, with the call volume decreasing steadily and remaining below 1000 calls after Q3 2021/22. The trend line suggests a steady decline in the number of helpline calls over time, although the information shown doesn't include the pre COVID period.

Ineffective Call Volume (red line): These represent calls to the helpline that were ineffective not answered as the lines were too busy. Ineffective calls start at 87% in Q1 2020/21 and rise to a high of 94% in Q3 2020/21, indicating that almost all calls during this period were deemed ineffective. This dramatic increase in ineffective calls occurred during the same period as the surge in total calls.

The spike in calls to the helpline in early 2020/21 suggests an initial surge in demand for support services, related to pandemic-related stressors like lockdowns and economic hardship,

Safeguarding Children

In reference to safeguarding children, information provided from the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership states that for the financial year 2023/2024, 3890 contacts have been made where the answer to the question "Has this referral been made due to concerns about Domestic Abuse?" is "Yes". This represents 16% of the total contacts. This could be due to recording practices and a further understanding of this data from Children's safeguarding would be helpful.

Of these:

- 17% had an outcome of referral to children's social care
- 2% transferred to early help services
- 29% were signposted to other agencies
- 51% were no further action.

For the first Child & Family assessment that takes place following the referral, 29% had domestic abuse recorded as a factor in 2023/2024, an increase of 1% on the previous statutory year.

Operation Encompass Data

Table 3 Encompass Referrals Data, Nottingham City, 2022-24

		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	YTD
Primary School /Academy	2022/23	48	51	76	64	38	38	49	42	42	57	62	93	175
	2023/24	127	113	117	80	71	109	104	110	159	133	88	106	357
	2024/25	97	93	132										322
	Volume +/-	-30	-20	15										-35
	% Change	-24%	-18%	13%										-10%

		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	YTD
Secondary/ Special School/ Academy	2022/23	20	29	19	31	17	16	20	13	24	26	34	43	68
	2023/24	81	86	57	49	66	78	69	52	103	70	89	92	224
	2024/25	53	74	96										223
	Volume +/-	-28	-12	39										-1
	% Change	-35%	-14%	68%										0%

		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	YTD
Advanced Placements/ Colleges	2022/23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2023/24	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2024/25	0	0	0										0
	Volume +/-													-1
	% Change													-100%

Operation Encompass[20] ensures that a simple phone call or notification is made to a school's trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Officer, referred to as the Key Adult, before the start of the next school day following a police-attended domestic abuse incident involving children connected to either adult party. By sharing this information,

[20] Home : Operation Encompass

the school can provide appropriate support tailored to the needs and wishes of the child. Encompass data is used to target resources in schools where reporting is identified as either substantially high or low, and further examination of the data is possible and may be useful in future analyses.

Figure 2 Graph showing Operation Encompass Referral Volumes, Nottingham City, 2022-24

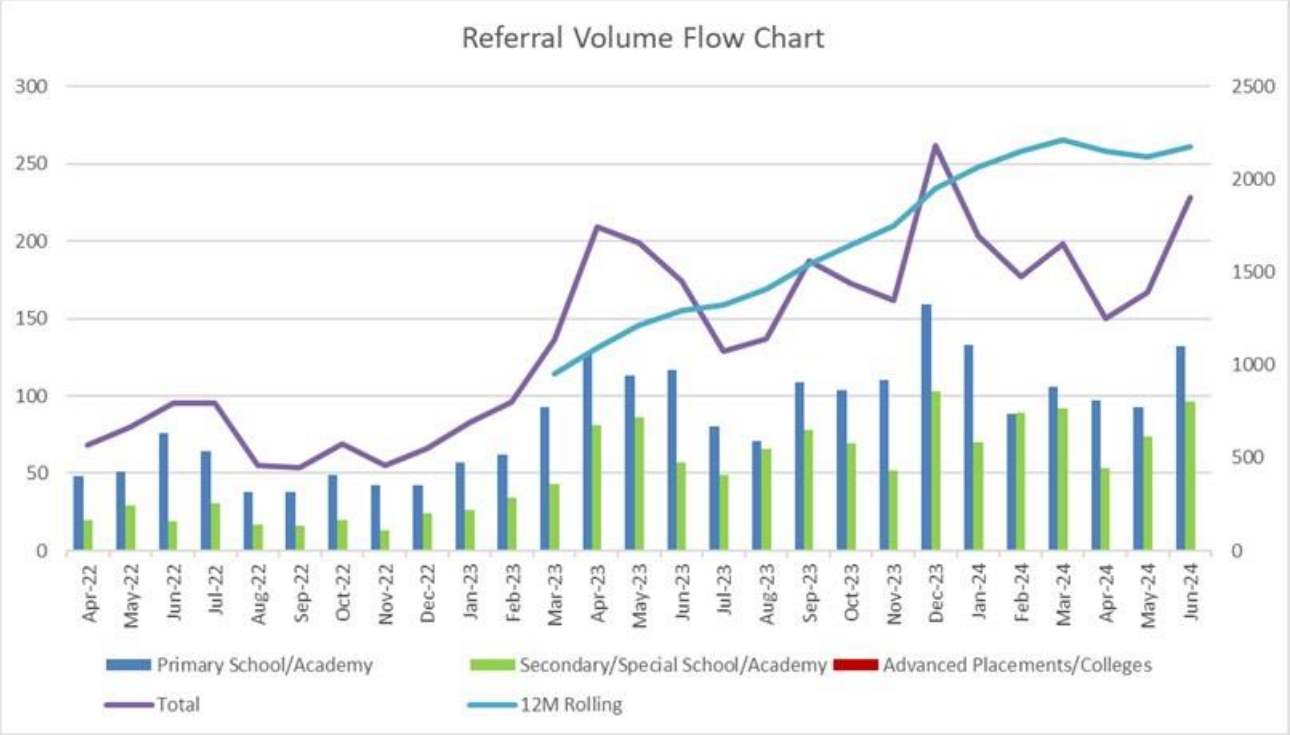


Table 12 and Figure 12 show the referrals made to schools in Nottingham City through Operation Encompass. The number of referrals has increased steadily since its introduction, with large increases in referrals to both primary and secondary schools in the unitary authority area. Whilst referrals have seen a continual increase, there are signs of a levelling off over the last quarters data, it would be helpful to understand if this is a result of a reduction in referrals from the Police. It should be noted that additional training for schools has provided in April 2024.

The obvious gap is the lack of referrals to post 16 Education, with only one referral over the lifespan of the intervention.

Safeguarding Adults

Table 3 Total Adult Safeguarding Enquiries with a DA Marker , Nottingham City, 2021-24

Enquiry Type	2020/21		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Grand Total
Not a Safeguarding Concern/Enquiry	34		21	25	31	111
NULL	0		2	1	2	5
Other Safeguarding Enquiry	6		5	4	5	20
Safeguarding Concern	7		18	10	11	46
Section 42 Enquiry	164		155	127	115	561
Grand Total	211		201	167	164	743

The table presents data on different types of safeguarding enquiries over four years, from 2020/21 to 2023/24. The numbers in most categories have either decreased or remained stable over the four-year period. There is a significant decrease in the "Section 42 Enquiry" category, which forms the largest share of enquiries. For the other categories, numbers remain relatively low and consistent. The consistent decline in Section 42 Enquiries is significant and could indicate the change in reporting with the DART closing and the pathway being refreshed through the MASH to the Adults Safeguarding Team, better preventive measures, a change in referral thresholds, or a shift in reporting behaviour.

Table 4 Domestic Abuse Marked Safeguarding Enquires as a proportion of overall enquiries, Nottingham City , 2021-24

Enquiry Type	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	4 yr mean
Not a Safeguarding Concern/Enquiry	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%
NULL	0%	25%	4%	1%	2%
Other Safeguarding Enquiry	7%	5%	4%	6%	5%
Safeguarding Concern	3%	6%	4%	5%	4%
Section 42 Enquiry	10%	10%	8%	11%	10%
Grand Total	7%	7%	5%	6%	6%

The table presents the percentage of DA referrals related to each safeguarding category over four years. All referrals relating to DA have remained consistent over the four-year period, with the largest category, Section 42 enquiries (DA marked), remaining consistently at around 10% of overall enquiries.

Total outcomes (Table 11) numbers have reduced in line with overall referral numbers, however within this, there has been some positive change in numbers for reducing or removing risk.

Table 5 Domestic Abuse Marked Adult Safeguarding Referral Outcomes, Nottingham City, 2019-24

Adult Safeguarding Referral Outcomes (DA)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Grand Total
No risk identified	5	6	9	13	8	41
Outcome Not Recorded	8	20	15	16	15	74
Risk assessment inconclusive	19	14	11	10	15	69
Risk reduced	74	94	88	73	87	416
Risk remains	54	65	58	33	29	239
Risk removed	10	12	18	22	21	83
Total	170	211	199	167	175	922

Table 6 Domestic Abuse Marked Adult Safeguarding Referral Outcomes as a % of total DA outcomes, Nottingham City , 2019-24

Adult Safeguarding Referral Outcomes (DA)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	5 year mean
No risk identified	3%	3%	5%	8%	5%	4%
Outcome Not Recorded	5%	9%	8%	10%	9%	8%
Risk assessment inconclusive	11%	7%	6%	6%	9%	7%
Risk reduced	44%	45%	44%	44%	50%	45%
Risk remains	32%	31%	29%	20%	17%	26%
Risk removed	6%	6%	9%	13%	12%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 12 shows the same information as a proportion of total outcomes. The percentage of cases with no risk identified has increased slightly from 3% in 2019/20 to 8% in 2022/23, then decreased to 5% in 2023/24.

The proportion of outcomes not recorded has fluctuated but has shown an overall increase from 5% to a peak of 10% in 2022/23, stabilizing at 9% in 2023/24. This suggests ongoing issues with tracking or documentation of outcomes.

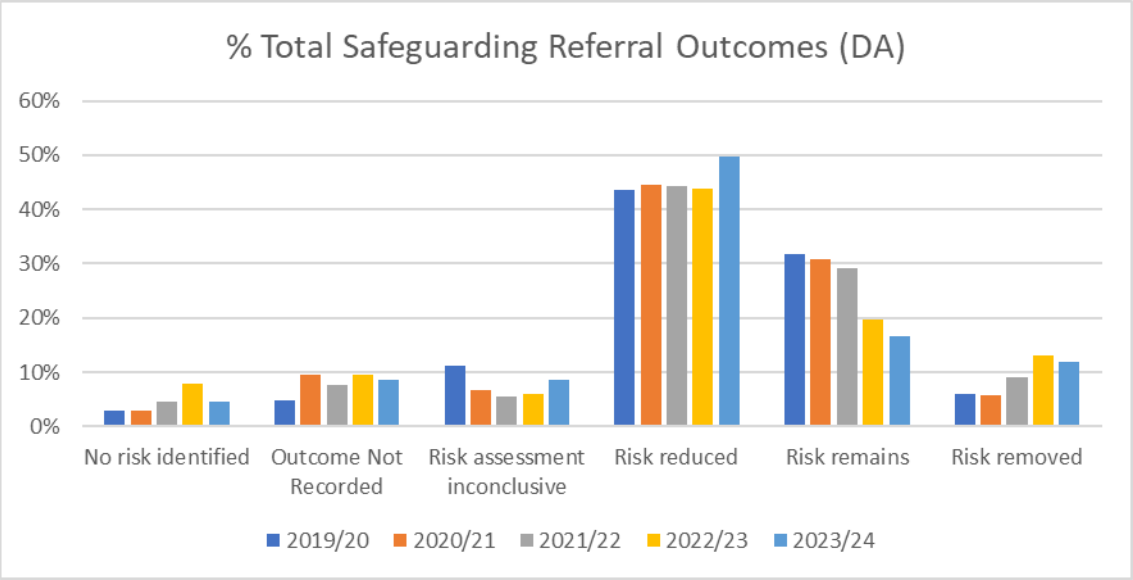
The category "Risk Assessment inconclusive" has seen a decline from 11% in 2019/20 to 6% in 2021/22, before increasing to 9% in 2023/24.

The percentage of cases where risk was reduced has remained fairly stable around 44-45% from 2019/20 to 2022/23, with a notable increase to 50% in 2023/24.

There has been a consistent decrease in the "Risk Remains" from 32% in 2019/20 to 17% in 2023/24, reflecting improved outcomes in risk management.

The proportion of cases where risk was removed increased from 6% in 2019/20 to a peak of 13% in 2022/23, with a slight decline to 12% in 2023/24.

Figure 3 Graph showing Total DA Marked Safeguarding Referral Outcomes (%) , Nottingham City, 2019-24



Overall, the data suggests positive trends in safeguarding outcomes, particularly in Risk Reduced and Risk Removed categories.

Housing Solutions (Nottingham City Council)

The Safer Accommodation Team currently assists all survivors presenting at Housing Solutions who are identified as experiencing domestic violence and abuse (DVA). Most of their work focuses on survivors who are fleeing their situation that day or who plan to leave imminently. Additionally, some referrals come from helplines and DVA specialist services that aim to address housing challenges proactively.

The team has observed an increase in the number of survivors seeking assistance at Housing Solutions, particularly among Black and minoritized individuals. When approaching the Safer Housing Team, survivors are met with a trauma-informed, knowledgeable, empathetic, and compassionate response. They receive advocacy and an enhanced housing response. The co-location initiative has started to enhance partnership collaboration, communication, and understanding of domestic violence and

abuse (DVA), as well as familiarity with housing law. However, the team is currently facing pressures that may affect the effectiveness of their processes, and the range of support provided. These challenges include:

- The complexity of cases
- A lack of solutions for survivors with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and complex needs
- High caseloads which in turn impacts on capacity to work with all survivors

As a result, workers are experiencing significant stress and pressure

Number of Referrals to Housing Solutions

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Approaches to Housing	5086	5407	6183	5928	5906
Number of Approaches due to Domestic Abuse	242	386	502	385	286
% Approaches (DA)	5%	7%	8%	6%	5%

There has been a general upward trend in the total number of approaches to Nottingham Housing Solutions from 2019 (5086) to 2021 (6183). However, there was a slight decrease in 2022 (5928) and a marginal decrease in 2023 (5906). National data from Live Statutory Homelessness tables indicate that 7% of referrals to Local Authority Housing are related to Domestic Abuse.[21]

The number of approaches due to domestic abuse increased significantly from 242 in 2019 to 502 in 2021, reflecting a growing recognition of domestic abuse as a reason for seeking housing assistance. However, over the past two years, in contrast to reported / recorded crime figures and other indicators pointing to increased service demand, there was a notable decrease in 2022 (385) and again in 2023 (286).

The percentage of approaches due to domestic abuse rose from 5% in 2019 to a peak of 8% in 2021, aligning with the increase in the number of approaches. In 2022, this percentage decreased to 6% and further declined to 5% in 2023, suggesting that while the total number of approaches remained relatively stable, the proportion related to domestic abuse has diminished.

[21] Tables on homelessness - GOV.UK

Overall, the data indicates a significant increase in approaches to housing due to domestic abuse from 2019 to 2021, followed by a decline in the subsequent years.

The subsequent decrease in both the number and percentage of approaches related to domestic abuse in 2022 and 2023 raises questions about potential factors affecting reporting and the demand for housing assistance related to domestic abuse and how well DVA is being identified at presentation.

Further investigation is be warranted to understand the underlying causes of these trends, including the effectiveness of intervention programs or changes in access to resources for survivors.

Safer Accommodation Team Outcomes 2023/24

After approaches to housing, there were interventions put in place for survivors. In 2023/24, approximately 80% of survivors received a short to medium term intervention (less than 12 weeks) with 20% of survivors receiving a longer-term intervention, this is probably due to team size, not demand.

Of the 296 approaches to the Safer Accommodation Team 271 (96%) were recorded as appropriate referrals, and 286 unique service users (97%). Over the year, out of 264 exits from the service, 182 (69%) were planned and 82 (31%) were unplanned. 74 service users (26%) were not supported from the service for different reasons; 29 unable to engage, 1 due to risk levels, and 7 for other reasons.

There were 88 cases (30%) where Children's Social Services were already involved at the point of referral. The survivors who were referred through this service had a total of 420 children recorded, and 25 survivors were pregnant at the time of referral. 110 (41%) had no children and were not pregnant.

143 survivors (53%) identified as disabled, and 12 (4%) identified as LGBTQ+. 154 survivors (57%) identified as from Black and minoritized communities. 78% of perpetrators were identified as current or ex intimate partners (311 of 378). Further demographic breakdowns will be provided in the relevant sections later in this document.

Referrals came from Housing Solutions (220 or 81%) and Self -referrals (51 or 19%). Numbers of survivors supported was 286. 296 Referrals to Refuge however these are not

unique survivors, so there may be multiple referrals made for one survivor. 202 other referrals were made.

170 survivors (63%) were recorded as having had improved safety after accessing the service. 159 (59%) were supported to find safer accommodation. 218 survivors (80%) were signposted to other services. From survivors completing pre and post service evaluation forms 77 survivors (28%) reported an improvement in empowerment, 76 (28%) survivors reported an increase in health and wellbeing, and 104 survivors (38%) reported improved feelings of resilience. It is unknown from the provided data the level of completion of evaluation pre and post service.

251 survivors (93%) had a safety plan completed, DASH-RIC risk assessment and health and wellbeing plan completed,

Temporary Accommodation

Table 7 Households approaching Housing Solutions due to DA given temporary accommodation, Nottingham City, 2019-2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Approaches Due to Domestic Abuse (DA)	242	386	502	385	286
Number of Households Provided with Temporary Accommodation (DA)	54	95	130	105	90
% Households provided with Temporary Accommodation (DA)	22%	25%	26%	27%	31%

The number of households receiving temporary accommodation rose from 54 in 2019 to a peak of 130 in 2021, which corresponds with the increase in approaches. In 2022, this number decreased to 105, followed by a further decline to 90 in 2023. Despite the overall increase in approaches until 2021, the decline in households receiving accommodation post-2021 raises concerns about resource availability or eligibility criteria.

The percentage of households provided with temporary accommodation increased from 22% in 2019 to 31% in 2023, despite the fluctuations in both the number of approaches and the number of households accommodated. This increasing percentage suggests that while the total number of successful approaches may have declined in recent years, a larger proportion of those seeking assistance are in crisis and are referred to temporary accommodation.

Homelessness Prevention and Relief

The 1996 Housing Act[22] and 2017 Homelessness Reduction act[23]– places a duty on local authorities to provide access to advisory services & work with people who are threatened with homelessness within 56 days to help prevent them from becoming homelessness, and to help people who are homeless to secure accommodation.

Prevention of Homelessness Duty

Table 8 Approaches to Housing Solutions owed the Prevention of Homelessness Duty, Nottingham City, 2019-23

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Approaches to Housing	5086	5407	6183	5928	5906
Number of Approaches Due to Domestic Abuse (DA)	242	386	502	385	286
Total Approaches owed a Prevention Duty	754	816	1020	963	965
Total DA approaches owed a Prevention Duty	40	98	100	83	38
% owed a Prevention Duty	15%	15%	16%	16%	16%
% DA approaches owed a Prevention Duty	17%	25%	20%	22%	13%
Percentage of Overall Prevention Duties owed from DA approaches	5%	12%	10%	9%	4%

The total approaches owed a prevention duty rose from 754 in 2019 to a peak of 1020 in 2021, indicating an increasing recognition of the need for preventative measures in housing solutions. This number then decreased slightly to 963 in 2022 and remained stable at 965 in 2023. The percentage of overall approaches owed a prevention duty have remained consistent at 15-16%. Conversely, the percentage of domestic abuse approaches owed a prevention duty decreased from 17% in 2019 but then declined to 13% in 2023.

While the overall demand for housing assistance appears stable, the decline in domestic abuse-related approaches and the number owed a prevention duty is concerning.

It is recognised that a more proactive and effective prevention response will reduce the requirement for relief in crisis and provide a more supportive response to survivors.

2222 Housing Act 1996 (legislation.gov.uk)
[23] Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (legislation.gov.uk)

The percentage of overall prevention duties owed from DA approaches also fluctuated, peaking at 12% in 2020 before dropping to 4% in 2023. This is likely due to a policy change within Housing Solutions.

Relief from Homelessness Duty

Table 9 Approaches to Housing Solutions owed the Relief from Homelessness Duty , Nottingham City, 2019-23

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Approaches to Housing	5086	5407	6183	5928	5906
Number of Approaches Due to Domestic Abuse (DA)	242	386	502	385	286
Total Approaches owed a Relief duty	2027	2047	1967	1852	2053
DA Approaches owed a Relief Duty	157	213	269	302	152
% owed a Relief Duty	40%	38%	32%	31%	35%
% DA owed a Relief Duty	65%	55%	54%	78%	53%
Percentage of Overall Relief Duties owed from DA approaches	8%	10%	14%	16%	7%

The total approaches owed a relief duty remained relatively stable, with a peak of 2047 in 2020 and a low of 1852 in 2022. The number increased to 2053 in 2023.

The percentage of those approaching for relief duty due to domestic abuse has declined from 65% in 2019 to 53% in 2023. This is a decline taking into account the pandemic which created anomalies in 2020-22.

The national figures for 2019 were 11.6% and these rose to 16.8% in 2023. So, Nottingham homeless figures are not in line with the national trend. Nor are these figures in line with the police reporting figures for DVA in Nottingham.

While the total number of approaches to housing remains relatively stable, the decrease in domestic abuse-related approaches and the number owed a relief duty, along with the variations seen in terms of domestic abuse cases raises concerns about the availability and effectiveness of housing and homelessness responses.

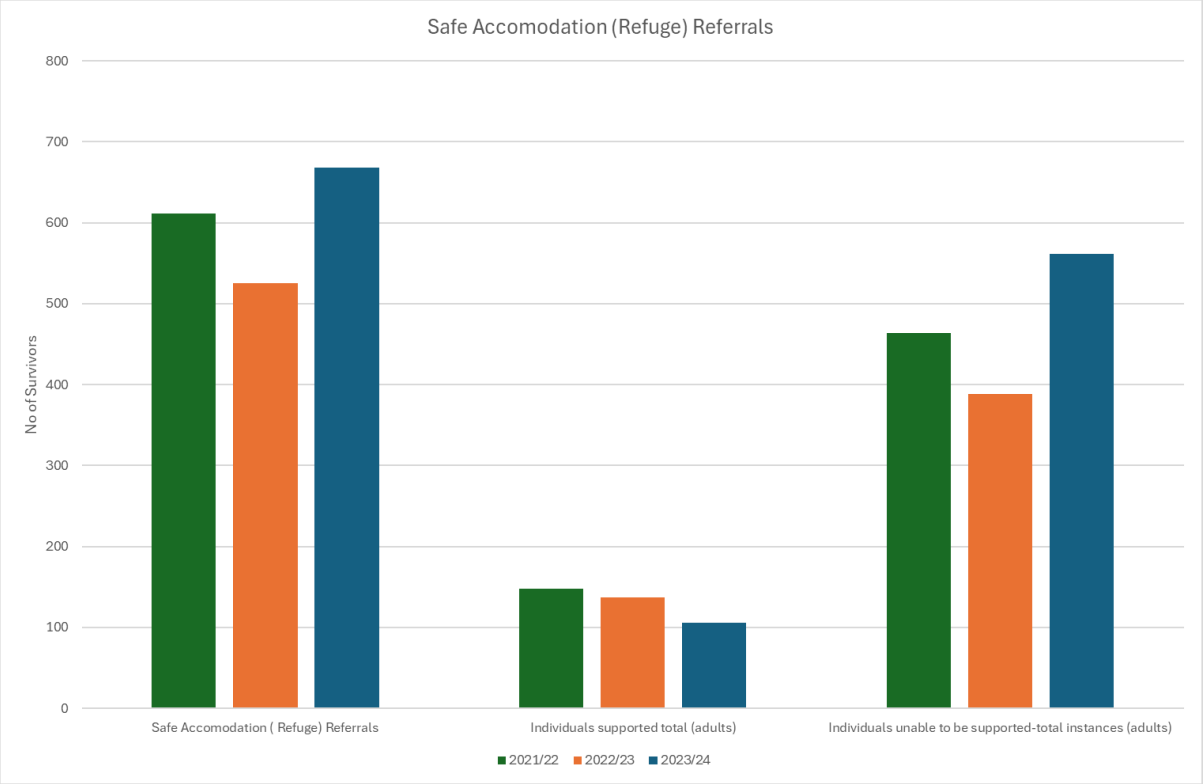
Refuge

Referrals

Total referrals for Refuge have increased overall over the last three financial years, although a decrease was seen in 2022/23. The total number of referrals was 668 for 2023/24. The numbers of adult individuals supported has fallen year on year over the past three years, from 148 in 2021/22 to 106 in 2023/24. This is likely due to the increased lengths of stay in refuge, illustrated in charts below.

The numbers of adult individuals unable to be supported again increasing in 2023/24 to 562 from 464 in 2021/22 after a decrease in 2022/23 to 388 (in line with the decreased overall referrals recorded).

Figure 4Adult referrals into safe accommodation, Nottingham City Refuges, 2021-23

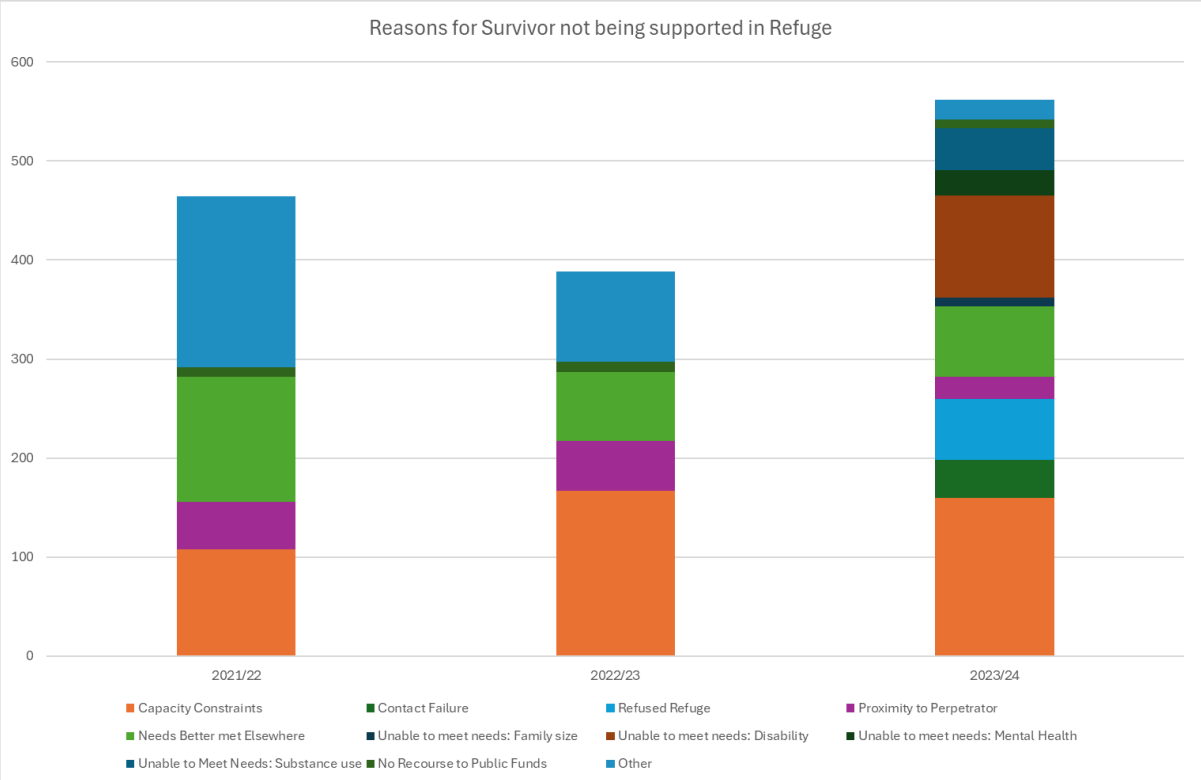


Reasons for not being able to be supported

Capacity constraints (lack of refuge bed spaces) continue to be a large barrier to individuals accessing services over the three-year period. The data for 2023/24 highlights the lack of provision for disabled survivors, survivors with mental health needs, and survivors with substance use needs resulting in refuge services unable to be offered.

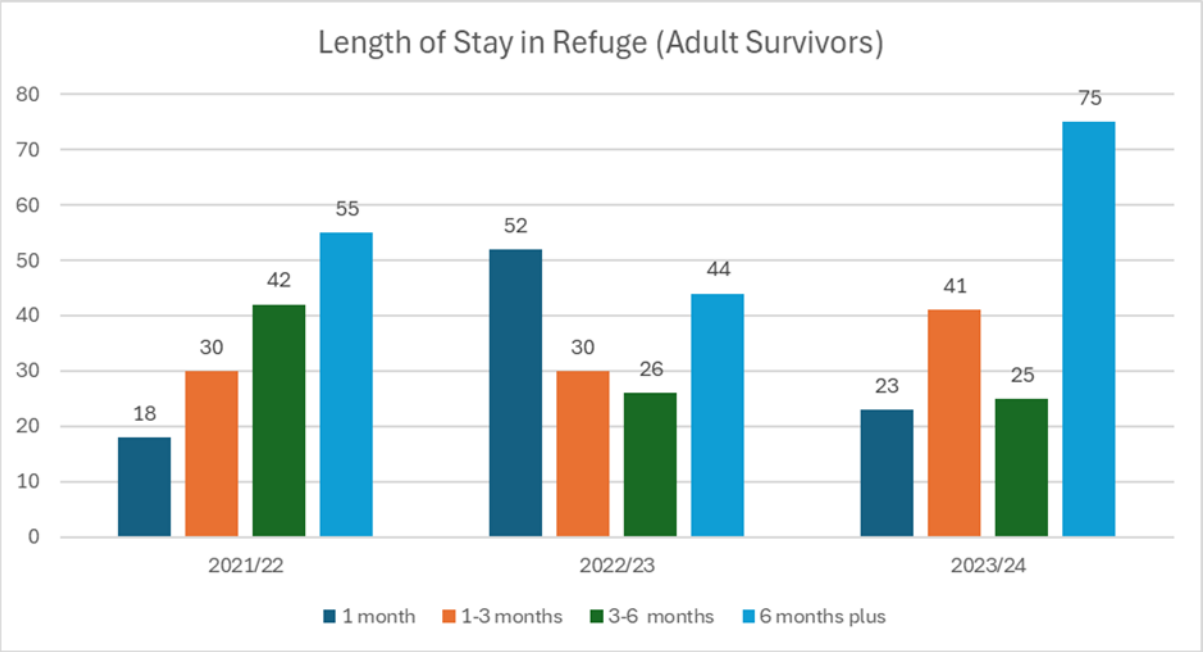
Substantial numbers of survivors are not accessing refuge in 2023/24 due to either refusing refuge or not being contactable after initial referral, and no recourse to public funds for survivors remains consistent with approximately 10 survivors yearly not being able to access refuge due to this reason.

Figure 5 Reasons for adult survivors no being supported in refuge, Nottingham City, 2021-23



Length of Stay in Refuge

Figure 6 Graph showing Length of Stay in Refuge for Adult Survivors, Nottingham City, 2021-23



The graph above shows the length of stay for adult survivors in refuge over three consecutive years: 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24.

Across the three years, there is a noticeable increase in the number of survivors staying for "6 months plus," this indicates a lack of alternative accommodation options.

The "1 month" category saw an increase from 2021/22 to 2022/23 and then a decrease in 2023/24. The "1-3 months" category showed a steady increase, suggesting that while some survivors may leave within a month, a larger number are staying slightly longer.

The growing trend of longer stays in refuge is a direct result of the available housing shortage in Nottingham City and Housing Solutions Policy. This is creating pressure on resources and capacity, affecting the ability of the refuge to accommodate new survivors.

This trend highlights the need for more housing options, a focus on perpetrators who often remain in the family home and longer-term interventions for survivors.

This trend reflects challenges such as finding alternative accommodation, ongoing safety concerns, and the complexity of survivors' needs. NCC housing & homeless strategies & Housing Solutions need to consider strategies to address these longer stays and ensure they have the resources to support all survivors effectively.

One explanation offered for the increase in length of times stayed in refuge is the lack of available housing for survivors to move on to, caused by the current housing crisis being experienced in Nottingham City, with a lack of affordable social or private rented housing being available across the city, long and full waiting lists for social housing and private rentals both being scarce and unaffordable when rent levels are compared with housing benefit levels.

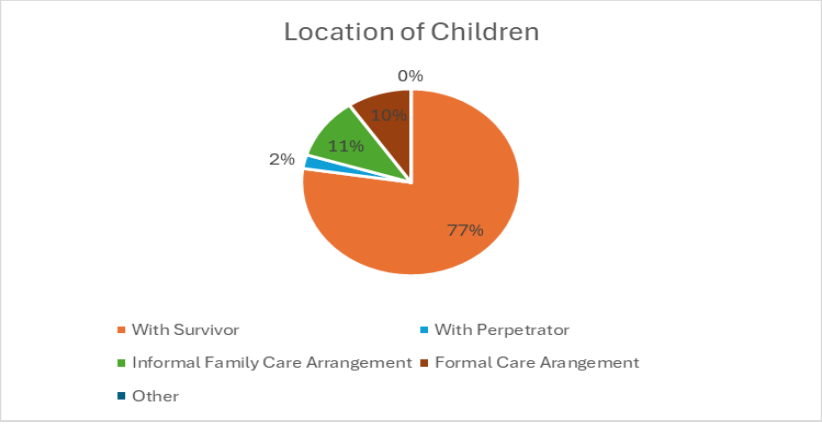
As is illustrated later in this document; to be able to afford access to refuge, survivors must be in receipt of housing benefit.

Location of Children

Table 10 Location of survivor's children whilst accommodated in refuge, Nottingham City, 2023/24

Location of Children	Number
With Survivor	65
With Perpetrator	2
Informal Family Care Arrangement	9
Formal Care Arrangement	8
Other	0
TOTAL	84

Figure 7 Location of survivor's children whilst accommodated in refuge, Nottingham City, 2023/24 (%)



The information above shows that most survivor's children are accommodated within refuge along with survivors. Approximately 20% are cared for via either formal or informal care arrangements, with a small number remaining with the perpetrator.

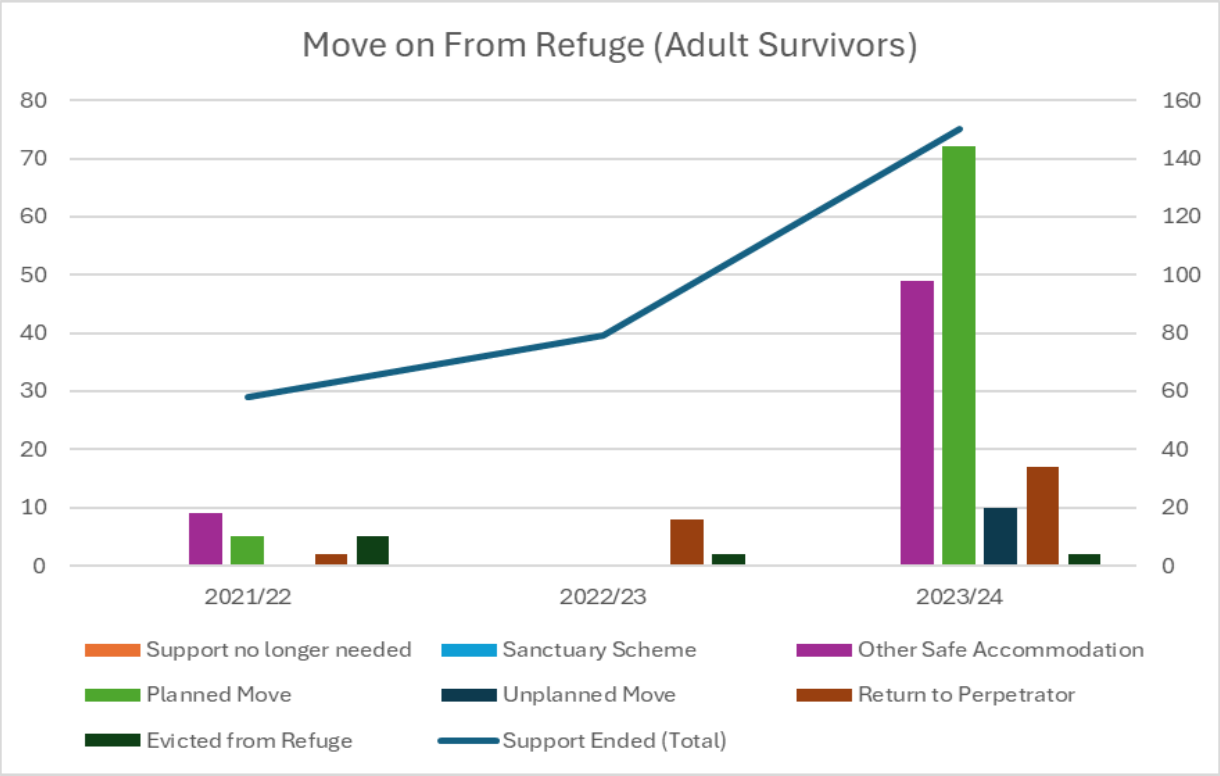
That children are mainly remaining with the survivor is positive, and so it is a requirement for refuges and other children's services to offer appropriate support to the children from point of referral. This includes access to school as soon as children arrive in refuge,

space in refuge for homework, access to nurseries, health services, leisure activities and support from safeguarding.

Even though most survivors accommodated in Nottingham City are from other areas as shown later in this document, data from the Safer Accommodation Team for survivors, 60% of survivors referred to the team had children, with numbers of children totalling 420, an average of over 2 children per survivor with dependents.

Move on from Refuge (Adult Survivors)

Figure 8 Adult Survivors moving on from Nottingham City Refuges, 2021-24



The graph titled "Move on From Refuge (Adult Survivors)" illustrates the reasons for adult survivors leaving refuge over three consecutive years: 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24. It categorizes the reasons for moving on from the refuge and shows the overall trend in support endings. The data indicates primarily an improvement in capturing data over the three years by the refuge services.

2022/23: There was a decrease in "Planned Moves" and "Other Safe Accommodation" compared to the previous year. "Return to Perpetrator" (Brown) appeared as a new category in 2022/23. The total number of support endings (blue line) increased slightly compared to 2021/22.

2023/24: There was a significant rise in the number of "Planned Moves," which became the most common reason for leaving refuge in this year. "Other Safe Accommodation" also saw a considerable increase, reflecting more survivors moving to alternative safe housing options. "Return to Perpetrator" remains a significant concern, showing that a noticeable number of survivors returned to their perpetrators.

The overall trend, represented by the blue line for "Support Ended (Total)," shows a steady increase over the three years, from about 30 cases in 2021/22 to around 140 cases in 2023/24. This indicates that more survivors are either moving on from refuge or are no longer receiving support, and may be a result of improved data collection, as there is a direct contradiction with the length of time survivors are staying in refuge as evidenced above, with no substantial increase in refuge space. Otherwise, it may indicate an increase in turnover with shorter stays being processed and planned exits being managed more quickly due to pressures on refuge services. This trend should be further examined to identify the cause for the increased numbers moving on through the three-year period.

The rise in "Planned Moves" in 2023/24 suggests that more survivors can transition out of refuge in a structured and supported manner, which is a positive development if accurate, as detailed in the previous paragraph.

The consistent rise in the total number of support endings may be attributed to either an increase in the overall number of survivors seeking refuge or improved capacity to support more survivors, or improved data collection.

The presence and persistence of the "Return to Perpetrator" category is concerning, as it indicates that some survivors return to unsafe situations, potentially due to lack of long-term housing options, financial constraints, or other barriers to independence.

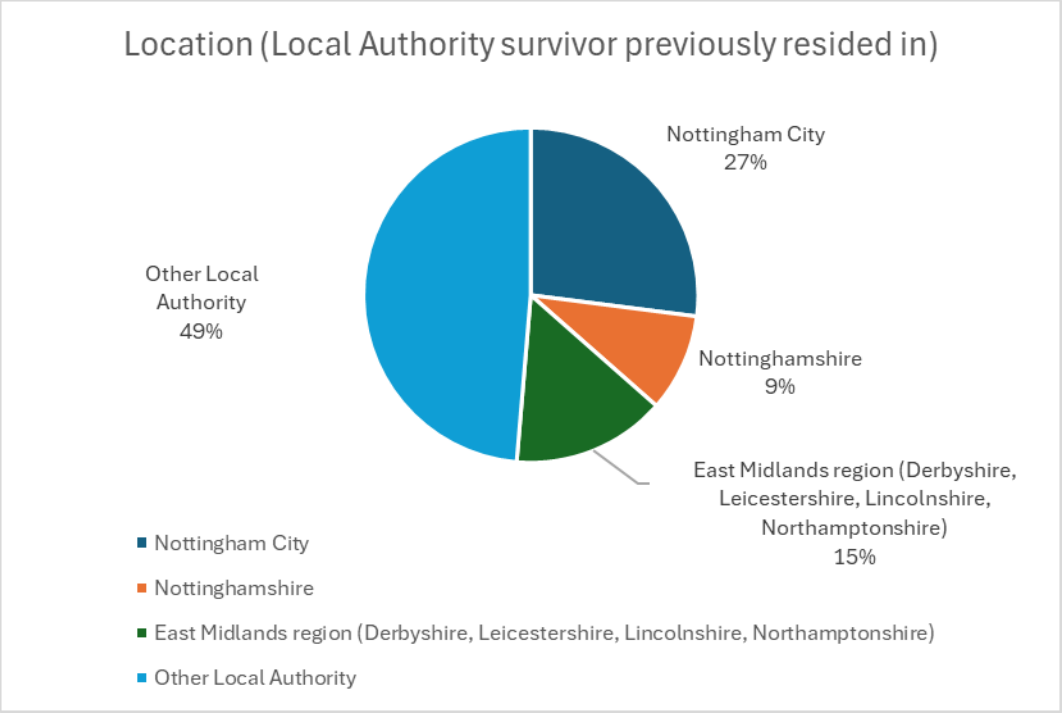
The increase in "Other Safe Accommodation" in 2023/24 suggests that there is a growing trend of survivors finding alternative housing solutions outside of the traditional refuge system.

Survivor Local Authority pre refuge

Table 11 Local Authority survivor lived in pre accommodation in Nottingham City Refuge, 2023/24

Location (Local Authority survivor previously resided in)	Number
Nottingham City	20
Nottinghamshire	7
East Midlands region (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire)	11
Other Local Authority	36
TOTAL	53

Figure 9 Local Authority survivor lived in pre accommodation in Nottingham City Refuge by %, 2023/24



The largest proportion of survivors (49%) came from "Other Local Authority" areas outside of Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire, and the wider East Midlands region. This indicates that nearly half of the survivors came from diverse locations beyond the immediate area. Nottingham City has two specialist refuges out of the four which provide specialist refuge for BMER survivors and survivors with complex needs from any local authority. It is also usual practice for survivors to be accommodated outside of the local authority area in which they live, for reasons of security / safeguarding or lack of local capacity, which account for the high proportions of survivors from out of area.

Nottingham City is the second-largest source, accounting for 27% of survivors. Survivors from the East Midlands region represent 15% of the total. This indicates that some survivors come from nearby counties within the broader region.

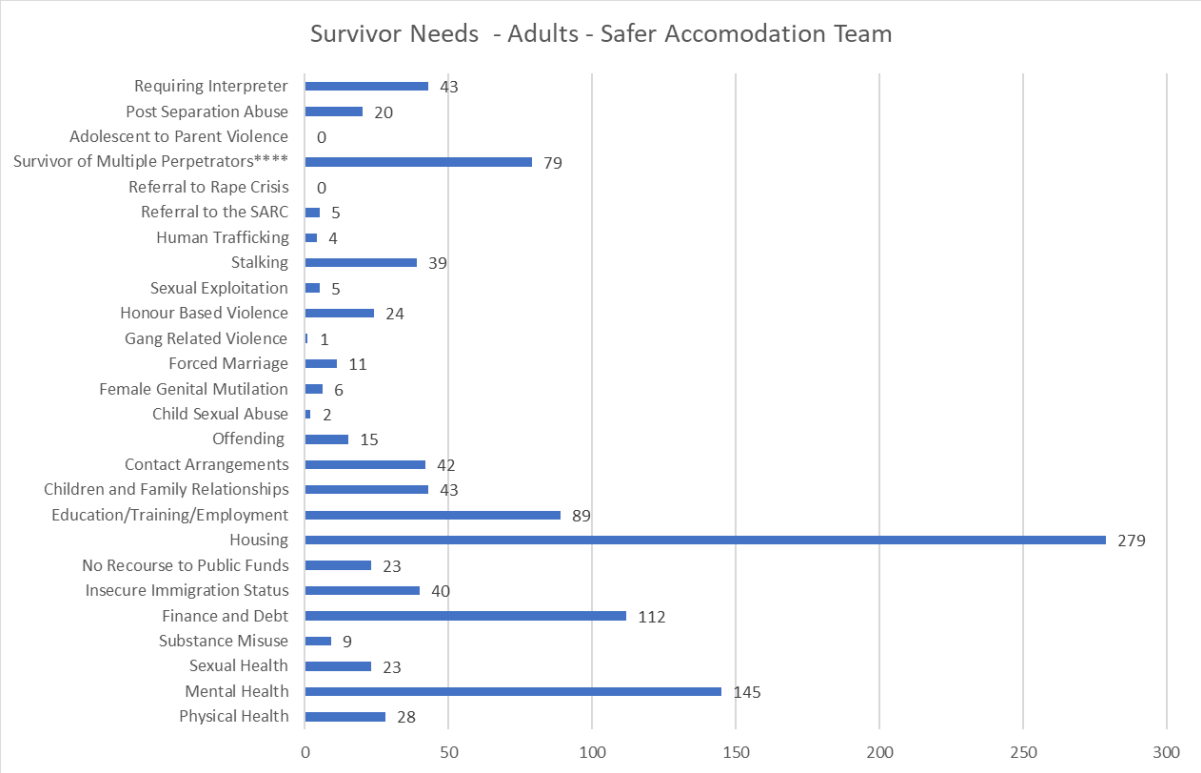
Nottinghamshire, excluding Nottingham City, represents only 9% of the total, suggesting a lower proportion of survivors coming from the surrounding county compared to the city.

The high percentage (27%) of survivors from Nottingham City reflects the city's population density and the availability of support services, but it may also highlight local issues such as higher incidence rates or greater awareness of refuge services in the city. The relatively lower percentages (9% and 15%) from Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands region might indicate that survivors from these areas choose to seek support outside of this area.

Survivor Support Needs and Support Offered

Safe Accommodation Team

Figure 10 Survivor Needs as Recorded by Safe Accommodation Team, 2023-24



The graph provides a detailed breakdown of the various needs identified among adult survivors supported by the Safer Accommodation Team.

Top Three Needs:

Housing is the most significant need, with 279 survivors identified as requiring housing support. This highlights the critical importance of secure housing for survivors, indicating that housing stability is a primary concern.

Mental Health is the second most prevalent need, with 145 survivors needing mental health support. This suggests that a significant proportion of survivors are experiencing psychological or emotional challenges that require attention.

Finance and Debt ranks third, with 112 survivors requiring financial assistance or debt support. This need points to the economic hardships that many survivors face, which could be a barrier to achieving independence.

Additional Notable Needs:

Education/Training/Employment: With 89 survivors indicating a need in this area, it suggests that many survivors are looking to build skills, seek employment, or pursue educational opportunities to improve their socioeconomic status.

Survivor of Multiple Perpetrators: A notable 79 survivors fall into this category, indicating the severity and complexity of their experiences. This could be related to Honour Based abuse, coercive control, or other forms of organised abuse.

Contact Arrangements and Children and Family Relationships: Both categories have around 42-43 survivors needing support, reflecting the complexities in managing familial and child-related issues.

Lesser-Reported Needs:

Needs like Gang Related Violence, Child Sexual Abuse, and Adolescent to Parent Violence are reported in fewer numbers (1-2 survivors), suggesting these are less common but potentially more specialized cases.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Sexual Exploitation are also less frequently reported but are critical areas of concern may require specialized interventions.

Immigration and Public Fund Access:

Insecure Immigration Status (40 survivors) and No Recourse to Public Funds (23 survivors) indicate that immigration status is a barrier for some survivors, impacting their access to services and support.

Health-Related Needs:

Apart from mental health, Physical Health (28 survivors) and Sexual Health (23 survivors) are areas where survivors require assistance, indicating the physical toll that abuse can have, and the possible cumulative toll on vulnerability.

Housing as a Primary Need:

The high demand for housing support indicates that many survivors may face homelessness or unstable living conditions after leaving an abusive situation. This underlines the need for more housing resources, such as refuge or long-term accommodation options.

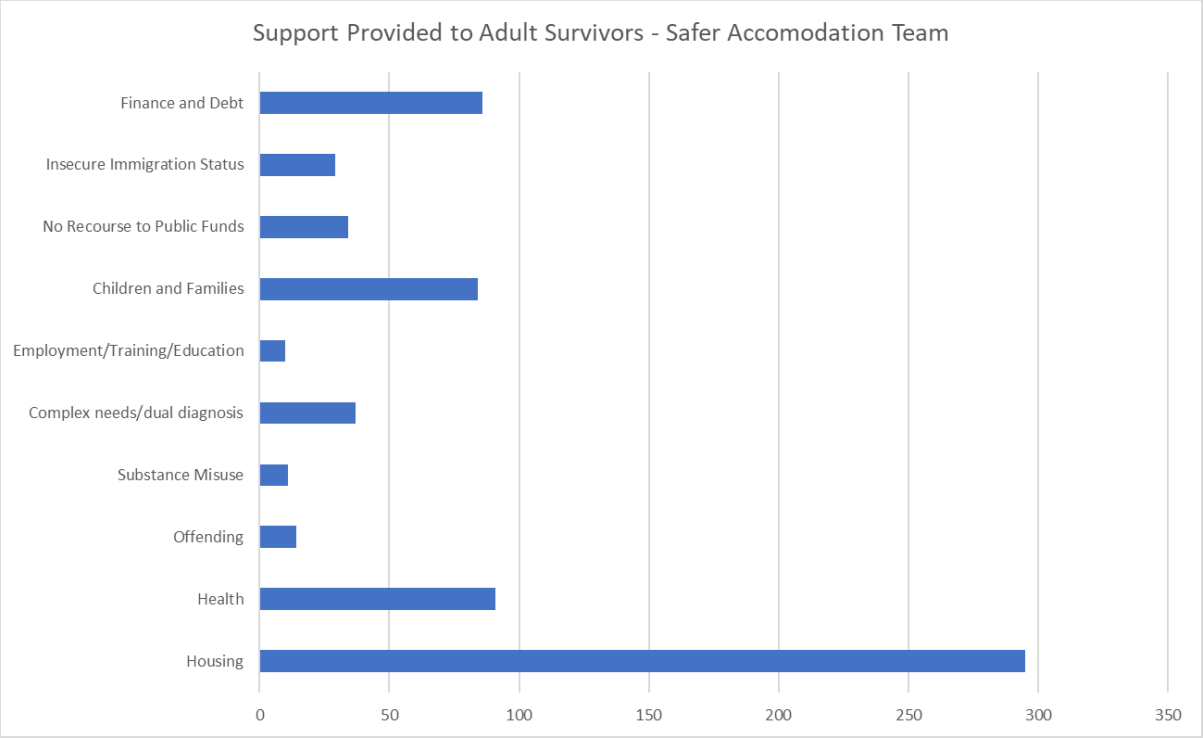
Mental Health and Economic Support:

The prominence of mental health and financial needs suggests that alongside housing, there should be a focus on providing psychological counselling, mental health services, and financial planning or debt relief programs for survivors.

Diverse Needs Reflecting Complex Circumstances:

The wide range of needs, from legal issues (e.g., Contact Arrangements) to physical and sexual health, shows that survivors require a holistic approach to support. This would involve coordinated efforts from various services, including healthcare, legal, and social services. The presence of more specialized categories, like Human Trafficking and FGM, even if in small numbers, indicates the necessity for specialized support frameworks that cater to these unique cases.

Figure 11 Support provided by Safer Accommodation Team to Adult Survivors, Nottingham City, 2023/24



Housing stands out as the most significant area of support, with a count of around 320. Health and Children and Families are the next two most common support categories, with notable counts (about 100 and 90, respectively). These categories are critical, indicating that physical and mental health support, as well as help with family issues, are substantial needs for the survivors. Finance and Debt also shows significant attention,

with a moderate count (around 60). This reflects challenges survivors face in maintaining financial stability. No Recourse to Public Funds, Insecure Immigration Status, and Complex Needs/Dual Diagnosis have moderate representation, suggesting these are also important but less frequent concerns compared to housing and health. This may also indicate a lack of identification of these needs or an unwillingness to report.

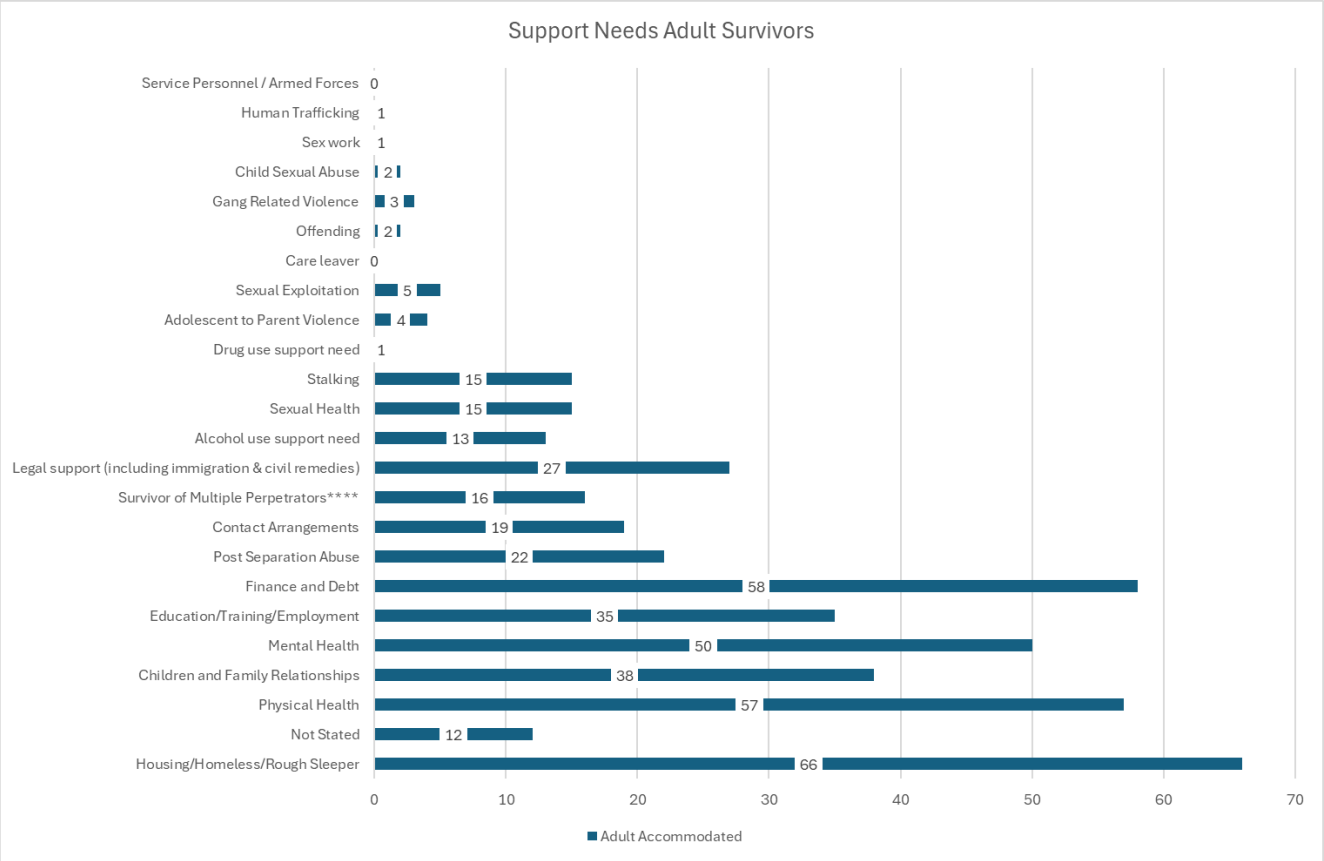
Employment/Training/Education, Substance use, and Offending show relatively low counts, indicating that while these are part of the support spectrum, they are less commonly addressed compared to the other areas.

Overall, matching needs to support given, gaps can be seen in addressing Mental Health needs and other complex issues. Consideration should be given to the provision of support to survivors through the safer accommodation team and if this can be tailored to meet the needs of survivors as shown.

It would also be useful if support needs and support offered were captured in the data using matching categories, and health support further broken down to identify type of support offered.

Refuge Services

Figure 12 Support Needs of Adult Survivors Accommodated in Nottingham City Refuges, 2023-24



Main support needs

Housing/Homeless/Rough Sleeper: This is the most prominent category, with 66 survivors needing support. This aligns with the common challenge survivors face with housing stability, as seen in the previous chart. It's clearly a critical area of need.

Finance and Debt: Following closely, 58 survivors require assistance in managing their finances or dealing with debt. This shows that financial hardship is a significant factor for adult survivors.

Physical Health: There are 57 survivors who need support for physical health issues, demonstrating the high physical toll on survivors and resulting increased vulnerability.

Mental Health: A high number of survivors (50) also need support for mental health issues, underscoring the psychological effects of the circumstances they have faced.

Children and Family Relationships: 38 survivors need help with family and relationship-related issues, which signals that family dynamics are also a crucial factor for survivors and a risk which will need to be managed whilst in refuge or in other accommodation.

Education/Training/Employment: 35 survivors are supported in this category, showing that reskilling and employment are important pathways for recovery and long-term stability.

Legal Support: With 27 survivors requiring legal support (including immigration and civil remedies), this highlights the legal complexities many survivors face in their situations.

Additional Noteworthy Categories:

Post Separation Abuse (22 survivors) and Contact Arrangements (19 survivors) are significant, highlighting the challenges faced even after leaving abusive situations.

Survivor of Multiple Perpetrators (16 survivors) and Stalking (15 survivors) show that a substantial number of survivors face ongoing threats and violence from multiple sources.

Alcohol and Drug Use Support Needs (13 and 1 survivors, respectively) and Sexual Health (15 survivors) show that addiction and health consequences also affect a smaller subset of survivors. This is likely a barrier to reporting and accessing refuge and may result in an underrepresentation in the recorded data for both information sets.

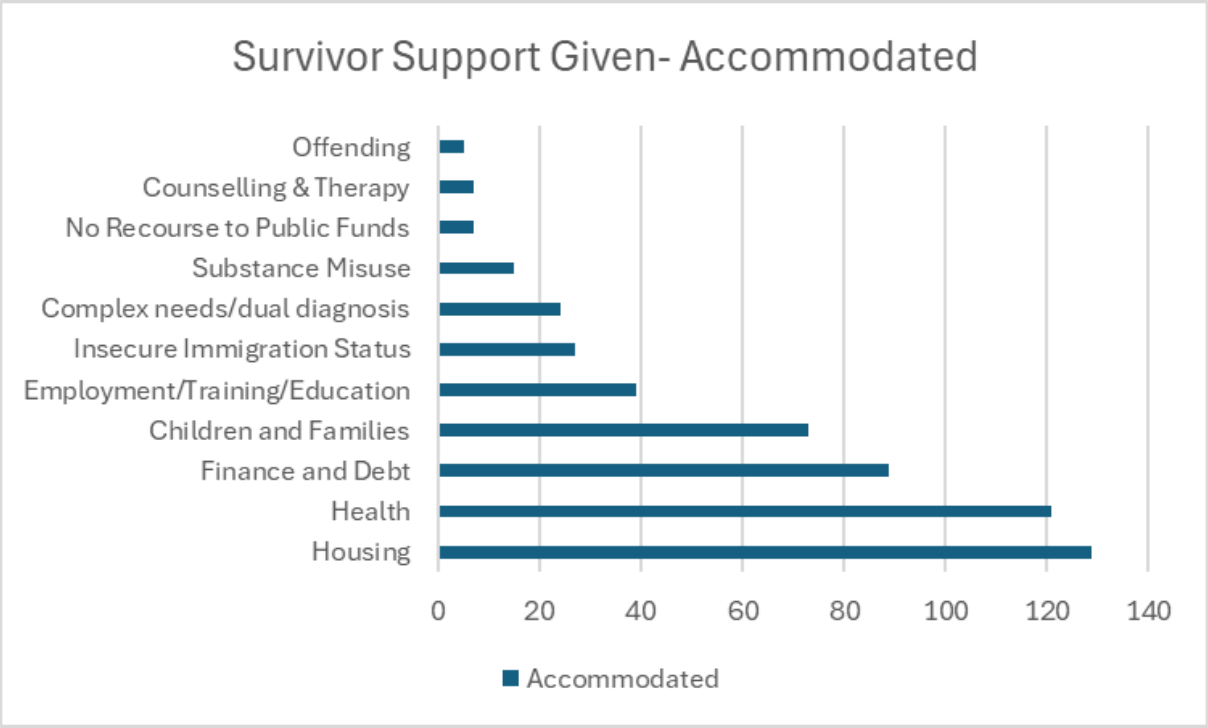
Smaller categories, such as Adolescent to Parent Violence, Gang-Related Violence, Child Sexual Abuse, and Sex Work, indicate that while less common, these are still serious issues for some survivors.

The chart highlights that housing, financial assistance, health (both physical and mental), and family-related issues are the predominant needs among adult survivors. Legal support, post-separation issues, and employment also play significant roles. This shows the multidimensional nature of the support required, covering basic needs (housing, finance) as well as deeper personal and legal challenges.

Figure 23 shows the support offered to survivors in refuge. The key areas of support offered generally math areas of need, although there is a possibly a gap in relation to provision of Mental Health provision, with the limited offer of counselling and therapy not

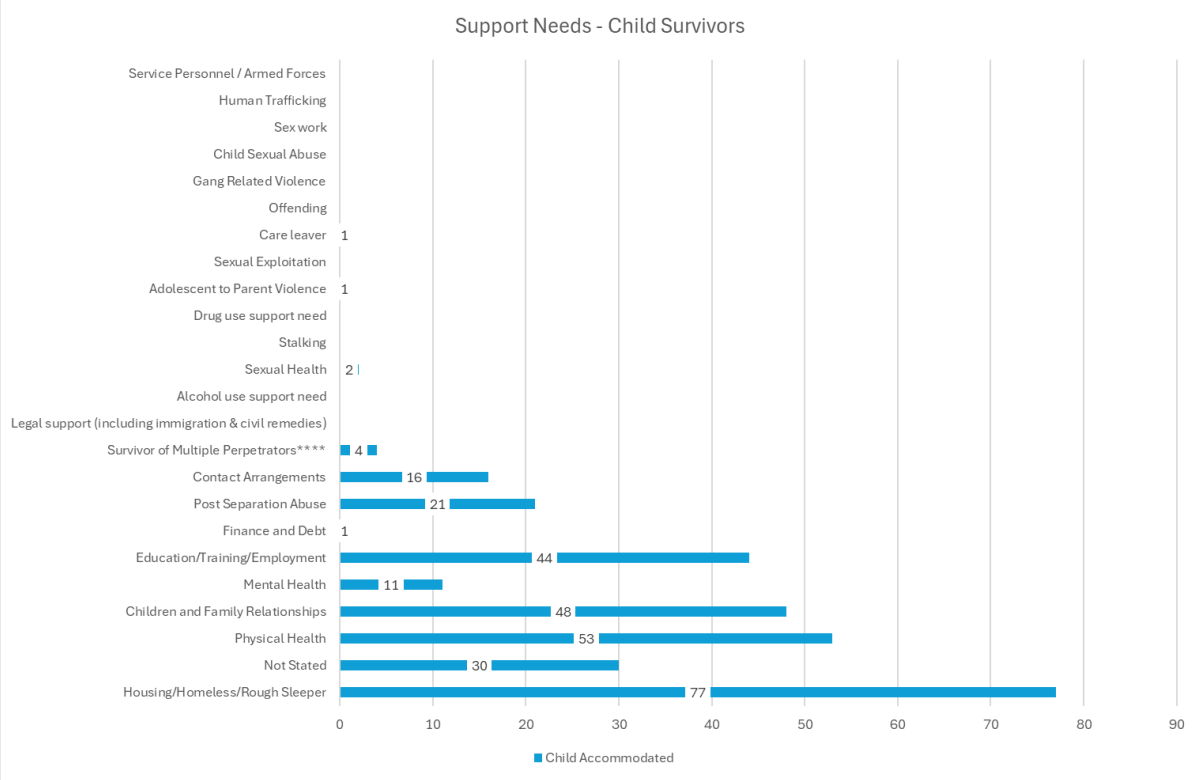
matching the demand of Mental Health need. Unfortunately, the Health category is not further broken down to offer insight into whether Mental Health forms part of this offering.

Figure 13 Support Given to Survivors in Nottingham City Refuges, 2023/24



Support Needs of Children accommodated in refuge

Figure 14 Support Needs of Child Survivors in Nottingham City Refuges, 2023/24



The chart provides a breakdown of the support needs for child survivors, measured by the number of children accommodated in each category.

Key Areas of Support for Child Survivors

Housing/Homelessness/Rough Sleeper: This is the most significant category with 77 child survivors requiring support, reflecting a major challenge in providing stable housing for child survivors, like adult survivors.

Physical Health: 53 child survivors need support in this area, indicating that many children face significant health issues, likely stemming from their traumatic experiences. Increased health issue also increases vulnerability.

Children and Family Relationships: 48 survivors need assistance with family dynamics. This category highlights the importance of addressing the family context, as many child survivors likely come from environments with instability or abuse.

Education/Training/Employment: 44 child survivors need support in this area, indicating that educational and developmental needs are critical for recovery and future stability.

There is currently an identified gap in provision of educational places for children accommodated in Nottingham City Refuges despite policy.

Mental Health: 11 survivors require mental health services. Though this number is lower compared to other categories, it still emphasizes the importance of addressing psychological trauma among child survivors.

Post-Separation Abuse: 21 survivors need support for post-separation abuse, suggesting that even after separation from abusive environments, children continue to face challenges that need to be addressed.

Contact Arrangements: 16 survivors require support related to contact arrangements, possibly indicating custody or visitation issues with abusive parents or guardians.

Survivor of Multiple Perpetrators: Only 4 child survivors fall into this category, indicating that while it exists, it's a less common issue for children than for adults.

The data underscores the critical importance of providing housing, physical health, family relationship support, and education for child survivors. These are the most pressing needs, with housing being the most significant by a large margin. Additionally, family dynamics and educational support are crucial for the long-term recovery and stability of these children. Categories like legal support and mental health indicates the complexity of the challenges faced by child survivors, though they are less prominent compared to basic needs like housing and physical health.

Survivor / Perpetrator Relationship

Table 12 Survivor / Perpetrator Relationships, Nottingham City, 2023-24

Survivor / Offender Relationship	Recorded Crime	Safer Accommodation Team	Refuge
Current Partner	28%	29%	47%
Ex partner	36%	49%	38%
Parent of offender	10%	7%	8%
Child of offender	5%	2%	1%
Sibling of offender	7%	4%	2%
Other	14%	9%	4%

This table shows the relationship between survivors and offenders across three different datasets: Recorded Crime, Safe Accommodation Team referrals, and Refuge services. Each category represents a specific relationship type, providing insight into who the offenders are in relation to the survivors and how these dynamics vary across different service environments.

Current Partner

In Recorded Crime and Safe Accommodation Team, current partners make up a similar proportion of offenders at 28% and 29%, respectively. However, in Refuge services, this relationship type jumps significantly to 47%.

This suggests that current partner violence may be more likely to push survivors into Refuge situations where they need immediate shelter and protection. The higher percentage in refuge services indicates that survivors of current partner violence are more likely to flee their homes and seek safety in these specialized environments.

Ex-partner

Ex-partners are the most frequent offender type in both Recorded Crime (36%) and Safe Accommodation Team (49%). The spike in Safe Accommodation suggests that ex-partner violence is a significant driver for survivors to seek longer-term housing solutions after leaving an abusive relationship.

In Refuge services (38%), ex-partner violence is still a prominent reason for seeking refuge, though current partners represent a higher proportion in this setting. This indicates that both current and former partners pose substantial risks to survivors' safety, necessitating refuge or safe housing.

Parent of Offender

Parent of offender appears at a similar rate across all categories, ranging from 7% to 10%. This consistency indicates that violence or abuse from parents, while less common than partner violence, is a consistent factor in reported crime and the need for support services. Although lower than partner-related violence, parental abuse still plays a role in survivors seeking both refuge and safe accommodation, reflecting the complex dynamics of family-based violence.

Child of Offender

Child of offender represents a small proportion of cases across all categories, particularly in Safe Accommodation (2%) and Refuge (1%).

The fact that the percentage is higher in Recorded Crime (5%) suggests that these cases may be more likely to be reported to authorities but less likely to result in the survivor seeking alternative housing or shelter. This could be due to the nature of the violence or abuse being less likely to force the survivor out of their home.

Sibling of Offender:

Sibling of offender is another relatively small category, with 7% in Recorded Crime but lower in Safe Accommodation (4%) and Refuge (2%).

This suggests that while sibling-related abuse is reported to authorities, it is less likely to result in the survivor needing emergency housing or refuge. The nature of sibling abuse may differ from partner or parental violence, making it less likely to displace survivors from their living situations.

Other:

The Other category covers a variety of relationships and represents 14% in Recorded Crime, but this figure drops in both Safe Accommodation (9%) and Refuge (4%).

This decline could indicate that survivors abused by "other" types of offenders (such as acquaintances, colleagues, etc.) may be more likely to seek justice through law enforcement (recorded crime) rather than access safe housing or refuge services. These relationships may not always involve the same level of threat or fear of ongoing harm that could necessitate leaving home.

Ex-partner and current partner violence are the most common triggers for survivors seeking both Safe Accommodation and Refuge services. While both relationship types feature prominently in all categories, current partner violence is more likely to result in survivors seeking emergency refuge (47%), whereas ex-partner violence is more prevalent in long-term safe accommodation (49%).

Parental abuse remains a steady factor across all service types, showing that family-based violence continues to be an important driver of vulnerability and the need for support services.

Sibling and child offenders appear less frequently in safe accommodation and refuge, suggesting that these forms of abuse, while present, do not typically lead to survivors being displaced from their homes at the same rates as partner or ex-partner abuse.

Gap Analysis through Demographic Category

Ethnicity

Prevalence and Reporting

Prevalence by demographic category from the CSEW and subsequent Nottingham City Estimates can be found in the data tables below. Nottinghamshire Police were able to provide survivor Ethnicity data and so an estimate of reporting gaps by ethnicity is provided in the table below.

Table 3 illustrates the proportion of people over 16 reporting themselves as victims of domestic abuse via the CSEW, followed by the estimate for Nottingham City (NCC) based on the 2021 census, providing an estimated volume of survivors for the area for 2023/24 as a whole and by self-defined ethnicity. The aim of this is to understand the volumes of survivors present in the Nottingham City council area and understand the possible demand for services if reporting of domestic abuse increased to the level of prevalence indicated by the CSEW.

Table 13 Crime Survey for England and Wales self-reported survivors of Domestic Abuse as a proportion of whole population over 16 years old and related estimate for Nottingham City 2022/23 – Ethnicity Breakdown

Ethnicity	% of people over 16 surviving Domestic Abuse (CSEW)	NCC	% Women	NCC	% Men	NCC
Asian / Asian British	2.0	749	3.0	565	1.0	184
Black / Black British	3.5	850	3.1	406	3.9	444
Mixed / Dual Heritage	7.9	851	9.2	545	5.8	306
White	4.7	8691	6.0	5648	3.4	3043
Other Categories	Suppressed – sample size	714	-	577	-	137
All	4.4	11630	5.7	7740	3.2	4114

Table 19 uses data from the CSEW and details from Nottinghamshire Police's NICHE crime recording system to compare survivor ethnicity proportions between the CSEW and recorded crime. Within the data recorded by Nottinghamshire Police 35% of survivor ethnicity data is retuned as "Not stated", which prevents an accurate comparison being made between the two data sets.

If the assumption is made that the "Not Stated" category is split evenly across the ethnicity categories, this would highlight locally strong levels of reporting amongst people of Asian / Asian British and Black / Black British backgrounds when compared with national prevalence, with lower levels of reporting amongst people from Mixed / Dual Heritage and Other backgrounds. Whilst underreporting is a well-recognised issue overall, the small differences inferred by ethnicity require further examination.

Data quality within Police recording systems for ethnicity for identifying ethnicity needs to be improved to allow for an accurate analysis and comparison of reporting levels locally.

Table 14 Survivor Comparison Estimates (Recorded Crime vs CSEW) by Ethnicity

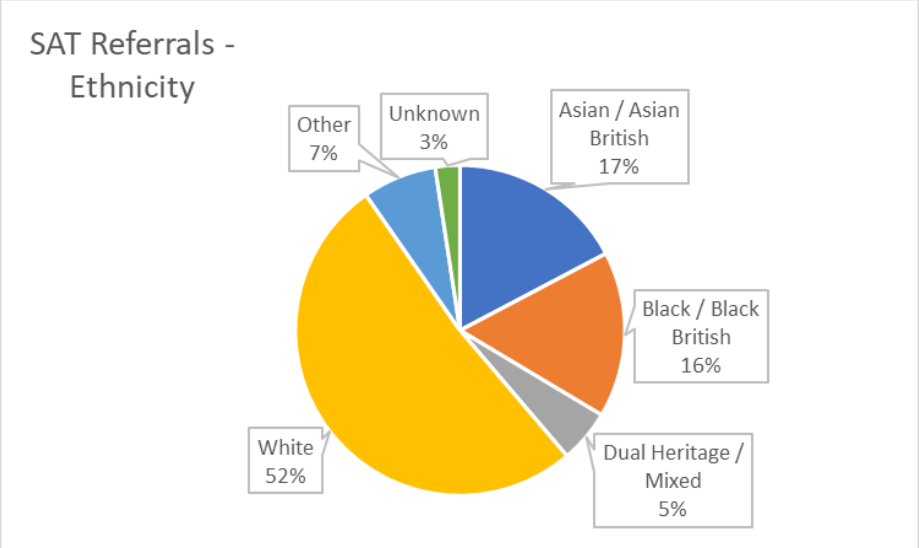
Self-Defined Ethnicity	CSEW	Recorded Incidents and Crime	Gap	CSEW %	Recorded Incidents / Crime %	RIC (discounting Not Stated) %	Estimated Gap	% unreported
Asian / Asian British	749	301	448	6%	7%	11%	350	47%
Black / Black British	850	257	594	7%	6%	9%	450	53%
Dual Heritage	851	128	723	7%	3%	5%	600	71%
Not Stated	0	1507	-1507	0%	35%			
Other	714	41	673	6%	1%	1%	550	77%
White	8691	2099	6592	75%	48%	74%	5350	62%
Total	11630	4333	7297	100%	100%	100%	7300	63%

Survivors referred to Safe Accommodation Team 2023/24

Table 15 Ethnicity of survivors referred to Housing Safer Accommodation Team, Nottingham City, 2023-24

Ethnicity	Number
White British	128
White Irish	0
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0
Eastern European	9
Other White	12
White and Black Caribbean	13
White and Black African	0
White and Asian	1
Other Mixed	1
Indian	12
Pakistani	25
Bangladeshi	3
Chinese	1
Other Asian	9
African	27
Caribbean	13
Other Black	7
Arab	8
Other Ethnic Group	13
Not Stated	7
TOTAL	289

Figure 15 Referrals to Housing Safe Accommodation Team, Nottingham City, 2023-24 (%)

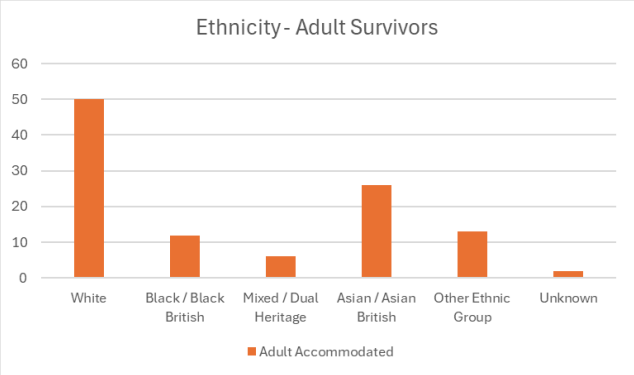


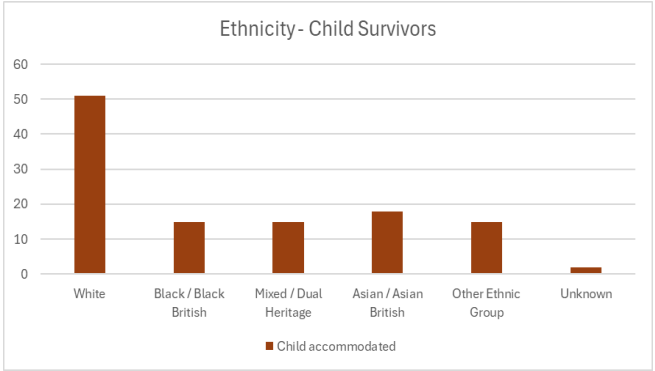
Survivors in Refuge – Ethnicity

Table 16 Survivors accommodated in refuge by ethnicity 2023/24

Survivor Ethnicity	Adult	Child	Totals
White British, English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish	42	44	86
White Irish	1	0	1
Gypsy or Irish Traveller or Roma	1	2	3
Other White	6	5	11
White and Black Caribbean	4	6	10
White and Black African	1	4	5
White and Asian	1	2	3
Any Other Mixed or Multiple Ethnic background	0	3	3
Indian	4	2	6
Pakistani	14	10	24
Bangladeshi	2	2	4
Chinese	0	0	0
Any other Asian background	6	4	10
African	9	11	20
Caribbean	1	1	2
Any other Black, African or Caribbean background	2	3	5
Arab	6	5	11
Any Other Ethnic Group	7	10	17
Unknown	2	2	4
TOTAL	109	116	225

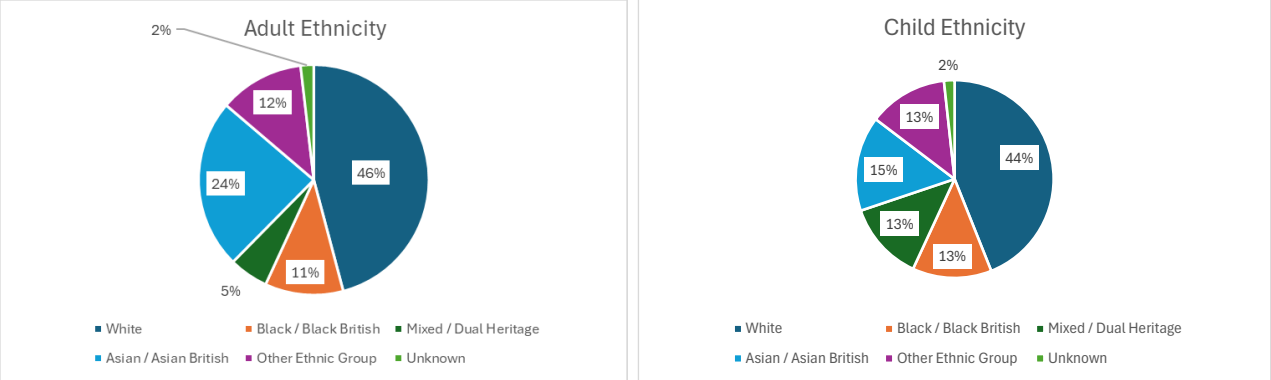
Figure 16and 22b Ethnicity of Adult and Child Survivors in Nottingham City Refuges, 2023/by combined ethnicity category





The charts show the numbers of survivors accommodated from the 6 general ethnicity categories listed in the census.

Figure 17and 23b Survivors accommodated in refuge by Ethnicity 2023/24 (by proportion)



The two pie charts illustrate the ethnic distribution of both adult and child survivors. Here's a breakdown of the analysis for both groups:

Adult Ethnicity (Left Chart):

White: The largest group, making up 46% of adult survivors. This indicates that nearly half of the adult survivor population identifies as White.

Asian / Asian British: 24% of adult survivors fall into this category, representing the second-largest ethnic group. This is a significant portion, reflecting the diverse ethnic background of survivors.

Black / Black British: 12% of adult survivors are from Black or Black British backgrounds, making it the third most common ethnic group.

Mixed / Dual Heritage: 11% of survivors identify as being of mixed or dual heritage.

Other Ethnic Group: 5% fall into this category, indicating survivors who identify with an ethnicity outside of the main categories listed.

Unknown: 2% of adult survivors have an unspecified or unknown ethnicity.

Child Ethnicity (Right Chart):

White: 44% of child survivors are White, slightly lower than the adult group but still making up the largest share.

Asian / Asian British: 15% of child survivors identify as Asian or Asian British, which is lower than the adult percentage but still significant.

Black / Black British:13% of child survivors are from Black or Black British backgrounds, a slight increase compared to the adult group.

Mixed / Dual Heritage: 13% of child survivors identify as mixed or dual heritage, slightly higher than the adult population.

Other Ethnic Group: 13% fall into this category, which is notably higher for children compared to the 5% in the adult group. This could reflect greater diversity or difficulty in categorizing some child survivors' ethnic backgrounds.

Unknown: 2% of child survivors' ethnicity is unknown, the same as in the adult population.

Both groups have the largest proportion of White survivors, but adults (46%) have a slightly higher representation than children (44%).

Asian / Asian British: This group is much more prevalent in adults (24%) compared to children (15%).

Black / Black British and Mixed / Dual Heritage: Both categories show slight increases in the child population compared to adults, indicating that a higher proportion of children from these backgrounds are receiving support.

Other Ethnic Group: The biggest difference between the two charts is seen in the Other Ethnic Group category, with 13% of children and only 5% of adults falling into this group. This suggests that more children come from ethnic backgrounds that don't fall into the major categories.

The charts highlight that while White and Asian/Asian British survivors form the bulk of those accommodated, there is clear ethnic diversity among adult survivors. This information could be used to better understand the needs of various ethnic groups and improve the cultural competence of support services offered.

Table 17 Comparison of proportions of survivors from the 2021 CSEW, local recorded crime figures, safe accommodation team referrals, refuge services and Public Health data

Ethnicity (Adult)	% Nottingham City	% CSEW	% Recorded Crime	% Recorded Crime *(ex NS)	% Safe Accom Team	% Refuge	% Public Health
Asian / Asian British	15	6	7	11	17	24	12
Black / Black British	10	7	6	9	16	11	9
Dual Heritage / Mixed	6	7	3	5	5	5	13
White	66	75	48	74	52	46	60
Other	3	6	1	1	7	12	6
Unknown	0	0	35	0	2	2	0

This table compares the percentage distribution of ethnic groups in Nottingham City, CSEW (Crime Survey for England and Wales), Recorded Crime, Recorded Crime (excluding recorded crime where ethnicity is not stated), Safe Accommodation Team, Refuge, and Public Health services.

Asian / Asian British:
Nottingham City: 15%

CSEW: 6%

Recorded Crime: 7%

Recorded Crime (ex NS): 11%

Safe Accommodation Team: 17%

Refuge: 24%

Public Health: 12%

The Asian/Asian British population in Nottingham City (15%) is notably higher than the average national proportion of survivors by ethnicity recorded by CSEW (6%) and recorded crime rates (7%). However, this group shows a significant representation in both the Safe Accommodation Team referrals (17%) and Refuge services (24%), indicating that they may experience higher levels of vulnerability and need for support services

compared to their representation in the recorded crime figures. It also reflects that Nottingham City provides a specific refuge service for BAME survivors, which may increase the proportion of BAME survivors in refuge locally. This could also partly explain their overrepresentation in refuge services (24%) compared to their public health (12%) and recorded crime figure representation. The data also suggests there is a reporting gap between estimated survivors of domestic abuse and those reporting those crimes to the Police, although this gap is not as pronounced for some of the other diverse communities in Nottingham City.

Black / Black British:

Nottingham City: 10%

CSEW: 7%

Recorded Crime: 6%

Recorded Crime (ex NS): 9%

Safe Accommodation Team: 16%

Refuge: 11%

Public Health: 9%

The Black/Black British population in Nottingham City (10%) aligns with the national crime survey averages for survivors by ethnicity (7%) but shows a much higher representation in the Safe Accommodation Team (16%).

The Black/Black British representation in Public Health (9%) and Refuge services (11%) is consistent with their general population proportion, but again, there is an overrepresentation in vulnerability services like Safe Accommodation and Refuge.

The overrepresentation in refuge can be partly attributed to the specialist refuge services provided as detailed above, however, the overrepresentation in referral to Safe Accommodation Housing services compared to representation in recorded crime figures again suggests that survivors from a Black / Black British background are facing barriers in reporting crimes of domestic abuse to partners except for Housing services.

Dual Heritage / Mixed:

Nottingham City: 6%

CSEW: 7%

Recorded Crime: 3%

Recorded Crime (ex NS): 5%

Safe Accommodation Team: 5%

Refuge: 5%

Public Health: 13%

The Dual Heritage/Mixed population is relatively stable across various categories, maintaining around 5-7%. However, in Public Health (13%), this group is represented significantly more, suggesting that this ethnic group may have greater public health needs, or report more to Public Health colleagues than to other partner authorities.

Despite having a lower percentage in Safe Accommodation Team (5%) and Refuge services (5%), the higher figure in public health could reflect underlying issues that do not always translate to crime or vulnerability service statistics and again highlights possible barriers to reporting crimes and accessing services from partner agencies.

White:

Nottingham City: 66%

CSEW: 75%

Recorded Crime: 48%

Recorded Crime (ex NS): 74%

Safe Accommodation Team: 52%

Refuge: 46%

Public Health: 60%

The White population dominates in most categories, but there's an interesting discrepancy between recorded crime rates (48%) and Safe Accommodation Team (52%).

While White survivors still make up a majority of those receiving services, their share is much smaller than their representation in the general population (66%) and public health services (60%).

The gap between their population percentage in Nottingham City (66%) and their recorded crime involvement (48%) suggests that they are underrepresented in crime statistics relative to their population size, but they still use refuge and safe accommodation services extensively.

Other Ethnic Groups:
Nottingham City: 3%

CSEW: 6%

Recorded Crime: 1%

Recorded Crime (ex NS): 1%

Safe Accommodation Team: 7%

Refuge: 12%

Public Health: 6%

The Other Ethnic Group category shows an interesting trend. While their presence in Recorded Crime (1%) is low, they are significantly overrepresented in Safe Accommodation (7%) and Refuge services (12%). This suggests that people from other ethnic backgrounds, though they may not be as involved in recorded crime, face heightened vulnerability or access these support services disproportionately.

Their high percentage in Refuge (12%) indicates that members of this group may face unique challenges that require targeted interventions, possibly related to immigration, social marginalization, or specific cultural vulnerabilities.

Unknown:
Nottingham City: 0%

CSEW: 0%

Recorded Crime: 35%

Recorded Crime (ex NS): 0%

Safe Accommodation Team: 2%

Refuge: 2%

Public Health: 0%

The Unknown category shows a strikingly high percentage in Recorded Crime (35%). This indicates that in over a third of crime cases, the ethnicity is either not recorded or not known, which could be due to a lack of data collection standards or challenges in identifying ethnic backgrounds in the criminal justice system.

The Unknown category in Safe Accommodation and Refuge services (2%) is quite small, indicating that these services are generally better at capturing or recording ethnicity than recorded crime statistics.

Asian / Asian British and Black / Black British groups are overrepresented in Safe Accommodation and Refuge services, for some reasons detailed above, and this over representation does not reflect the gaps which remain in reporting crime and accessing services from partnership agencies for survivors from BAME backgrounds residing in Nottingham City.

White survivors dominate the population but are relatively underrepresented in recorded crime statistics and vulnerability services.

Other Ethnic Groups show a disproportionate representation in need for refuge and safe accommodation services, despite low reporting as illustrated from recorded crime details. The Unknown category in crime data highlights a gap in the recording of ethnic information, which could affect service delivery and resource allocation.

Religion

Safe Accommodation Team

Table 18 Survivor Religion, Safe Accommodation Team, Nottingham City Housing Solutions, 2023/24

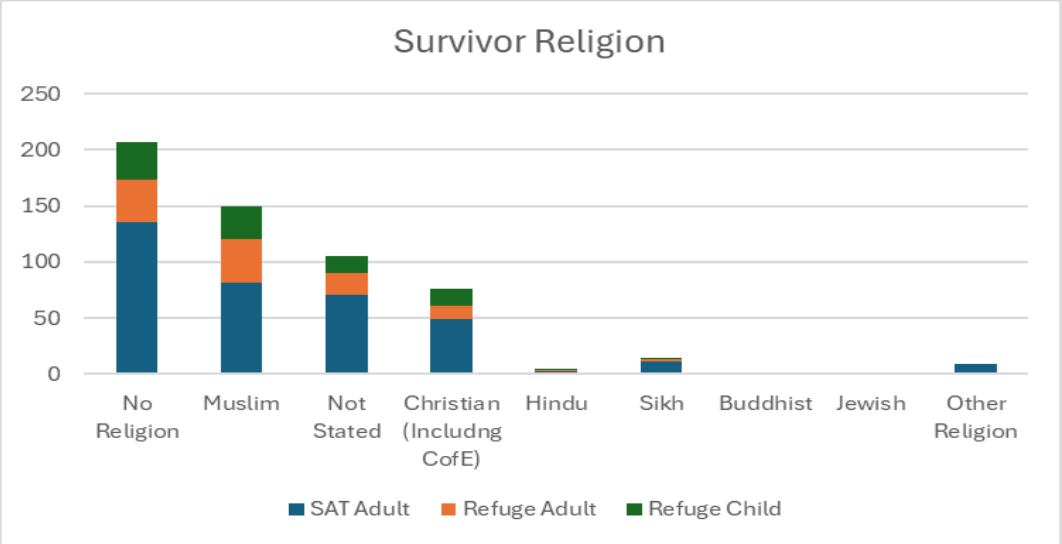
Religion	Number	%
Christian	49	17%
Buddhist	0	0%
Hindu	2	1%
Jewish	0	0%
Muslim	81	28%
Sikh	11	4%
Other Religion	9	3%
No Religion	136	47%
Not Stated	71	25%

Safe Accommodation Team and Refuge Services

Table 19 Survivor Religion, Nottingham City Refuges, 2023/24

Survivor Religion	SAT	SAT %	Adult	%	Child	%
No Religion	136	47%	37	33%	34	48%
Muslim	81	28%	39	35%	30	42%
Not Stated	71	25%	19	17%	15	21%
Christian (Including CofE)	49	17%	12	11%	15	21%
Hindu	2	1%	2	2%	1	2%
Sikh	11	4%	2	2%	1	2%
Buddhist	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Jewish	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other Religion	9	3%	0	0%	0	0%
TOTAL	289		107		71	

Figure 18 Survivor Religion, Safe Accommodation Referrals and Nottingham City Refuges, 2023-24



No Religion represents the largest proportion of survivors in all categories, with 47% in the SAT data, 33% of adults, and 48% of children. This suggests that a significant number of survivors across all groups identify as non-religious or choose not to affiliate with any religion.

Muslim survivors represent a significant portion across all groups, making up 28% of the SAT, 35% of adults, and 42% of children. There is a particularly high percentage of Muslim children (42%) compared to the overall population in the SAT (28%), suggesting that children from Muslim backgrounds are more likely to require safe accommodation services. This could reflect the presence of specific vulnerabilities or barriers faced by this group, leading them to seek support, or may simply represent the fact that Nottingham City has a BMER specific refuge.

Adults also show a high percentage (35%), indicating that Muslim individuals make up a significant portion of those accessing services, possibly due to cultural or religious factors that influence their experiences of vulnerability and the need for support.

Not Stated represents a quarter of the survivors in the SAT data (25%), with smaller proportions among adults (17%) and children (21%). This could indicate reluctance or hesitation in disclosing religious affiliation, or it may reflect that for some survivors, religion is not a primary aspect of their identity that they feel compelled to share during intake processes.

Christian survivors represent 17% of the total in the SAT data, but this drops to 11% among adults and rises to 21% among children. Overall, Christian survivors form a smaller portion of the survivor population compared to Muslim and No Religion groups, but they still represent a notable minority.

Hindu survivors are a very small minority in all categories, making up 1% of the total in SAT, with similarly low percentages among adults and children (2%). This small percentage suggests that individuals from Hindu backgrounds may either face fewer circumstances that require safe accommodation or are less likely to access these services compared to other religious groups.

Sikh survivors make up a slightly higher proportion in SAT (4%) compared to their presence among adults and children (both 2%).

Other Religion makes up a small but notable portion of SAT survivors (3%), though there are no adult or child survivors recorded in this category for refuge. There are no Buddhist or Jewish survivors recorded across any of the categories. This could indicate that individuals from these religious backgrounds are either not experiencing the same vulnerabilities as other groups, or they may not be accessing these services for other reasons (e.g., smaller populations, cultural barriers, etc.).

Age

Prevalence and Reporting

Prevalence by demographic category from the CSEW and subsequent Nottingham City Estimates can be found in the data tables below. Nottinghamshire Police were able to provide survivor Age data and so an estimate of reporting gaps by ethnicity is provided in the table below.

Table 20 Crime Survey for England and Wales self-reported survivors of Domestic Abuse as a proportion of whole population over 16 years old and related estimate for Nottingham City 2022/23 – Age Breakdown

Age Category	% All		% Women		% Men	
All people 16+	4.4	12935	5.7	8194	3.2	4741
16 to 19	8.0	2261	9.0	1271	7.0	990
20 to 24	6.0	2537	6.3	1415	5.6	1122
25 to 34	4.9	2436	6.8	1715	3.1	721
35 to 44	5.3	2104	7.0	1401	3.6	704
45 to 54	4.2	1489	5.0	887	3.4	603
55 to 59	4.4	751	6.6	564	2.2	187
60 to 74	3.2	1097	4.2	740	2.1	357
75 years and over	1.4	259	2.0	201	0.8	58

Table 21 Survivor Comparison Estimates (Recorded Crime vs CSEW) by Age

Age Category	People over 16 surviving Domestic Abuse	Women	Men	CSEW All	CSEW Women	CSEW Men	Reporting Gap (All)	Reporting Gap (Women)	Reporting Gap (Men)	% gap (all)	% gap (women)	% gap (men)
All people 16+	3955	2850	1105	12935	8194	4741	8980	5344	3636	44%	65%	77%
16 to 19	330	247	83	2261	1271	990	1931	1024	907	71%	81%	92%
20 to 24	558	413	145	2537	1415	1122	1979	1002	977	69%	71%	87%
25 to 34	1160	850	310	2436	1715	721	1276	865	411	24%	50%	57%
35 to 44	1000	748	252	2104	1401	704	1104	653	452	32%	47%	64%
45 to 54	475	325	150	1489	887	603	1014	562	453	51%	63%	75%
55 to 59	171	109	62	751	564	187	580	455	125	22%	81%	67%
60 to 74	208	125	83	1097	740	357	889	615	274	37%	83%	77%
75 years and over	53	33	20	259	201	58	206	168	38	19%	84%	66%

This table breaks down domestic abuse survivors aged 16 and over by gender and age category, comparing actual reported figures with data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). It also calculates the reporting gap—the difference between the number of survivors identified by the CSEW and those who report their abuse. The table

includes information on the overall population and breaks down the data by women and men, highlighting reporting gaps for different age groups.

People Over 16 Surviving Domestic Abuse (Women, Men, All): This column shows the actual number of people over 16 who survived domestic abuse, as determined by recorded crime, broken down by gender and age. These figures are compared with CSEW data to identify reporting gaps.

CSEW Data (All, Women, Men): This refers to the number of survivors estimated by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), which provides a broader view of domestic abuse prevalence, capturing cases that may not have been reported.

Reporting Gap (All, Women, Men): The reporting gap is calculated by subtracting the actual number of reported survivors from the CSEW estimates. This shows the discrepancy between estimated abuse cases and those that come to light through official reporting.

% Gap (All, Women, Men): This column provides a percentage measure of the reporting gap, which highlights the proportion of estimated abuse cases that go unreported.

All People 16+:

Survivors (Recorded Crime): 3,955 (2,850 women and 1,105 men).

CSEW data: 12,935 survivors (8,194 women and 4,741 men).

Reporting gap: 8,980 cases unreported, or 69% of all domestic abuse cases.

Women: 5,344 cases unreported, representing 65% of female survivors.

Men: 3,636 cases unreported, representing 77% of male survivors.

There is a significant reporting gap, especially among men, where 77% of cases estimated by the CSEW go unreported. Women also have a large gap, with 65% of cases going unreported. This suggests that both men and women face significant barriers in reporting abuse.

20 to 24 Age Group:

Survivors (Recorded Crime): 558 (413 women, 145 men).

CSEW data: 2,537 survivors.

Reporting gap: 1,979 cases unreported, or 69% of all cases in this age group.

Women: 71% of female survivors in this group are unreported.

Men: 87% of male survivors go unreported.

35 to 44 Age Group:

Survivors (Recorded Crime): 1,000 (748 women, 252 men).

CSEW data: 2,104 survivors.

Reporting gap: 1,104 cases unreported, or 32% of all cases.

Women: 47% of women in this age group go unreported.

Men: 64% of men in this age group go unreported.

The 35 to 44 age group has a smaller reporting gap compared to younger age groups, with 32% of cases going unreported overall.

55 to 59 Age Group:

Survivors (Recorded Crime): 171 (109 women, 62 men).

CSEW data: 751 survivors.

Reporting gap: 580 cases unreported, or 22% of all cases.

Women: 81% of cases among women go unreported.

Men: 67% of cases among men go unreported.

While the overall reporting gap is lower (22%), this age group shows the largest percentage gap for women (81%), indicating a significant underreporting problem among older women.

75 Years and Over:

Survivors (Recorded Crime): 53 (33 women, 20 men).

CSEW data: 259 survivors.

Reporting gap: 206 cases unreported, or 80% of all cases.

Women: 84% of cases go unreported.

Men: 66% of cases go unreported.

The 75+ age group has the highest reporting gap across the board, with 84% of women and 66% of men not reporting their abuse. The high reporting gap suggests that older survivors may face unique challenges in coming forward, such as dependency on their abusers, social isolation, or lack of awareness about available resources. It may also be that survivors or their support networks from this age group do not recognise themselves as survivors of Domestic Abuse.

Across all age groups and genders, there is a 44% reporting gap. This means less than half of the domestic abuse cases estimated by the CSEW are being officially reported or known.

Women Aged 55 to 59 and Over 75:

Older women aged 55 to 59 and over 75 have alarmingly high reporting gaps (81% and 84% respectively). This indicates a need for greater focus on supporting older survivors, especially women, who may not be reporting abuse due to factors like dependency, fear, or lack of access to help.

Younger Survivors (20 to 24):

The 20 to 24 age group has one of the highest overall reporting gaps. The data suggests the need for targeted outreach and support to encourage more survivors to come forward, especially in age groups where the reporting gap is widest. Awareness campaigns, better support services, and efforts to reduce stigma could help bridge these reporting gaps.

Safe Accommodation Team and Refuges – Age

The table below presents the age distribution of survivors across three categories: SAT Referral (Safe Accommodation Team), Refuge, and NUH (Nottingham University Hospitals). Each column includes the number of survivors and the percentage they represent within that category.

Young survivors aged 16-25 account for a significant portion of both SAT referrals (22%) and Refuge placements (21%), which indicates a substantial need for immediate or emergency accommodation for this group. In contrast, the NUH figure is lower (12%), suggesting that while this age group often seeks refuge or housing, fewer young survivors

are accessing hospitals. The reasons for this gap should be investigated, as there may be a risk with young people not attending hospitals with injuries caused by Domestic Abuse.

Table 22 Survivor ages through Safer Accommodation Team and Nottingham City Refuges, with Nottingham University Hospitals data for comparison

Survivor Age	SAT Referral	%	Refuge	%	NUH	%
16-25	63	22%	24	21%	80	12%
25-34	105	36%	41	35%	191	30%
35-44	84	29%	37	32%	143	22%
45-54	27	9%	12	10%	79	12%
55-64	6	2%	1	1%	49	8%
65-74	3	1%	1	1%	36	6%
75 years or older	0	0%	0	0%	46	7%
Not Stated	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%
TOTAL	289		116	100%	645	

The 25-34 age group represents the largest proportion across all three categories, making up 36% of SAT referrals, 35% of Refuge placements, and 30% of NUH identifications. This indicates that individuals in this age range are the most likely to seek and receive support from all three services. This could be because this age group often has more responsibilities (such as children or employment) and faces a higher likelihood of domestic violence or abuse, prompting them to access housing, medical, or emergency services at a higher rate.

Survivors aged 35-44 also represent a large proportion of the referrals and placements, with 29% in SAT, 32% in Refuge, and 22% in NUH. This group is slightly less represented in NUH. However, they still make up a notable portion of the overall survivor population, highlighting the continued vulnerability of individuals in this age bracket.

The 45-54 age group is less represented in both SAT (9%) and Refuge (10%), but their presence in NUH (12%) is slightly higher. This suggests that while fewer individuals in this age range are seeking accommodation or refuge services, they may be accessing A & E more frequently. The higher percentage in NUH could indicate that survivors in this age group might face more severe physical or health-related consequences of abuse. This may also be a consequence of Health Services being the first authority contacted by

survivors, and also due to the condition of anonymity thereby avoiding unwanted contact with the Criminal Justice System or other services.

Survivors in the 55-64 age group account for very few SAT referrals (2%) and Refuge placements (1%), but their presence in NUH (8%) is relatively high.

This could indicate that older survivors are less likely to seek alternative accommodation or refuge but are more likely to require medical intervention, possibly due to health complications related to abuse. Older survivors may also be less willing or able to leave abusive situations and may only seek help when medical issues arise.

Like the previous age group, survivors aged 65-74 make up a small portion of SAT referrals (1%) and Refuge placements (1%) but are slightly more present in NUH (6%). This suggests that elderly survivors are much more likely to seek medical assistance than housing support. Survivors in this age group may have complex health needs related to aging and abuse, making them more reliant on healthcare services. The small percentage in housing or refuge services could also reflect greater dependence on family or a reluctance to leave their current living situations.

Survivors aged 75 or older are not represented in SAT or Refuge, but they make up 7% of identifications by NUH. This could be due to their dependency on family members or caregivers, or a reluctance to leave their homes despite experiencing abuse. Elderly survivors might also have physical health issues that necessitate medical intervention more than housing solutions.

Child Survivor Ages – Refuge

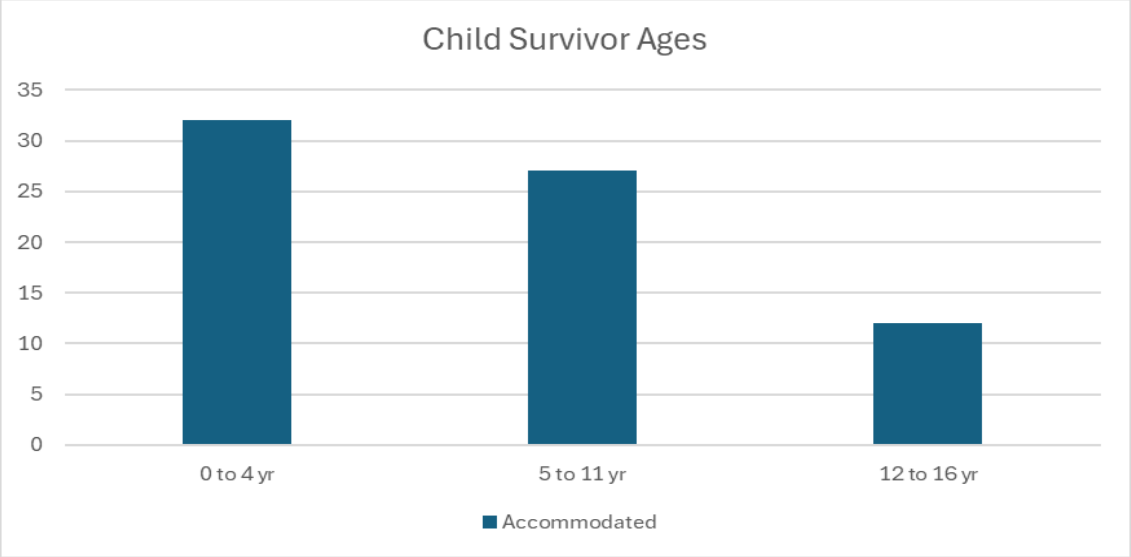
The bar chart below illustrates the age distribution of child survivors who have been accommodated, divided into three age groups: 0 to 4 years, 5 to 11 years, and 12 to 16 years.

0 to 4 Years: This is the largest group, with over 30 child survivors accommodated. This suggests that a significant portion of children requiring accommodation services are very young, which could reflect family situations where young children are particularly vulnerable and in need of immediate protection and support.

5 to 11 Years: The second-largest group, with around 25 child survivors accommodated. Children in this age group are also at significant risk, and the relatively high number indicates the need for accommodation services for this age range. These children may require not only physical safety but also support related to schooling and emotional development.

12 to 16 Years: This group has the fewest accommodated survivors, with fewer than 15 children. While still an important group, fewer teenagers seem to require accommodation compared to younger children. This could be because teenagers might seek other forms of support or be in different living arrangements (such as staying with extended family or friends).

Figure 19 Child Survivors in Refuge, Nottingham City Refuges, 2023/24



The chart illustrates the significant need for support and accommodation for younger child survivors, while teenagers represent a small but still important group. These findings suggest that services for child survivors may need to be tailored to address the specific needs of very young children, including family-focused interventions and trauma-informed care.

Disability

Prevalence by Disability

Table 23 Crime Survey for England and Wales – Year to Mar 2023 – Disability Breakdown

Disability Y/N	% All	All (NCC)	% Women	Women (NCC)	% Men	Men (NCC)
Y	10.2	5670	12.4	3970	7.0	1700
N	3.3	6861	4.0	4150	2.6	2711
No information		404		330		74
Total		12935				

The table shows the estimated prevalence for domestic abuse by disability for Nottingham City Council area. No figures were available for recorded crime.

Safe Accommodation Team – Disability Breakdown

Table 24 Disability Breakdown for referrals to Housing Solutions Safer Accommodation Team, Nottingham City, 2023/24

Disability	Number	%
No Disability	128	38%
Physical Disability	48	14%
Learning Disability	9	3%
Hearing Disability	1	0%
Visual Disability	0	0%
Mental Health Illness*	120	36%
Other Disability	0	0%
Long Term Health Problem	18	5%
Requiring Accessibility Support	10	3%
Not Stated	2	1%

This table presents the distribution of survivors by disability type, highlighting both the number of survivors and the percentage they represent within the overall group.

A significant portion of survivors (38%) report having no disability. This indicates that most survivors do not have any physical or mental disabilities that impact their daily life, although they may still face vulnerabilities related to abuse. When compared to overall disability levels in the local demographic, however, where 8% of Nottingham City population are registered disabled, the proportion of survivors who identify as disabled being referred to the Safer Accommodation Team is much higher.

Survivors with physical disabilities account for 14% of the total. This is a notable portion, reflecting the additional vulnerability that individuals with physical disabilities might face, such as mobility issues, which could make it more difficult to escape abusive situations or access services. The presence of physical disability among survivors highlights the need for accommodation and support services that can cater to survivors with mobility challenges.

Survivors with learning disabilities represent a smaller portion, at 3%. While this is a lower percentage, it still points to the unique challenges that survivors with cognitive impairments face in abusive situations, such as difficulties in understanding their rights or navigating support services.

Only 1 survivor reported a hearing disability. This extremely low representation may suggest either underreporting or a smaller prevalence of hearing disabilities among survivors of abuse. However, the need for tailored support, such as accessible communication methods, remains essential for survivors with hearing impairments.

There are no reported cases of visual disabilities among the survivors in this data set. While this could reflect a lower incidence of visual impairment among survivors, it may also indicate that individuals with visual disabilities face different barriers to accessing support or are underrepresented in the data.

A large proportion of survivors (36%) report having a mental health illness, making this the second-largest group after those without disabilities. This suggests that mental health issues are a major concern among survivors, likely exacerbated by the trauma of abuse. The high percentage highlights the critical need for mental health services and psychological support as part of survivor assistance programs.

5% of survivors report having a long-term health problem. This suggests that a notable portion of survivors also struggle with chronic health issues, which could make them more vulnerable to abuse and more reliant on long-term support and healthcare services.

A small portion of survivors (3%) require accessibility support. This group may face additional challenges in accessing services, housing, or support due to physical barriers.

Ensuring that accommodations and services are fully accessible is important for addressing the needs of these survivors.

Only 1% of survivors did not state their disability status. This suggests that the data is generally comprehensive, with most survivors providing information on their disability status.

The largest groups are survivors with no disability (38%) and those with a mental health illness (36%). This points to a dual challenge: many survivors without physical disabilities still face significant mental health challenges, while those with physical or other disabilities represent a vulnerable subset of the survivor population.

Physical disabilities (14%) are also notable, suggesting that a substantial portion of survivors face mobility or physical challenges, and their needs should be addressed by making services accessible and adaptable.

Smaller groups, like those with learning disabilities (3%) or who require accessibility support (3%), indicate the need for specialized, accessible services to cater to survivors with varying abilities.

The data shows that many survivors face mental health challenges, and many others live with physical disabilities or chronic health conditions. This underscores the importance of providing mental health support, physical accommodations, and accessible services for a diverse range of survivor needs. The presence of multiple types of disabilities highlights the necessity for holistic, inclusive survivor assistance programs.

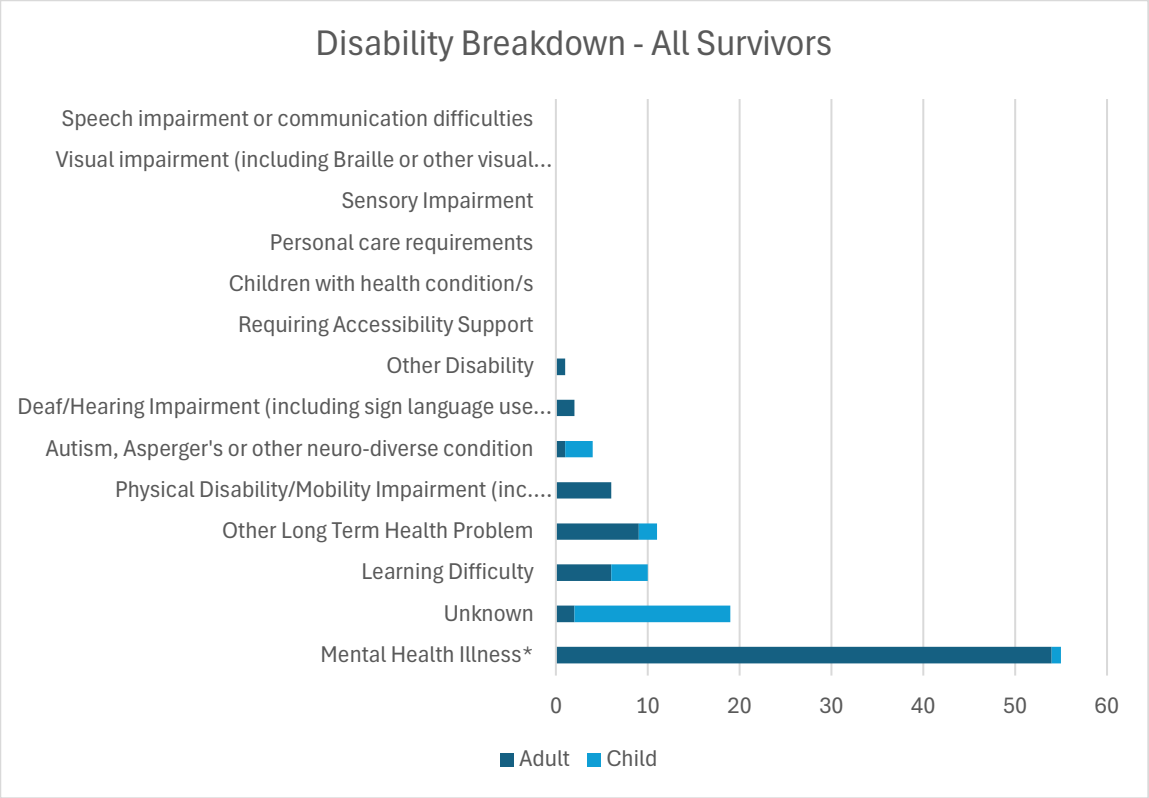
Refuge – Disability Breakdown

Table 25 General Disability Breakdown for Survivors in Nottingham City Refuges, 2023/24

Disability Y/N	All	%	Adult	%	Children	%
Y	90	57%	80	61 %	10	37 %
N	50	31 %	50	38 %	0	0 %
No information	19	12 %	2	1 %	17	63%
Total	159		132		27	

The table shows that 61% of adult survivors and 37% of child survivors accommodated in Nottingham City refuges identified as disabled.

Table 26 Type of Disability of Survivors in Refuge, Nottingham City, 2023/24



This chart shows the distribution of disabilities among both adult and child survivors across various categories. The bars represent the number of survivors who have been categorised under different types of disabilities, with dark blue representing adults and light blue representing children.

Mental Health Illness dominates the chart, with about 55 adult survivors and a similar number of child survivors identified as having a mental health illness. This finding underscores the importance of providing mental health support services as part of survivor care, given that the trauma associated with abuse often manifests in mental health struggles.

A considerable number of survivors have an unknown disability status, with about 30 adult survivors and a smaller number of child survivors, despite identifying as disabled. This indicates gaps in data collection or survivors not disclosing their disabilities. This highlights the need for improved methods to accurately assess and record the specific needs of survivors, as unrecognized disabilities can hinder access to appropriate support.

Learning Difficulty is more common among child survivors, with about 10 children identified, compared to a smaller number of adult survivors. This likely reflects the developmental stages of children and the higher likelihood of learning difficulties being identified in younger populations. Children with learning disabilities may face additional challenges in coping with trauma and accessing appropriate services.

Physical disability/mobility impairment affects a few survivors, with more adults than children represented. The fact that physical disabilities are more common among adults could reflect the cumulative effects of aging or trauma on physical health. Survivors with physical disabilities may face greater challenges in accessing refuge or accommodation services, making accessibility crucial. A moderate number of adults have long-term health problems, with about 15 adults identified, compared to fewer child survivors. These conditions may require specialized healthcare services as part of support for survivors.

Autism / Neurodiverse Conditions: Both adults and children are represented in this category, with a slightly higher number of children. Survivors with neurodiverse conditions such as autism may have unique needs, particularly in how they process trauma or engage with support services. Tailored services that accommodate neurodiversity are crucial in ensuring these survivors receive appropriate care.

Very few survivors, both adults and children, are represented in the deaf/hearing impairment category. While hearing impairments are relatively uncommon in this population, it is important that services are equipped to meet the needs of survivors with hearing disabilities, such as providing interpreters or other communication aids.

It is recognised that Nottingham City refuges have limited capacity for survivors requiring accessibility support and this is reflected in the low numbers accommodated.

The chart shows that mental health illnesses are the most common disability among survivors, with nearly equal representation between adults and children. This finding highlights the critical need for robust mental health services in support programs.

This disability breakdown underscores the need for comprehensive, accessible, and specialized services that cater to both the physical and mental health needs of survivors.

Gender and Sexual Orientation

Gender

The CSEW infers that there will be approximately 8200 female survivors of domestic abuse and 4700 male survivors of domestic abuse in Nottingham city.

Police recorded crime figures for 2023/24 indicate that 3023 survivors were female, and 1126 survivors were male, giving a gender breakdown of 73% female and 27% male survivors. This also gives an idea of reporting gaps, with 37% of female survivors reporting incidences to the Police and 24% of male survivors reporting incidences to the Police

Data collected from Public Health partners for 2023/24 suggests a rough divide of 60%:40% female to male split; when children are removed from the calculation the ratio of female to male survivors becomes 85%:15%.

Data from the Safe Accommodation Team at Housing Solutions shows that of 292 survivor referrals, 288 were female (99%), 4 identified as transgender or non-binary (1%) and none were male.

Data from Nottingham City Refuges are shown in the table below, with all adult survivors in refuge identifying as female. Of the child survivors accommodated, 43% identified as female, 56% as male and 1% identified as transgender or non-binary.

Table 27 Survivors in refuge – gender breakdown, Nottingham City, 2023/24

Survivor Gender	Adult	Child
Female	106	50
Male	0	65
Transgender	0	1
Non-Binary	0	1
Other	0	0
TOTAL	106	117

The data shows that there are gaps in the access to and provision of services for male, transgender, non-binary and Other genders.

Gender Identity

Table 28 Crime Survey for England and Wales – Year to Mar 2023 – Gender Identity Breakdown and estimate for Nottingham City

Gender Identity	% All	No NCC	% Women	No NCC	% Men	No NCC
Cisgender	4.4	10531	5.6	6799	3.1	3752
Transgender	15.1	302	-		-	

All the data collected suggests an under representation of transgender or non-binary survivors accessing domestic abuse services from partner agencies.

Sexual Orientation

Table 29 Crime Survey for England and Wales – Year to Mar 2023 – Sexual Orientation Breakdown and Nottingham City Estimates

Sexual Orientation	% All	NCC	% Women	NCC	% Men	NCC
Heterosexual/straight	4.0	9019	5.1	5750	2.9	3269
Gay/Lesbian	7.6	362	7.3	174	7.9	188
Bisexual	17.3	1167	21.9	844	8.4	323
Other	8.4	120	-		-	

Table 30 % comparisons for CSEW, Safe Accommodation Team and Refuge Data for sexuality (Adult Survivors), Nottingham City, 2023/24

Sexual Orientation	CSEW %	Safe Accom Team %	Refuge %
Heterosexual/straight	85	88	51
Gay/Lesbian	3	1	2
Bisexual	11	3	1
Other / Not stated	1	8	46

The tables suggest an underrepresentation for LGBTQ+ survivors through Safe Accommodation team referrals, and data for survivors in refuge indicate that many survivors do not wish to share this information when experiencing this situation. Barriers to reporting domestic abuse and accessing safe accommodation services for non – heterosexual survivors should be understood and identified by the partnership to improve access to these services for this demographic.

Recommendation: Understand and address the identified gaps for LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse accessing services

Marital Status

Table 31 Marital Status Breakdown for Women (CSEW), estimates for NCC area, and proportional comparisons between estimated survivor pool and those in refuge.

Marital Status	% Women CSEW	NCC Vol (Women)	% of total	% Refuge
Married/civil partnered	3.2	2296	29	27
Cohabiting	5.6	1456	18	3
Single	9.0	2189	27	45
Separated	16.0	533	7	15
Divorced/legally dissolved partnership	11.2	1274	16	10
Widowed	3.5	308	3	0

29% of survivors estimated by the CSEW/Census are married or in a civil partnership. This compares to 27% in refuge. Their representation in refuge services is almost proportional to their share of the population, which suggests that married individuals are not significantly more or less likely to seek refuge compared to the general population.

A considerable portion of the survivor population estimate (18%) is cohabiting. Cohabiting individuals are significantly underrepresented in refuge services compared to their population share. This suggests that cohabiting individuals may be less likely to seek refuge, possibly due to different social, legal, or economic factors compared to those who are married.

Single individuals make up a significant portion of the estimated survivor pool (27%). They are heavily overrepresented in refuge services, accounting for 45% of those seeking refuge, which is much higher than their 27% share of the survivor pool. This suggests that single individuals may face more circumstances that lead them to seek refuge, potentially due to financial instability, lack of social support, or increased vulnerability to certain crises.

A relatively small portion (7%) of estimated survivor pool are separated. Separated individuals are overrepresented in refuge services, with twice the percentage seeking refuge compared to their share of the general population. This suggests that separation often comes with significant challenges or risks, possibly related to domestic violence or financial instability, which may increase the likelihood of needing refuge.

16% of the survivor pool is divorced or has legally dissolved a partnership. Divorced individuals are slightly underrepresented in refuge services. While divorce can create

challenges, it may also mark the resolution of certain conflicts that reduce the likelihood of needing refuge services, compared to individuals who are separated or single.

A small portion of the population is widowed. No widowed individuals are represented in the refuge data, suggesting that widows are less likely to face the types of crises that lead individuals to seek refuge, or that their situations might differ from those typically handled by refuge services.

This data suggests that certain marital statuses, particularly being single or separated, are associated with a greater likelihood of being accommodated in refuge services, while cohabiting and divorced individuals are less likely to be. Widows appear to have little to no representation in refuge services. Understanding these patterns can help target support to the groups most at risk of needing refuge services.

Recommendation: Acknowledge differences in representation in refuge of survivors of different marital statuses and examine underlying reasons

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Housing Tenure

Table 32 CSEW breakdown for DA survivors by Housing Tenure and Nottingham City Estimates

Housing Tenure	% CSEW All	NCC	% CSEW Women	NCC	% CSEW Men	NCC
Owners	3.4	1915	4.4	1239	2.4	676
Social renters	7.0	2225	9.4	1549	4.1	676
Private renters	6.1	2177	7.0	1259	5.1	918

Table 33 % Women by Housing Tenure (NCC estimates) vs % accommodated in Nottingham City Refuges 2023/24

Housing Tenure	% Women NCC	% Refuge
Owners	31%	15%
Social renters	38%	60%
Private renters	31%	25%

Table 34 Breakdown of previous housing situation for survivors accommodated in Nottingham City Refuges 2023/24

Housing (Survivor previously resided in)	Number	%
Private/Owner Occupier	11	15%
Private Renter	19	25%
Social Housing	20	27%
Temporary accommodation: Supported housing	12	16%
Other supported housing	13	17%
TOTAL	75	100%

Social renters are overwhelmingly overrepresented in the refuge population, making up 60% of refuge seekers despite only representing 38% of the estimated survivor pool. A further breakdown of housing types pre-accommodation in refuge also highlights a large proportion of survivors moving into refuge from supported housing.

Homeowners are significantly underrepresented in refuge services. While 31% of women in the estimated survivor pool own homes, only 15% of those seeking refuge are homeowners. The understanding surrounding the low representation is the lack of service available in many cases to survivors who own their homes, either individually or jointly with the perpetrator.

Private renters are somewhat proportionally represented in refuge services, though slightly underrepresented. While 31% of the general population consists of private

renters, 25% of women in refuge fall into this category. This suggests that private renters are less likely than social renters to be accommodated in refuge.

The data reflects the information provided through the Nottingham Survivor Engagement Project, which highlights the lack of capacity of refuge services determining that the limited available space leads to accommodation only of those survivors who are determined to have the highest need. This results in survivors having to be close to destitution before they can access some services, thereby excluding many survivors who have their own homes or joint ownership, shared tenancies, full employment etcetera. The need for other services alongside refuge to help survivors who fall into these categories is also highlighted in the Survivor Engagement project,

Household Structure

Table 35 CSEW figures and Nottingham City Estimates for DA survivors based on Household Structure

Household Structure	% All	NCC	% Women	NCC	% Total Women (NCC)	% Men	NCC
Single person with child(ren) under 16	18.6	2130	17.3	830	25%	26.9	1300
Persons with child(ren) under 16	3.7	881	4.9	581	17%	2.5	300
Person(s) and no child(ren)	4.2	3080	5.2	1910	58%	3.2	1170

Table 36 Survivors accommodated in Nottingham City Refuges by Household Structure, 2023/24

Household structure	Accommodated	%	% NCC Estimate
No Children	31	26%	58%
Pregnant	2	2%	-
1 child household	18	15%	42%
2 child household	22	19%	
3+ child household	8	7%	
Children - unspecified	36	31%	
TOTAL	117	100%	100%

The data shows that households with children, particularly those with an unspecified number of children, are more likely to be accommodated in refuge services, while households without children are less likely to be accommodated. Unfortunately, the data is not of sufficient quality to draw any information around family size and accommodation, as the largest category within the refuge accommodation data does not specify this. The data does however suggest that survivors without children are less likely

to be accommodated in refuge, most likely due to being assessed as having a lesser priority of need when only limited capacity is available.

The number of children involved with survivors passing through MARAC is 350-500 per quarter and the number of Op Encompass Referrals is circa 450 per quarter. An assessment of capacity in available support services for children if and when needed in context of these volumes would be useful.

Employment Status

Table 37 CSEW values and Nottingham City Estimates for survivors of DA by employment status and comparison with data from Nottingham City Refuges, 2023-24

Employment Status	% All	NCC	% Women	NCC	% of Total Women	% Refuge
In employment	4.6	6050	6.0	3995	35%	6%
Unemployed	5.2	738	5.3	345	3%	-
Economically inactive	4.1	4939	5.1	3416	30%	71%
Student	2.5	1160	2.4	572	6%	5%
Looking after family/home	8.5	1205	7.9	915	8%	0%
Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	11.7	1644	15.4	1173	11%	8%
Retired	2.3	826	3.1	603	5%	
Other inactive / unknown	7.4	794	5.8	262	2%	10%
IF EMPLOYED:						
Managerial and professional occupations	3.7	1260	4.9	804	22%	
Intermediate occupations	4.7	2106	5.9	1354	36%	
Routine and manual occupations	5.5	2567	6.8	1559	42%	

The table shows that only 6% of those survivors accommodated in refuge had paid employment, compared to 35% of the estimated survivor pool. 71% of those survivors accommodated in refuge were unemployed or economically inactive, compared to 33% of the estimated survivor pool.

This infers that again, as for household structure, due to limited capacity in refuge services there will be places allocated on priority of need and that those survivors in employment are unlikely to be accommodated, thereby forcing survivors into possible destitution before help through refuge service provision can be offered.

Data for domestic abuse suffered by survivors who are students, and the estimated survivor pool are consistent, indicating that there may be pathways for student survivors to access services where needed.

The limited numbers identified as having long term health problems does not tally with the information in previous sections, and health issue reporting may well be masked by the large percentage reporting as other / unknown.

Survivor Voice

As part of the Safer Accommodation Strategy 2021-24, in 2023, a consultation project was launched, engaging with both survivors and teams working directly with those impacted by domestic abuse. Given the current housing challenges in Nottingham and the upcoming renewal of the Safer Accommodation Strategy in 2024, the consultation's focus was on improving housing services for domestic abuse survivors in the city. The project was undertaken on behalf of the CSP by Juno Women's aid and Nottingham City Council, co-ordinated and written by an independent freelance consultant. The findings and recommendations of the project are detailed below.

The project aimed to answer the question

"*How can Nottingham Improve the Housing Services Experience of Domestic Abuse Survivors?"*.

The research was conducted using semi, structured open questions around issues, barriers and challenges, long/short term temporary accommodation options and housing services.

23 staff focus groups were consulted, comprising 95 participants from specialist Domestic Violence organisations, community organisations, temporary accommodation and refuge providers, and Nottingham City Council Housing Solutions and Tenancy and Estates management staff.

29 one to one interviews with survivors were also conducted, face to face, online or via telephone.

Overview of Findings

Survivors of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) reported mixed experiences with support services. There were several examples of best practices from specialist DVA and community organizations. Positive experiences were consistently characterized by:

- A trauma-informed approach.
- Demonstrations of compassion and empathy.
- Timely and consistent support, with clear guidance and pathways.
- Flexibility, offering survivors well-explained options and choices.

However, while there were some areas of good practice within Nottingham City's housing services, negative experiences were frequently reported, which had damaging and re-traumatizing effects. These issues were primarily related to:

- The lack of long-term accommodation.
- Limited availability of specialized DVA housing and the inadequate variety of temporary accommodation.
- A poor professional understanding of DVA and trauma among housing staff.
- The way in which housing services engaged with survivors.
- How housing service processes were carried out, often leading to frustration.

In some cases, survivors reported having no housing options, leaving them with no choice but to remain with or return to their perpetrators, which underscored the need for improved housing solutions.

Threats to the Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

The housing report highlighted the following threats to achieving a co-ordinated community response:

- Lack of service capacity, availability and longevity
- Lack of knowledge of DVA and trauma informed approaches from staff
- Declining partnership working
- Lack of understanding of systems and services
- Lack of community DVA awareness

A key point was that rehousing perpetrators and supporting survivors to remain at home

is not an effective option due to

- • Legal protective measures not being widely used or enforced.
- • The sanctuary scheme not providing a consistent safety intervention.

- • Few options for rehousing perpetrators

Barriers and Challenges for Survivors

Barriers were found to exist for:

- Black and minoritised survivors
- Immigrant survivors and those with English as a Second Language (ESL).
- Survivors with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- Survivors facing severe multiple disadvantage (SMD) or complex needs
- Male survivors
- LGBTQ+ survivors
- Younger survivors
- Older survivors
- Survivors with a disability

No Recourse to Public Funds

Survivors with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) were found to face some of the biggest challenges to finding safe, secure accommodation, as they have few housing options until their immigration needs are addressed. Those with no income or benefits stay with family/friends, sleep rough or return to their perpetrator.

Those survivors with children can access Children's Social Care but face extreme poverty in doing so. Working survivors must stay with friends/family, try to find rented accommodation or return to the perpetrator. DVA specialist services are funding housing for survivors with NRPF to protect the most vulnerable survivors.

Survivors facing severe multiple disadvantage (SMD) or complex needs

Survivors facing SMD or with complex needs are highly disadvantaged in accessing housing that will support their safety, with

- A lack of suitable specialist DVA accommodation.
- Temporary accommodation that is not appropriate for their needs.
- No long-term housing options.

Survivors with SMD are therefore remaining with perpetrators, cycling through short-term housing options, sleeping rough and forming protective but abusive relationships, engaging in survival sex work and moving in and around communities of substance use, crime and violence.

Due to these circumstances, survivors are experiencing repeated traumatic events and are losing all hope that there is support for them and are disengaging from services.

Lack of options for survivors in specific housing circumstances

For survivors in a joint tenancy, with joint home ownership or in private rented accommodation there are few options available to facilitate an end to the difficulties presented.

Accommodation Options and Housing Services

Long Term Housing Options

There is a lack of both social housing and private rented accommodation across Nottingham, leading to associated impacts of long stays in temporary accommodation, moving out of the city or returning to perpetrators.

Temporary Accommodation Options

There are not enough supported options/models available for survivors. Survivors reported mixed experiences of the accommodation available. Refuges were seen as hugely beneficial. Also considered positive were longer term hostel or temporary accommodation such as

- Families' hostels
- Rehabilitation (drugs and alcohol)
- Teen Parents Service

Those considered inappropriate and potentially damaging were

- Hotels
- CIC supported accommodation
- Direct access accommodation

Refuge

The refuge model is still very well reviewed by survivors and services. Positive experiences included:

- Referring directly to refuge
- Strong security and staff presence
- Knowledgeable, supportive, empathetic staff
- Self-contained units
- Support around housing, benefits, immigration, DVA, confidence
- Peer support

However, there are not enough refuge places nationally or locally to meet demand.

For many survivors' refuge is not an option as they are:

- Not actively fleeing or do not need the level of security and support
- Actively using substances
- Challenging in behaviour or lifestyle choices, SMD/complex needs
- Remaining in Nottingham for networks of support
- Working full time
- NRPF

Hotels

Hotels are considered inappropriate and damaging for survivors, but can be the only option for some e.g., those working.

Issues include

- No DVA staffing support – isolation of survivors following fleeing
- Poor security physically and from others in the building
- Poor conditions
- Small room sizes with no cooking or washing facilities
- Lack of culturally appropriate food
- Nowhere to store belongings
- Isolated locations away from transport and amenities

Hotel booking can be daily initially with survivors moving up to 3 times a week in and out of the hotel. Survivors must check out in the morning and are not told of the next

placement until late in the day. The physical, emotional and financial resources required to keep moving is extremely high. Mental health impact for survivors is huge

with little choice or control over their situation.

The Helix Project

The Helix Project was provided during COVID by Emmanuel House and Juno WA. It was widely considered hugely beneficial as an alternative to refuge. The reasons for the successful reviews from the engagement project towards the Helix Project were:

- High security and anonymous address
- Staff trained in SMD and DVA specialist support
- Direct access – not through Housing Solutions
- Less criteria - can access with a history of DVA as well as fleeing
- More flexible rules around substances and being in project
- Stable place for the most vulnerable to breath and recuperate
- Small well-appointed building with 6 self-contained units

Shared Accommodation

Consistently reported by survivors and services to be incredibly difficult to manage following abuse due to:

- Triggering and retraumatising environments or behaviours, exacerbating mental health issues.
- Tension due to differing parenting and lifestyle choices, standards of living, culture, faiths and beliefs
- Difficulties maintaining security

Working Full Time

Working survivors have no affordable specialist temporary accommodation. They can only be offered hotels by the local authority.

Housing Solutions

The majority of survivors that had presented (15 of 22) stated they had a very negative experience. • 2 said they had a mixed experience and • 5 said they had a positive experience.

Services universally fed back negative examples of engagement. There is a lack of a trauma informed approach with issues focused on

- Environment and culture
- Initial contact and assessment
- Decision making
- Ongoing contact
- Communication
- No explanations of options and pathways

Survivors and services felt it would be difficult to engage without advocacy and support. Services feel survivors are leaving with no support offered and returning to perpetrators.

Sanctuary Scheme

Within the current housing situation, it will become increasingly important. It is not currently providing an effective safety intervention. This is due to:

- Long delays in application processing
- Little communication or response
- Long timescales for security to be implemented
- Narrow range of security provided

Nottingham Private Rented Assistance Scheme (NPRAS)

Seen positively by Services and survivors but not currently effective due to

- Little accommodation available within local housing allowance or
- low incomes
- Landlords discriminating towards survivors

Looking for private rented accommodation as part of personal housing plans is time consuming and demoralising for survivors who have little hope of getting a property.

Safer Accommodation Team (SAT)

New in 2021 - Partnership team of 6 provided by Juno WA and Equation based at Housing Solutions. The team provide all identified survivors with support at the time of presenting at Housing Solutions. 13 survivors had received support from SAT. All fed back a trauma

informed, knowledgeable, empathetic and compassionate response from the specialist team.

Current pressures involve high and increasing caseloads, increasing complexity of cases, and a lack of solutions for survivors with NRPF and complex needs, which take up time and resource with few outcomes.

HomeLink

Survivor experiences of HomeLink are mixed with poor experiences linked to

- Application processes delays and little support offered.
- Poor communication and no updates.
- Inconsistent and inflexible decision making.
- Key inequalities limiting some survivors access to social housing.

Feedback suggests survivors have a poorer quality of housing response in comparison to alternative local authorities.

Nottingham City Council – Tenancy and Estates Management (TEM)

There is an inconsistent response from Housing Patch Managers (HPM) when working with survivors, with some excellent HPM responses and intervention, and some very poor.

Current challenges for both HPM and services include:

- Lack of a coordinated centralised approach within NCC – TEM.
- The historic Daisy Project was widely praised.
- HPM are increasingly inaccessible
- Lack of understanding of what NCC – TEM can do for survivors
- Decant properties, management recommendations, mutual exchanges and reciprocal moves between authorities are not viable as safety interventions.

Survivors are having to experience escalations in abuse to high risk before accessing these options. HPM are increasingly worried about domestic homicide.

Recommendations from the Survivor Engagement Project Housing Report

All Services and CCR partners to

- Review, improve and embed:
    - Trauma informed approaches in environments, cultures and responses.
    - Current team DVA knowledge.
    - How risk is measured and rules implemented.
- Improve communication.
- Reduce team isolation.
- Improve cultural competence and combat inequalities.
- Enhance accessibility and minimise barriers to all.
- Provide information and training on housing, immigration, benefits, DVA organisations.
- Provide named DVA specialist link workers.

Housing Services to

- Maximise funding for:
    - Long-term housing.
    - A wider range of DVA temporary housing options and models (including refuge).
    - More bedspaces in refuge or temporary DVA housing.
    - The Sanctuary Scheme and NPRAS.
- Develop a shared approach to:
    - Rehousing perpetrators.
    - Housing survivors with SMD/complex needs.
    - Assessing risk.
    - Survivors with joint tenancies, home ownership and private rented tenancies.
- Develop a Housing First Model for DVA survivors.
- Stop the use of hotels for DVA survivors.
- Review management recommendation and decant processes.

DVSA Sector/Commissioning

- Develop a more coordinated charitable response to survivors with NRPF.
    - Increase capacity and longevity of DVA services including

- Specialist and culturally specific roles and organisations.
- Safer Accommodation Team (to meet demand and complexity of cases),
- Community, therapeutic, Court IDVA Team.

• Enhance DVA campaigning and awareness raising.

• Increase accessibility of all DVA specialist services.

• Review MARAC