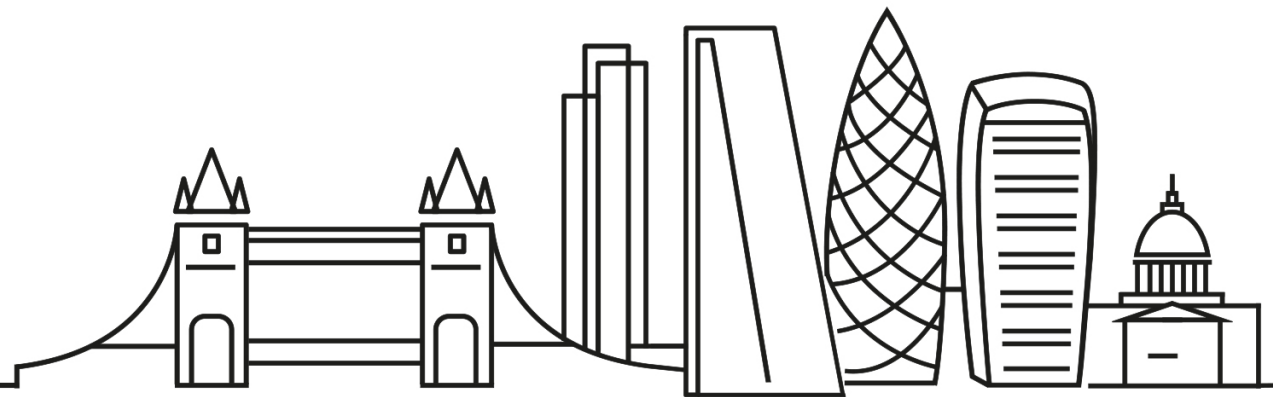


DEEP DIVE : How effectively is City of London Police supporting victims, including through the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on domestic abuse?

Directorate: Specialist Operations – DCS Mandy Horsburgh



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Executive Summary

City of London Police take a holistic approach to the support of victims of all domestic abuse across all aspects of prevent, pursue and protect services in conjunction with both statutory and non-statutory partners. Incidents of domestic abuse are investigated by specialist officers providing a bespoke response to all victims and enabling an offender focussed approach. This has resulted in achieving high conviction rates for victims and are consistently above the national average demonstrating the commitment to delivering and excellent services to victims of domestic abuse. This includes being amongst the highest forces nationally for evidence led prosecutions when victims do not feel ready to support prosecution and whereby City of London Police gather and utilise all other available evidence to achieve a successful outcome at court. This has been possible due to an excellent relationship with local CPS and courts in relation to the joined up approach and focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for victims and supporting them through the criminal justice systems by maximising joint training, learning and scrutiny opportunities.

The support for victims is also facilitated through effective use of ancillary orders and powers so that every opportunity is taken to provide support and safeguarding opportunities for the victims of domestic abuse. There will be a focus over the coming 12 months to increase the use of Claire's Law across policing and wider partnerships. This will be tracked and supported through the Strategic Vulnerability Board that oversees effective management of the vulnerability and City of London's response to domestic abuse and supporting victims.

Effective management of risk and multi agency support for victims is provided through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference framework - allowing professionals and partners to come together to mitigate the risk and support individuals according to their needs. This sees a high engagement rate from victims whereby their risk can be managed more effectively.

Amplifying the voice of the victim is key to developing understanding on how we can provide support going forward for victims of domestic abuse both within and outside the criminal justice system. This will further enabled by identifying best practice and understanding where innovation and creativity can contribute to providing a quality service for victims.



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Glossary

- **DA** – Domestic Abuse
- **PPU** – Public Protection Unit – specialist teams delivering bespoke response to domestic abuse, sexual offences and child abuse within the City of London
- **MARAC** - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) Provision – Muti Agency response to supporting and managing risk to victims of domestic abuse.
- **PPN** – Public Protection Notice outlining risks to children and adults for onward referrals to local authority
- **DARA** – Domestic abuse risk assessment tool – used to assess risks to victims of domestic abuse.
- **VVA** – Vulnerable Victim Advocate – specialist victim support for vulnerable victims
- **IDVA** – Independent Domestic abuse advisor - Can speak on behalf of victims at MARAC and provide support during court proceedings were necessary.
- **JOIM** - London South Joint Operational Improvement Meeting – CPS and police practitioners improvement group.
- **JIB** – Joint Improvement Board – City of London Strategic CPS and Police Leaders Improvement Group



How effectively is City of London Police supporting victims, including through the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on domestic abuse?

1. Overview

2. Oversight of service provision to victims of Domestic Abuse on the City of London

3. Our Victim Profile - DA Threat Picture , victimology, threat and opportunities

4. How many victims within City of London? - DA Offending Rates and Risk grading for victims.

5. How are we delivering positive outcomes for victims? - DA Outcome Rates & Working with Criminal Justice Partners

6 Supporting Victims through effective partnership response- . Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) Provision

7. Supporting victims - Domestic Abuse Prevention Work and Victim Support

8. Reducing offending and protecting victims - Ancillary Orders and Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Claire's Law)

9. Conclusion

1. Overview

The definition of domestic violence and abuse is: any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes honour-based violence and abuse (HBV), female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. Domestic abuse can give rise to a wide range of separate criminal offences, including the specific offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship.

From the National Centre for Domestic Violence data 1 in 5 adults experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, with a ratio of 2 females to every male victim. The crime type is significantly under reported with less than 24% being reported to police. On average there will have been 35 incidents before the police are called. The link between DA is well proven and leads to on average two women being murdered a week and 30 men a year. This requires a bespoke and focussed approach on victims and requires police to understand the complex needs of victims of domestic abuse so that effective safeguarding and pursuance of offenders can be achieved. Seemingly low-level or minor events which may in fact amount to a pattern of behaviour or a course of conduct indicative of stalking or harassment may be misinterpreted as non-crime incidents but to do so has potentially serious consequences. If an incident fits the definition of domestic abuse, it must be recorded as a domestic abuse incident and full support provided to the victim/s by policing and all statutory and non- statutory partners.

Officers and staff must deal with every incident of domestic abuse, including controlling or coercive behaviour, in a professional way. The police duty is to take reasonable steps to make the victim safer, regardless of how many times they have been called and regardless of how many times a victim may have not supported police actions. This requires multi-faceted response to supporting victims of domestic abuse and reducing opportunities for offending and re-offending.

This paper will outline the current way on which victims of domestic abuse are supported across the City of London including how victims are supported through the criminal justice system. In doing so it will explore the current profile of victimology, drivers for domestic abuse and mechanisms in place for reducing offending to provide a holistic assessment of the support offered to victims in the square mile.



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2. Oversight of service provision to victims of Domestic Abuse on the City of London

Detective Chief Superintendent Specialist Operations and the Detective Chief Inspector Public Protection Unit (PPU) have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that all investigations into domestic abuse are conducted effectively and diligently alongside working with partners to ensure sufficient resources are in place to manage initial and ongoing safeguarding. In doing so they support the victims of domestic abuse in the following ways :

Support and resource the investigation of domestic abuse.

Ensure effective investigation and supervision of domestic abuse.

Ensure that there is training for all staff around these issues within the respective Directorate.

Implementing of performance measures for the PPU.

Ensuring best value in the use of resources.

Developing crime reduction strategies in consultation with outside agencies.

Creating effective structures linking Safer City Partners.

Systems are in place to identify trends in crime patterns and repeat victimisation.

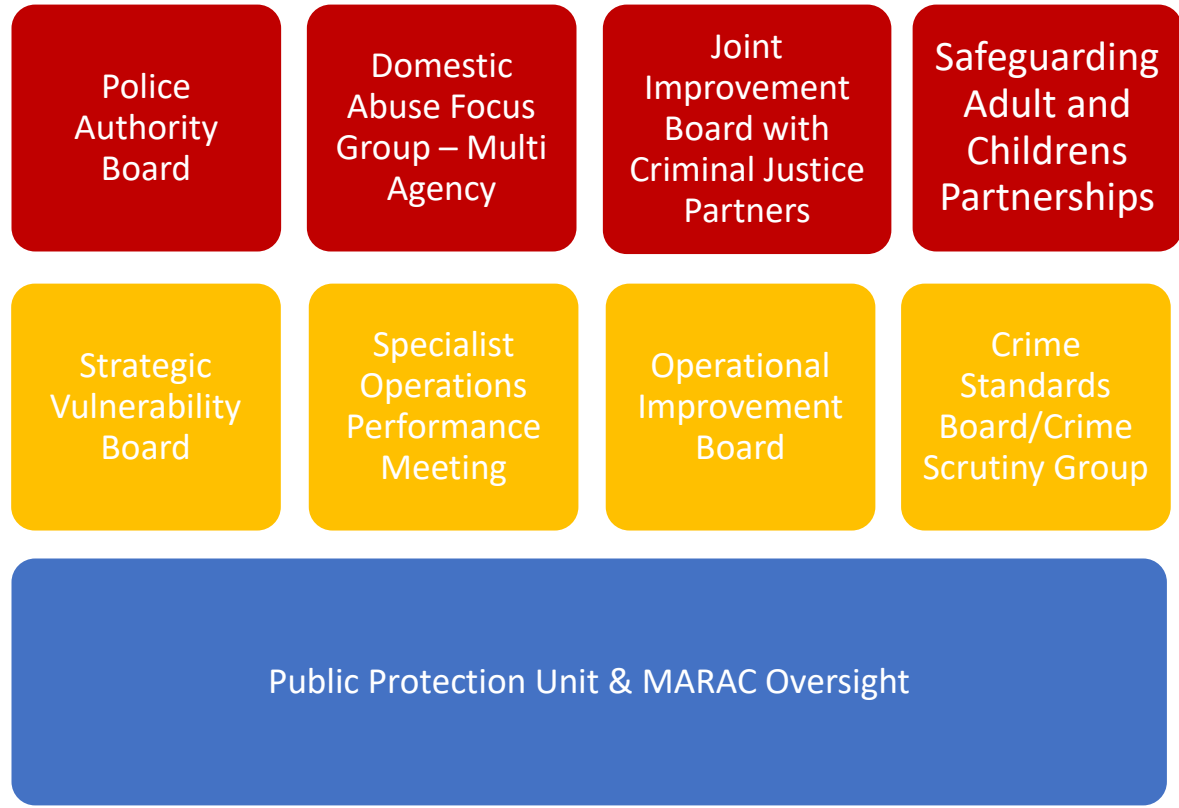
That the Force is informed of incidents, which are potentially critical.

The CoLP is unique in that Monday to Friday all domestic abuse is investigated by specialist officers, with CID providing out of hours cover. From 20/05/24 this specialist cover will be extended across 7 days to help better support our victims of domestic abuse.



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2. Oversight of service provision to victims of Domestic Abuse on the City of London – Scrutiny and Oversight



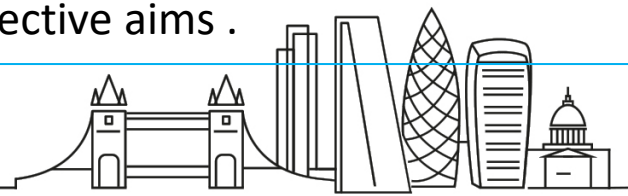
- External Governance & Scrutiny
- Internal Governance & Scrutiny

Effective scrutiny and oversight is provided at both internal and external level. This is to ensure that across the whole system there is a collective effort in delivery of :

- Effective Investigations of domestic abuse
- Providing quality service to victims of domestic abuse
- Ensuring positive outcomes for victims domestic abuse

This allows partners to set clear areas of accountability and success measures in line with the above.

Illustration to the left demonstrates the multi disciplined effort in delivery of our collective aims .



3. Our Victim Profile - DA Threat Picture

- 178 Domestic Abuse (DA) Crime reports created between 23rd April 2023 – 22nd April 2024.
- 73.6% of reports were *intimate DA, with the majority taking place between partners and spouses.
- 80.3% of reports were Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences, with the most common offence type being assault without injury.
- Offences are spread evenly across both sectors within the square mile however clusters of high volume were; Liverpool Street, Fenchurch Street and Barbican. 63.1% of offences had a public place marker.
- Peak times for offences to be committed were the early hours (00:00 – 05:59) of Sunday mornings, however evenings (18:00 – 23:59) Wednesday – Sunday see consistent levels.
- 67.0% of victims were female with peak ages being between 20 – 39 years old. Male victims accounted for 31.3% of victims with peak ages being having a wider range, between 20 – 49 years old. 43.6% of victims had an ethnicity defined as 'White – North European'.
- 70.6% of suspects were male, with the peak age being between 20 – 39 years old.
- 21.2% of suspects have 'Arrested' in the Person Classification.
- 15.7% of investigations have been finalised with a positive outcome. Half of investigations have been filed as Outcome 16 – Victim Withdraws.

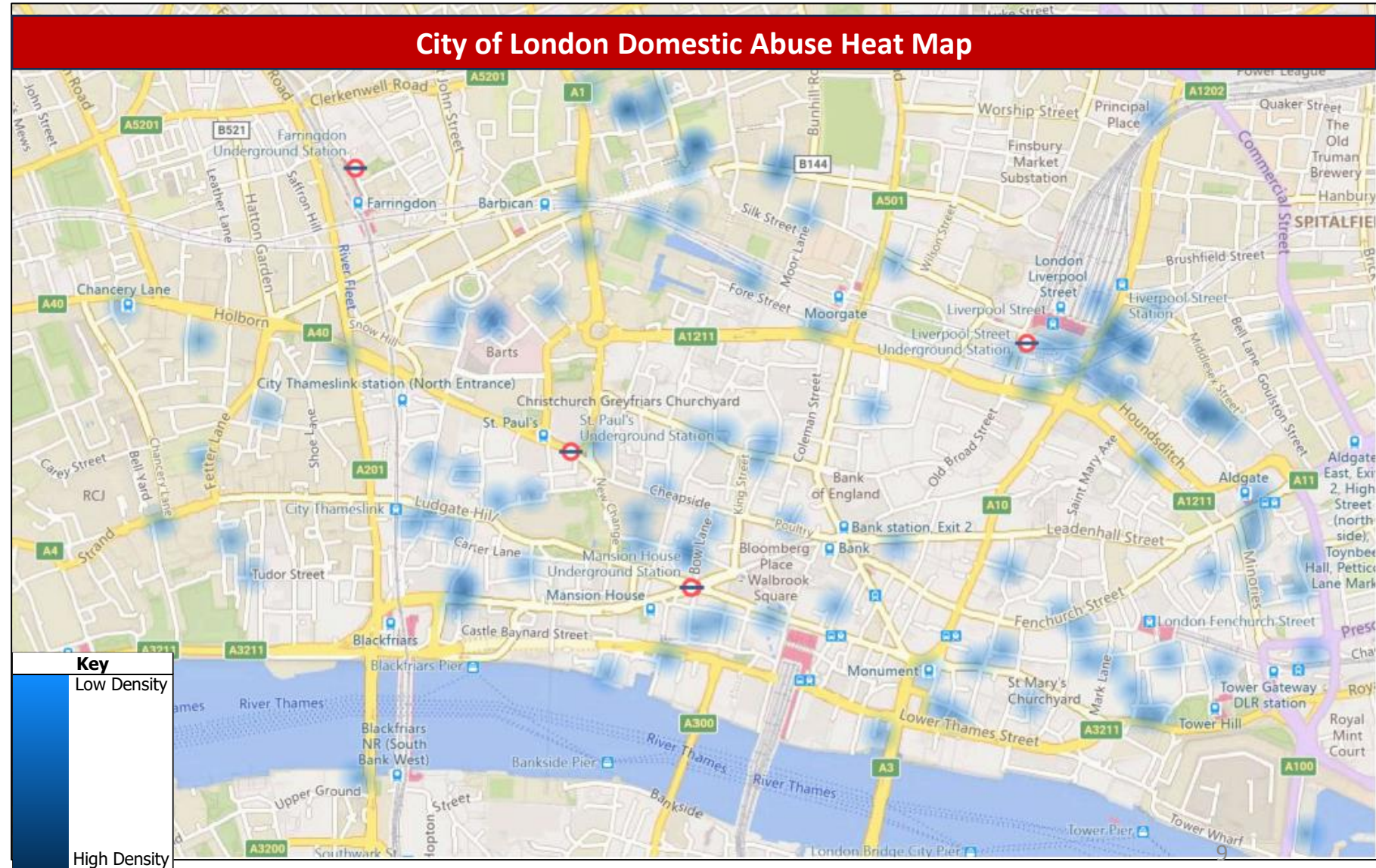
* Intimate DA is described as individuals who have formed an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm in that relationship

3. Our Victim Profile - DA Threat Picture

Sector/Cluster	Count of Crime
EAST	78
FENCHURCH STREET	33
LIVERPOOL STREET	33
MONUMENT	12
WEST	77
BARBICAN	33
FLEET STREET	25
BANK	19
(blank)	23
OUT OF FORCE	14
(blank)	9
Grand Total	178

- 63.1% of crimes were reported to have taken place in a public place.
- Equal levels seen across both East and West sectors.
- In the East sector offences were concentrated around Fenchurch street and Liverpool street clusters.
 - Liverpool street cluster top location was Bishopsgate.
 - Fenchurch street top location was Mansell Street (all located at Guinness Court)
- In West sector, Barbican cluster recorded highest volumes. The top location was Golden Lane Estate.

This is a unique issue to CoL whereby a large majority of DA takes place in public the largest driver of this appears to be the growing night time economy and low residential population.



3. Our Victim Profile - DA Threat Picture

- Temporal analysis shows that DA offences remain relatively consistent between Monday - Friday, with an increase in the weekend, specifically in the early hours of Sunday.
- When excluding the peak in the early hours of Sunday, the evenings (between 18:00 – 23:59) Wednesday – Sunday see the most consistent committed times.

**This is based on the mid date point between the start and end date recorded on Niche and excludes historic offences.*

DA Occurrence Committed Mid Point Temporal Analysis					
Day/Hour	00:00 - 05:59	06:00 - 11:59	12:00 - 17:59	18:00 - 23:59	Grand Total
Monday	8	3	4	2	17
Tuesday	4	1	6	7	18
Wednesday	5	2	5	11	23
Thursday	3	0	7	11	21
Friday	5	1	4	9	19
Saturday	7	6	9	8	30
Sunday	23	5	5	12	45
Grand Total	55	18	40	60	178

3. Our Victim Profile – Victimology

Understanding victim profile allows us to better set out bespoke support and response for victims of domestic abuse in terms of safeguarding and ongoing journey through criminal justice system. It also allows City of London Police to assess where best preventative measures should be focussed.

The Breakdown of victim profile for City of London for 12 month YTD :

- 67.0% of victims were female, with 72.5% of female victims being aged between 20 – 39 years old.
- 31.3% of victims were male, with 67.9% of victims being aged between 20 – 49 years old.
- Three reports have an unknown/blank gender, however all victims had an age.
- 43.6% of victims were White – North European.
- 20.7% of victims have an ‘unknown’/blank ethnicity.
- 14 victims have had more than one crime report in the last 12-month period and considered as repeat victims and would therefore attract enhanced safeguarding provision through Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference provision (MARAC)

3. Our Victim Profile - Horizon Scanning DA Future Threat & Opportunity

Destination City

This ongoing initiative to increase NTE and make the square mile a 7-day-a-week destination for leisure is a long-term plan. Redeveloping areas across the City of London includes restoration or opening of new pubs, in more prominent locations. Increased NTE will inevitably bring additional challenges and an increased risk of crimes, such as VAWG and sexual assaults. Alcohol and drug culture can enable domestic abuse. This provides an opportunity to influence future prevention provision and focus across policing the NTE.

Residential Areas

Housing trajectory for the City shows 146 units per financial year until 2026. If this is increased housing we may see an increased in DA reports.

Renters Reform Bill

Renters reform bill seeks to end Section 21 'no-fault' evictions and establish a 'Decent Homes Standard' for private renters. The bill addresses ASB by implementing a two-week notice period for evictions in these instances. However, this measure may inadvertently put victims of DA at risk, as signs of abuse could be misconstrued as ASB, leading to additional harm and distress. Moreover, the short notice periods for evictions increase the likelihood of homelessness for vulnerable individuals affected by domestic abuse.

[Victims of domestic violence and abuse could face greater risk of homelessness under evictions system change - Policing Insight](#)

Justice for Domestic Abuse Suicide Victims

The policing lead for domestic abuse called for perpetrators to be charged with manslaughter if their victim takes their own life. Reducing the number of prosecutions being downgraded or abusers walking free and ensuring that perpetrators face the consequences of their actions.

['She would still be here': sister's grief as top cop urges manslaughter charges when... - LBC](#)

Following public consultation, the government re-named the Domestic Homicide Review to the Domestic Abuse Related Death Review, to better recognise deaths from domestic abuse related suicides. The alteration of the review means that any (previously) Domestic Homicide Review can be commissioned whenever there is a death that has, or appear to have, resulted from domestic abuse. The abuse is not limited to physical; it also extends to controlling and coercive behaviours and economic abuse.

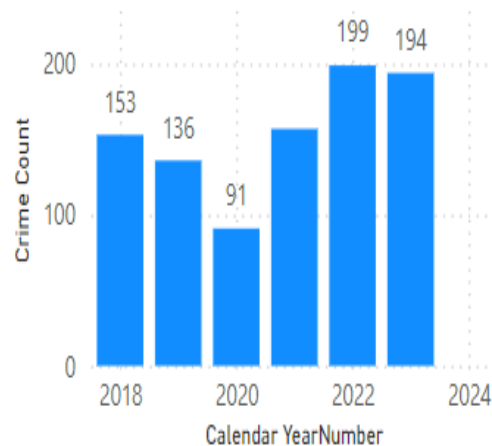
[Fatal domestic abuse reviews renamed to better recognise suicide cases - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



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4. How many victims within City of London? - Domestic Abuse Reports by Risk Grading

Crime Count by Calendar Year Number



Is Domestic

Y

930

Crime Count

Domestic Risk Level	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
High	26	13	18	23	14	31	125
Medium	25	25	16	28	54	52	200
No Risk	26	39	23	35	22	32	177
Standard	76	59	34	71	109	79	428
Total	153	136	91	157	199	194	930

Domestic Risk Level	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
High	17.0%	9.6%	19.8%	14.6%	7.0%	16.0%	13.4%
Medium	16.3%	18.4%	17.6%	17.8%	27.1%	26.8%	21.5%
No Risk	17.0%	28.7%	25.3%	22.3%	11.1%	16.5%	19.0%
Standard	49.7%	43.4%	37.4%	45.2%	54.8%	40.7%	46.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

PPN DASH Form Attached Y/N	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
N	24	31	12	20	47	63	197
Y	89	57	53	86	113	95	493
Total	153	136	91	157	199	194	930

Risk Gradings

Risk is captured and assessed through use of Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) This is completed for each victim. Each incident of domestic abuse is graded in terms of High, Medium and Standard Risk – this seeks to inform any key areas of risk for each victim posed by their circumstances and risk posed by the offender. From this it then assist with the assessment of support and intervention needed to mitigate the risk to the victim. For each DARA a public protection notice (PPN) is also completed for each victim. Whilst demand is increasing, we are not seeing any significant change in ‘risk’ gradings. The ‘No Risk’ grading can be attributed to incidents of domestic abuse where a call may be received but no victim identified following police response.



5. How are we delivering positive outcomes for victims? - DA Outcome Rates

For the 2023 calendar year, the percentage of domestic abuse cases that resulted in a Charge/Summons outcome was 10.31%. This means that a positive outcome was achieved for the victim with a suspect charged or summons to court. With an additional 4.12% resolved with a positive out of court resolution which means the offender was subject to a police caution . However, this is likely to rise and exceed previous year performance levels, given that 18.04% of cases from 2023 are still actively being investigated and means they are currently awaiting assessment with crown prosecution service to understand if charges will be made. This outcome rate currently sits above national averages.

The greatest proportion of case are resolved with ‘evidential difficulties, victim does not support police action’. This was 52.03% for 2023 which is lower than the previous 4 years. This is likely to reflect an increased drive for Evidence Led Prosecutions both within COLP and CPS, alongside improved recording of rationale and greater scrutiny of this outcome code and should be seen as a positive. Evidence led prosecutions means that Police can prosecute an offender without full cooperation of the victim and provides extra degree of surety with regards seeking to reduce reoffending and pursue perpetrators of domestic abuse where evidence outside of testimony of the victim exists. Currently City of London Police are recognised nationally for being leaders in delivering positive outcomes of this type for victims .

%CT Crime Count

BY CALENDAR YEAR, NUMBER, OUTCOME DESC

Outcome Desc	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Action undertaken by another body/agency charged and or summonsed	3.27%	2.94%	1.10%	2.55%	0.50%	2.06%	2.04%
Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action						0.52%	0.11%
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	18.95%	13.97%	9.89%	7.01%	16.08%	6.70%	12.15%
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	49.02%	55.15%	61.54%	61.78%	53.77%	51.03%	54.73%
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision)	0.65%		1.10%			1.03%	0.43%
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	1.31%	2.94%	3.30%	1.27%	1.01%	5.67%	2.58%
Offences not yet assigned an outcome				1.27%	1.51%	18.04%	4.30%
Out-of-court (formal)	7.84%	5.88%	5.49%	2.55%	4.02%	4.12%	4.84%
Out-of-court (informal)	1.31%				0.50%		0.32%
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	1.31%	5.15%	2.20%	5.10%	7.04%	0.52%	3.66%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%



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5. How are we delivering positive outcomes for victims? - DA Success at court

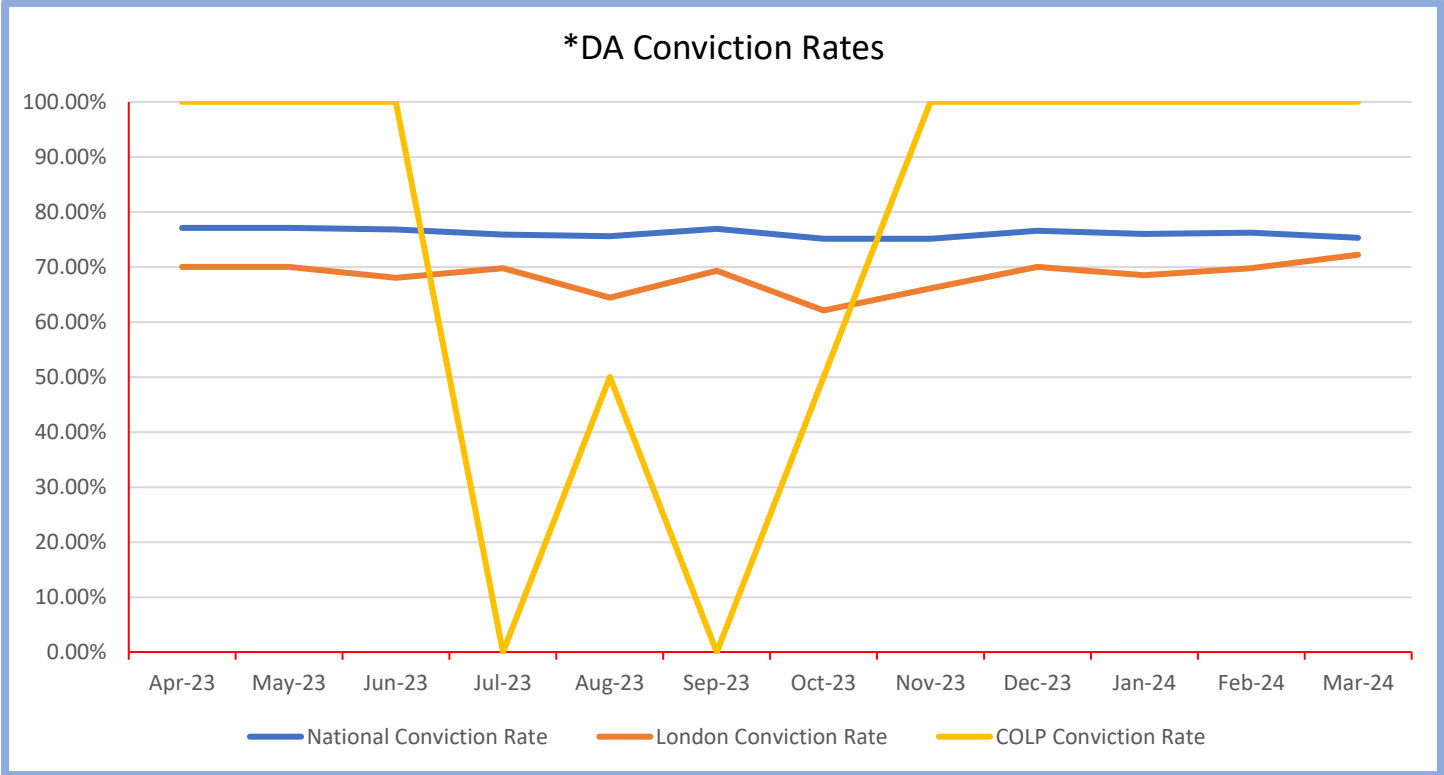
These relate to outcomes following charge and positive outcome for victims at court – i.e. Guilty Finding

COLP continues to maintain a higher than average conviction rate – testament to our focus on evidence gathering, supporting the victim and drive to increase evidence led prosecutions (ELP). ELP are considered in every COLP case and opportunities are documented prior to all case closures.

Currently, specific ELP data is not available for COLP or London, however this is a metric that is being developed by the Domestic Abuse Courts Focus Group

CoLP, over the last 12 months, has regularly achieved 100% conviction rate for DA cases. The rate fluctuates due to our low number of cases at court per months (continuously under 5) so 1 non-conviction can have a huge impact on the rate.

Of note, March 2024 saw 5 cases finalised and a 100% conviction rate which is the highest over the past 12 months. CoLP tracks above London and national averages for conviction rates at court providing an excellent service to victims by securing consistent criminal justice outcomes.



*For noting : Above data is YTD



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5. How are we delivering positive outcomes for victims? - Working with Crown Prosecution service

COLP have well developed Domestic Abuse partnerships across the Criminal Justice System.

COLP forms part of the **London South DA Focus Group** which meets bi-monthly to discuss performance data, cracked and ineffective cases and consider best practice and joint training opportunities.

The **Courts DA Steering Group**, including CPS, MPS, victim support services and courts considers partnership working and driving improvements for victims across the CJ system.

COLP has a **dedicated Domestic Abuse Court** at Westminster Mags, which is seen as national best practice and gives rise to increased greater victim focus and improved outcomes for victims.

COLP are active partners in the **London South Joint Operational Improvement Meeting (JOIM)**, following the national Criminal Justice Meeting structure, attended by AOJ DI/DCI. A range of performance metrics and issues are discussed at this meeting, including disclosure, case file quality and discontinuance rates.

The JOIM feeds into the newly formed **Strategic Joint Improvement Board (JIB)** attended by Commander Operations and Senior Crown Prosecutors. This is focussed solely on COLP performance and identifies COL specific areas of focus. For example currently considering CPS/police review of current open DA cases with suspects on bail/RUI – something which would not be available across other forces due to our size.

The COLP DA relationship with CPS is extremely positive and has been commented by CPS leads as being well developed and an example of how this can lead to positive outcomes for victims (as evidenced by conviction rates).



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5. How are we delivering positive outcomes for victims? - Scrutiny and Oversight to deliver effective investigations and outcomes for victims

Internal

The **Crime Scrutiny Group** has been set up to DIP sample and scrutinise investigations. This includes a focus on DA and VAWG crimes bi-annually. The aim of this group is to identify areas for improvement across a range of areas including investigation, supervision, risk assessment and supervision. The findings and actions from CSG are reported to the Crime Standards Board and Strategic Vulnerability Board for further actions and governance.

External

External scrutiny exists through the **DA focus group**. Historically this has focussed on joint review of cautions issued by police. This has been recently expanded to include cases where no further action has been taken (NFA scrutiny panel). Data from these reviews is discussed at the DA focus group and Strategic Vulnerability Board. The most recent NFA scrutiny panel did not identify any failings/incorrect decisions for COLP and highlighted excellent decision making and recording of rationale.

Additionally, COLP are members of the **Special Measures Scrutiny Panel** with Metropolitan Police Service and CPS, where applications for special measures are reviewed to ensure opportunities for supporting victims at court under the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 are maximised. Learning opportunities are fed back to frontline officers and through learning and organisational development



6 Supporting Victims through effective partnership response - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) Provision

A **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** is a crucial meeting where representatives from cross-sector of agencies agencies come together in a coordinated approach to address the highest-risk domestic abuse cases. These representatives include local police, health professionals, child protection workers, housing practitioners, probation officers, and other specialists from both statutory and voluntary sectors. MARAC works in the following way :

1.Information Sharing: During a MARAC, participants share relevant information about the victim. This includes details about the victim's situation, risk factors, and any available insights. The goal is to create a comprehensive picture of the victim's life, as no single agency or individual can see the complete picture alone.

2.Risk Assessment: The representatives assess the risk level faced by the victim. If the case meets the high-risk threshold, it qualifies for discussion at the MARAC.

3.Coordinated Action Plan: Based on the shared information, the participants collaborate to develop a coordinated action plan. The primary focus is on safeguarding the adult victim. Additionally, the MARAC considers links with other forums to safeguard children and manage the perpetrator's behavior.

4.Representation: The victim does not attend the meeting directly. Instead, an **Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)** represents them and speaks on their behalf.

5.Effectiveness: Early analysis indicates that following intervention by a MARAC and an IDVA service, up to 60% of domestic abuse victims report no further violence. These conferences play a vital role in increasing victim safety and reducing the costs associated with severe domestic abuse



6 Supporting Victims through effective partnership response - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) Provision

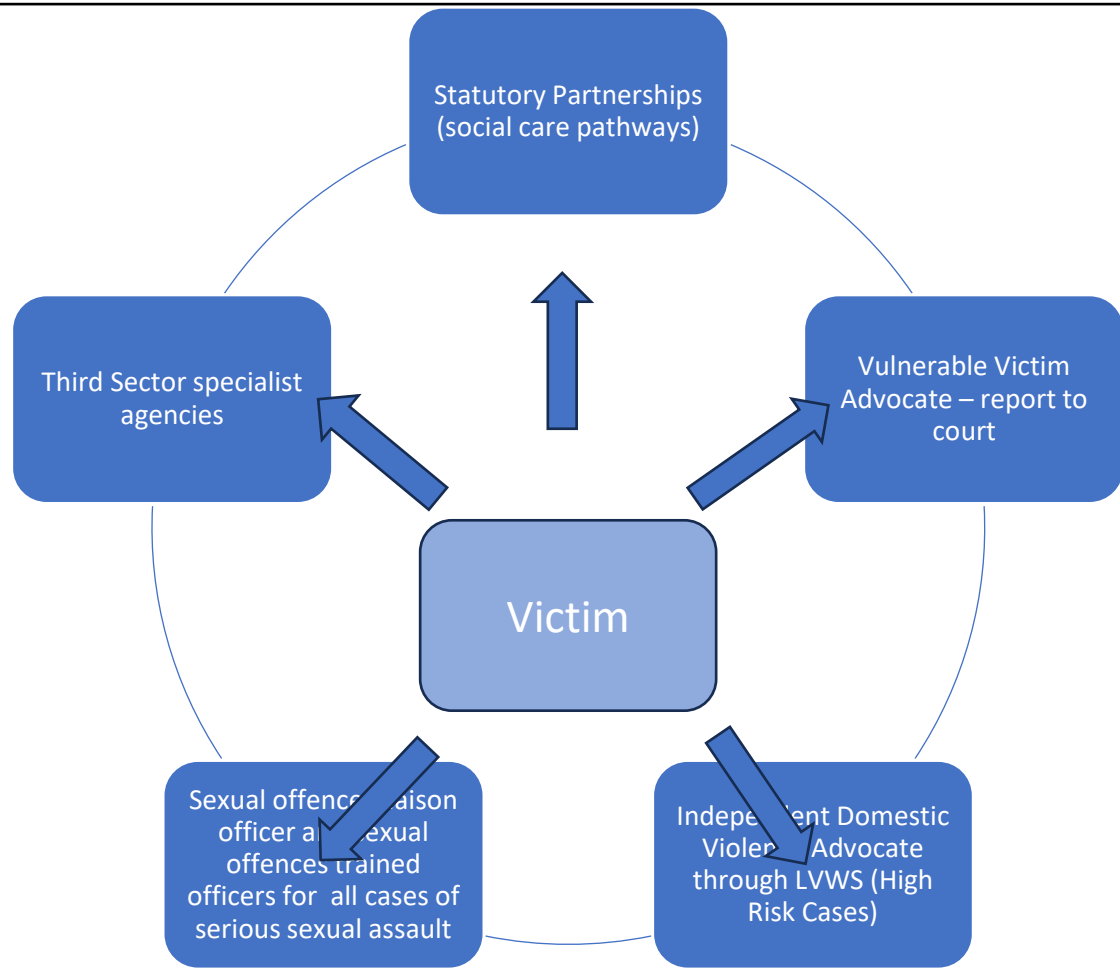
The City of London MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector of the Public Protection unit and consists of a coordinator from the City of London and with representatives from Health, Probation, Housing, Social Services, the Homeless Team, Turning Point and others as appropriate.

MARAC in the City of London hears high risk DA cases or cases referred under professional judgement. This agile approach means that a greater range of victims are afforded access to the opportunities provided by MARAC than would ordinarily be excluded to due to not reaching threshold of high-risk grading . COLP MARAC will only hear cases relating to City resident victims therefore referral rates are low.

Quarter 2023-24	Number of MARACs	Repeat	Needs Met	Refused Engagement	Relocated
Q1	4	3	4	0	0
Q2	2	0	1	0	1
Q3	1	0	0	1	0
Q4	4	2	2	1	1



7. Supporting victims - Victim Support mechanisms for all.



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7. Supporting victims - Further prevention, safeguarding and supporting response to victims.

- **OP Reframe** – nighttime economy - this will include approaches to domestic abuse with a focus on harassment for May 2024. Ongoing opportunities being explored for other thematic areas.
- **Op Encompass** – provides information sharing with local schools for when it is identified children have been exposed to domestic abuse . This was relaunched in City Schools in 2023 and a critical safeguarding tool for those children exposed to DA in the home.
- **Vulnerable Victims' Advocates** previously held surgeries within community to increase reporting from harder to reach groups. Plans are to reinvigorate and restart these outreach opportunities to amplify the victims voice and guide us towards further improvements.
- Future work to increase engagement with business community following up on the Domestic Abuse Toolkit to assist employers whose employees
- Scoping work underway with Partnership and Prevention Hub to consider engagement/prevention opportunities with domestic abuse space outside of nighttime economy.



8. Reducing offending and protecting victims - Ancillary Orders and Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Claire's Law)

Non-Molestation Order (via NCDV)

- Complainant and NCDV go via courts to get an order in place for conditions against suspect.
- Can be previous partner / family member / someone complainant has lived with.
- How to apply – Police or complainants makes referral to NCDV who lead on this.
- Vulnerable Victim Advocate can assist with application

Restraining Order

- Order placed against suspect on conviction. Utilised for Domestic Abuse convictions. COLP will ensure request for restraining order included in case file where appropriate

Occupation Order

- Complainant of DA can apply for this, to exclude a person from the family home.
- Complainant must have legal benefit in the property.
- Application is made under 'Family Law Act' in Family Court. Sometimes used in divorce proceedings where Family Court are involved.
- VVA will assist with application

Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN)

- Used following domestic incidents, to prevent a suspect from returning to the shared home or having contact with a complainant for up to 28 days. It is a good tool as disposal for 'in custody cases.
- Duration – up to 28 days to allow for other safeguarding measures to be put in place.
- When can it be used – Where violence has been used or threatened. Can only be used if suspect is NFA for the offences. Cannot use if suspect remains under investigation e.g. Bail or RUI.
- Authoriser – SUPT
- Use within COL is very low, mainly due to effective use of bail conditions and pursuit of evidence led prosecutions.

Clare's Law (DVDS)

- A complainant can make an application to the police requesting information about a current or ex-partner. This is known as 'right to ask'.
- How to apply – Via CoLP internet web page or via any statutory agency. Support can be given from OIC. Anybody can make an enquiry, but information is only given to someone at risk or a person who is in a position to safeguard the victim. Work to maximise the use of this tool will be a focus for City of London Police over 24/25.



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Conclusion

City of London Police are delivering an effective response to domestic abuse and are leading the way in terms of providing a bespoke response to all victims and enabling an offender focussed approach. This is delivered by specialist officers and a well-matured relationship across partners including high prosecution and conviction rates as a result of close collaborative working with CPS. This includes being amongst the highest forces nationally for evidence-led prosecutions when victims do not feel ready to support prosecution and whereby City of London Police gather and utilise all other available evidence to achieve a successful outcome at court.

Effective management of risk and multi-agency support for victims is provided through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference framework - allowing professionals and partners to come together to mitigate the risk and support individuals according to their needs. This sees a high engagement rate from victims whereby their risk can be managed more effectively.

The support for victims is also facilitated through effective use of ancillary orders and powers so that every opportunity is taken to provide support and safeguarding opportunities for the victims of domestic abuse. There will be a focus over the coming 12 months to increase the use of Claire's Law across policing and wider partnerships. This will continue to be tracked and supported through the Strategic Vulnerability Board that oversees effective management of the vulnerability and City of London's response to domestic abuse and supporting victims.

Amplifying the voice of the victim is key to developing understanding on how we can provide support going forward for victims of domestic abuse both within and outside the criminal justice system. This will further be enabled by identifying best practice and understanding where innovation and creativity can contribute to providing a quality service for victims.

