

Prepared for the Office of the
Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Profile of Victim Needs and Services in Essex

2017

Acknowledgement

This profile could not have been produced without the support of those who provided data, and those who helped with clarifications and explanation of data or practice. For access to local data, I would particularly like to thank Richard Charnock (Essex Police), David Padgett (Victim Support), Lee Eggleston and Rebekah Brant (on behalf of the Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres) and Cathy Emery (Safer Places).

CONTENTS

| Section | | Page |
|----------------|--|-----------|
| | Index of charts and tables | i-ii |
| 1 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 1 |
| 2 | INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| 2.1 | Background | 3 |
| 2.2 | Risk of becoming a victim of crime | 4 |
| 2.3 | Impact of crime and what victims say they need | 4 |
| 3 | VICTIMS OF CRIME: VOLUME AND PROFILE | 6 |
| 3.1 | National information | 6 |
| 3.2 | Essex Police recorded information | 9 |
| 3.3 | Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and fear of crime | 14 |
| 4 | SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME IN ESSEX | 16 |
| 4.1 | Overview of support and how to access | 16 |
| 4.2 | Reporting to Essex Police | 17 |
| 4.3 | Witness Care Unit | 19 |
| 4.4 | Court Based Witness Service | 20 |
| 4.5 | Victim and Witness Action Team (VWAT) | 20 |
| 4.6 | Restorative Justice and Mediation | 21 |
| 4.7 | Victim Assessment and Referral Centre (VARC)/Local Support Services (LSS) | 22 |
| 5 | SPECIALIST NEEDS AND SERVICES | 26 |
| 5.1 | Domestic abuse | 26 |
| 5.2 | Sexual violence | 38 |
| 5.3 | Hate crime | 52 |
| 5.4 | Young victims of crime <i>Including Child Sexual Exploitation</i> | 58 |
| 5.5 | Older victims of crime | 63 |
| 5.6 | Other vulnerable victims of crime <i>Including Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery, Gangs and Drugs, FGM, Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse</i> | 66 |
| 5.7 | Fraud and computer misuse | 69 |
| 5.8 | Business and commercial | 73 |
| Annex A | Key national statistical sources | 77 |
| Annex B | Victims Needs Profile 2014: recommendations/action taken | 78 |
| Annex C | Strategic issues log | 81 |
| Annex D | Selected policy and practice references (literature review) | 83 |

INDEX OF CHARTS AND TABLES

| Charts | Page |
|--|------|
| Figure 1: Trends in Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates and police recorded crime | 6 |
| Figure 2: Selected police recorded crime offences in England and Wales: volumes and percentage change between year ending December 2015 and year ending December 2016 | 8 |
| Figure 3: Victims of police recorded notifiable crime in Essex, 2016 | 9 |
| Figure 4: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by age and gender, 2016 | 11 |
| Figure 5: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by time taken to report, 2016 | 12 |
| Figure 6: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by home location, 2016 | 12 |
| Figure 7: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016 | 14 |
| Figure 8: Police recorded crime and anti-social behavior incidents in England and Wales: year ending March 2008 to year ending December 2016 | 15 |
| Figure 9: Overview of support available to victims of crime in Essex | 16 |
| Figure 10: Victims supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by age and gender, 2016/17 | 23 |
| Figure 11: Victims of crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by home location, 2016/17 | 24 |
| Figure 12: Victims of crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17 | 25 |
| Figure 13: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by assessed risk, 2013 and 2016 | 27 |
| Figure 14: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by age and gender, 2016 | 28 |
| Figure 15: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by home location and assessed risk, 2016 | 30 |
| Figure 16: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016 | 30 |
| Figure 17: Victims of domestic abuse supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by home location, 2016/17 | 36 |
| Figure 18: Victims of domestic abuse supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17 | 37 |
| Figure 19: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by age and gender, 2016 | 40 |
| Figure 20: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by time taken to report, 2016 | 41 |
| Figure 21: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by home location and age group, 2016 | 42 |
| Figure 22: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016 | 42 |
| Figure 23: EPRCC (Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres) service waiting list by type at end March 2017 | 46 |
| Figure 24: Victims of sexual violence supported by EPRCC by perpetrator relationship, 2016/17 | 47 |
| Figure 25: Victims of sexual violence supported by EPRCC by time taken to report, 2016/17 | 48 |
| Figure 26: Victims of sexual violence supported by EPRCC by home location, Q4 2016/17 | 48 |
| Figure 27: Victims of sexual offences supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by home location, 2016/17 | 50 |
| Figure 28: Victims of sexual offences supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17 | 51 |
| Figure 29: Police recorded victims of hate crime in Essex by age and gender, 2016 | 53 |
| Figure 30: Police recorded victims of hate crime in Essex by home location, 2016 | 55 |
| Figure 31: Police recorded victims of hate crime in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016 | 55 |
| Figure 32: Victims of hate crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by home location, 2016/17 | 57 |
| Figure 33: Victims of hate crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17 | 57 |
| Figure 34: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by age and gender, 2016 | 59 |
| Figure 35: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by home location and agegroup, 2016 | 60 |
| Figure 36: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016 | 61 |
| Figure 37: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by age and gender, 2016 | 63 |
| Figure 38: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by home location and agegroup, 2016 | 64 |
| Figure 39: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016 | 65 |
| Figure 40: Police recorded victims of 'non-crime' fraud in Essex by location occurred, 2016 | 71 |
| Figure 41: Victims of fraud supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17 | 72 |
| Figure 42: Police recorded business/commercial victims of crime in Essex by location, 2016 | 75 |
| Figure 43: Police recorded business/commercial victims of crime in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016 | 75 |

INDEX OF CHARTS AND TABLES (continued)

| Tables | Page |
|---|------|
| Table 1: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016 | 10 |
| Table 2: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by crime type, 2016 | 11 |
| Table 3: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by crime type and outcomes, 2016 | 13 |
| Table 4: Police recorded ASB in Essex by type, 2016 | 15 |
| Table 5: Victim of crime satisfaction with Essex Police, 2013/14 to 2016/17 | 18 |
| Table 6: Cases overall supported by Essex Witness Care Unit by type and plea, 2016 | 19 |
| Table 7: Cases proceeding to trial supported by Essex Witness Care Unit by type and Court, 2016 | 19 |
| Table 8: Witnesses supported by the Witness Service in Essex, 2016/17 | 20 |
| Table 9: Meeting the needs of victims and witnesses through the Court process in Essex, 2016/17 | 20 |
| Table 10: Referrals to the Victim Assessment and Referral Centre (VARC) in Essex by source, 2016/17 | 22 |
| Table 11: Victims supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by crime type, 2016/17 | 23 |
| Table 12: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by agegroup, gender and assessed risk, 2016 | 28 |
| Table 13: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by crime type and assessed risk, 2016 | 29 |
| Table 14: Referrals to the IDVA service in Essex by source and service response, 2017 | 31 |
| Table 15: Victims of domestic abuse supported by the IDVA service in Essex by agegroup, Q4 2016/17 | 32 |
| Table 16: Outcomes for those leaving IDVA service in Essex, rolling 12 months ending Q4 2016/17 | 33 |
| Table 17: Referrals to Safer Places outreach service by source and service response, 2016/17 | 33 |
| Table 18: Victims of domestic abuse supported by Safer Places outreach by agegroup, Q4 2016/17 | 34 |
| Table 19: Outcomes for those leaving Safer Places outreach, rolling 12 months ending Q4 2016/17 | 34 |
| Table 20: Referrals to Safer Places refuge service by source and service response, Q4 2016/17 | 34 |
| Table 21: Victims of domestic abuse supported by Safer Places refuges by agegroup, Q4 2016/17 | 35 |
| Table 22: Outcomes for those leaving Safer Places refuge service, rolling 12 months ending Q4 2016/17 | 35 |
| Table 23: Victims of domestic abuse supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17 | 35 |
| Table 24: Victims of domestic abuse supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by crime type, 2016/17 | 36 |
| Table 25: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016 | 39 |
| Table 26: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by type of offence and age reported, 2016 | 40 |
| Table 27: Referrals to the SARC in Essex by source and response, 2016/17 | 43 |
| Table 28: Victims of sexual violence supported by the SARC in Essex by agegroup, 2016/17 | 43 |
| Table 29: Referrals to EPRCC by service required, 2016/17 | 44 |
| Table 30: Referrals to EPRCC by source of referral, Q4 2016/17 | 45 |
| Table 31: Referrals to EPRCC by presenting incident and multiple assaults, Q4 2016/17 | 45 |
| Table 32: Referrals to EPRCC by Criminal Justice Service involvement, Q4 2016/17 | 46 |
| Table 33: Victims of sexual violence supported by EPRCC by agegroup and gender, 2016/17 | 47 |
| Table 34: Selected outcomes for those leaving EPRCC services, Q4 2016/17 | 49 |
| Table 35: Victims of sexual offences supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17 | 49 |
| Table 36: Victims of sexual offences supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by crime type, 2016/17 | 50 |
| Table 37: Police recorded victims of hate crime in Essex by crime and hate type, 2016 | 54 |
| Table 38: Police recorded victims of hate crime and non-crime in Essex by type, 2016 | 54 |
| Table 39: Victims of hate crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17 | 56 |
| Table 40: Victims of hate crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by crime type, 2016/17 | 56 |
| Table 41: Crime experienced by children aged 10-15, year ending December 2016 | 58 |
| Table 42: Young people's perceptions of feeling safe in Essex schools, 2016 | 59 |
| Table 43: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016 | 59 |
| Table 44: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by crime type, 2016 | 60 |
| Table 45: Support provided to young victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17 | 61 |
| Table 46: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17 | 63 |
| Table 47: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by crime type and agegroup, 2016 | 64 |
| Table 48: Support provided to older victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17 | 65 |
| Table 49: Police recorded victims of modern slavery in Essex by type and gender, 2016 | 67 |
| Table 50: Fraud offences recorded by National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, year ending December 2016 | 69 |
| Table 51: Police recorded victims of 'non-crime' fraud in Essex by agegroup and type, 2016 | 70 |
| Table 52: Proportion of commercial premises experiencing crime in last 12 months by sector | 73 |
| Table 53: Police recorded business/commercial victims in Essex by crime type and selected crimes, 2016 | 74 |

1) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides an updated profile of victim needs and services in Essex. It brings together selected data and intelligence about potential and known victims of crime, and the support services available to them, in a relatively consistent way.

National prevalence data is used to outline the likely level of victimisation, overall and for different types of crime.¹ This is compared with what we know about victims of crime reporting to the police in Essex, and what we know from data held by those organisations who support victims in Essex. Discussions have been held with service providers and leads from the police force in particular to understand what the data means from an operational and practice point of view, and to gather perspectives of where support can be improved.

Three years on from the profile compiled in 2014, the emphasis is less on understanding the support landscape to inform commissioning, and more on access to services from a victim's perspective, looking at their age, gender and where they live, referral pathways and the systems that have been put in place to support these, and where there may still be gaps and confusion about delivery.

Whilst there are some positive indications of progress and assurance that support for victims is in place as it was envisaged, and that more victims are being supported, there are some issues to address. Annex B outlines the recommendations made in response to issues identified in 2014, and for most of these there is evidence that they have been implemented through subsequent commissioning decisions.

The few that remain relate to national issues and areas where there are complex commissioning arrangements or needs. For example, male victims of crime are still less likely to proceed to receive support. Community based support for victims of domestic abuse is fragmented, with multiple commissioners and funding routes, and the needs of young victims appears to be not yet fully understood with patchy services in place which target specific cohorts and geographies.

There are some important issues, which are known but which this document should serve to give renewed focus to. Automatic referrals made by Essex Police to the Victim Assessment Referral Centre (VARC), operated by Victim Support, do not enable them to identify all victims with enhanced needs, i.e., those who are vulnerable or persistently targeted. The Automatic Data Transfer (ADT) also includes details of victims who should not be passed to the VARC. Take up of Victim Personal Statements (VPS) remains low, nationally and locally, and there is no evidence of take up of Business Impact Statements (BIS).

Of almost 82,000 referrals made in a year from Essex Police to the VARC, 3,407 go on to receive a service from Local Support Services (LSS) provided by Victim Support. Whilst there is evidence of a reasonably comparable geographic spread between the police records of where victims live and Victim Support's records of where those they support live, it is hard to say whether those most in need have been supported.

¹ Annex A sets out the main national data sources used. A key source is the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) which captures victim-based crimes experienced by respondents, not all of which will have been reported to the police. Results are published quarterly in statistical bulletins alongside police reported crime. This profile uses data from the bulletin published for the year ending December 2016. The latest publication for year ending March 2107 was published on 20 July; the headline is that the trend shown in Figure 1 is continuing, with self reported experiences falling and police recorded crime increasing.

Of those receiving a service from the LSS, 20.6% were domestic abuse victims (medium and standard risk) and 10% were victims of sexual offences, who may more appropriately receive support from specialist providers. A key recommendation from this report is that the boundaries of generic/specialist provision should be reviewed, with referral routes agreed and arrangements updated accordingly.

Annex C includes the details of issues and evidence. In summary, the recommended actions for the range of issues identified are:

- **Young people:** young people may not see themselves as victims, and are not being seen to seek out or access support currently available. The VARC say they find there is less need for support for young people referred to them. Support appears to be patchy, and for targeted cohorts and locations. The PCC should commission further analysis of the nature of harms experienced by young people becoming known to the police, and the appropriateness of support currently available to them.
- **Generic/specialist support:** the VARC/LSS is providing support to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, holding onto cases which could be referred on to specialist service providers. The PCC should address this issue in the new commissioning specification being developed for April 2018.
- **Support to medium risk domestic abuse victims:** there is concern that those at the 'higher end of medium risk' may not get the support they need. The PCC, through the Essex Domestic Abuse Strategic Board, should ensure that referral routes for support for those assessed at medium risk are reviewed, with a focus on those 'at the higher end'.
- **Community based services for victims of domestic abuse:** these are still fragmented, with the whole picture of need and provision hard to assess. The PCC, through the Essex Domestic Abuse Strategic Board, should ensure that a service overview is in place, with clarity on referral pathways and review arrangements.
- **Victims of fraud:** a national arrangement is in place with Action Fraud and Victim Support, with 82 victims supported in Essex. NFIB made 970 referrals for investigation to Essex Police. The PCC should review whether referrals can be made to the VARC by officers investigating fraud, especially where victims are vulnerable/persistently targeted.
- **Victims of modern slavery:** victims access support under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Support post-45 'recovery' days and for those not going through the NRM (21% in Essex) is not clear. The PCC should review whether any supplementary support can be provided in Essex
- **Victim Personal Statements:** take up of VPS is low and the right to have them read in Court is problematic. Commercial victims do not appear to be routinely offered the chance to make a Business Impact Statement. The Criminal Justice Board should ask the Victim and Witness Action Team (VWAT) to report to them on this issue, with action plan and agreed targets.
- **Compliance under Victims' Code/Data Protection:** the daily Automatic Data Transfer (ADT) from Essex Police to the VARC contains referrals that should not be made. Exceptions are currently removed manually. It is also not possible to identify persistently targeted, and vulnerable or intimidated victims. The PCC should seek further briefing on these issues, for discussion at the Athena Strategic Board.

There may well be other issues and opportunities emerging from the data in this profile, and further questions triggered about what is happening in practice and more crucially what this means for victim experiences. Prevention of the crime happening in the first place is key, as is helping those who do become victims become safer and build resilience.

Finally Annex D provides selected references on who may be at more risk of harm than others, the impact of crime and what victims say they need to help them 'cope and recover'.

2) INTRODUCTION

2.1) Background

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) have been responsible for commissioning victims' referral and assessment services and local support services for victims of crime in their areas since April 2015.²

A consultation took place in Essex during the summer of 2014, setting out the PCC's vision and intentions for commissioning services for victims of crime across the county.³ The proposals were informed by a detailed analysis of victims' needs and services.⁴

Since then:

- The PCC has commissioned a new Victim Assessment and Referral Centre (VARC), and associated Local Support Services (LSS), for all victims of crime in Essex; a countywide Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDVA) service; and a countywide service to support victims of sexual violence. Other support services for victims of crime have been commissioned with partner agencies.
- The focus on the needs and rights of victims has increased, with Essex Police and others involved in the criminal justice system implementing guidance on standards set out in the Victims' Code.⁵
- More information is available about victims' experiences, with access to new data about victims from all sources. More detailed, consistent data is available from contract monitoring data from newly commissioned local services; experimental data sets are being developed nationally; and more sophisticated analysis of police data is being done.
- The new PCC was elected in 2016, and a new Police and Crime Plan published with a continued commitment to place victims at the heart of decisions and actions
- Some harms are increasing, such as hate crime, online based crime and fraud, as are the risks to young people and vulnerable adults, for example through gang related activity

The recommendations arising from the 2014 needs profile are set out in Annex B, together with a commentary on what has happened and where there are still gaps to address.

This document provides an updated profile of victims' needs in Essex, three years after the original analysis was compiled, and identifies a new set of issues and recommendations for consideration and action (Annex C).

² Funds to support local commissioning and restorative justice were made available to PCCs in October 2014. A small number of high impact specialist services are commissioned nationally by the MoJ, such as the Court based Witness Service and a national homicide service.

³ Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Victim Services Commissioning Intentions: A Consultation, June 2014

⁴ A Profile of Victim Needs and Services in Essex, Southend and Thurrock (OPCC), July 2014

⁵ **Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (Ministry of Justice) October 2015.** Sets out the minimum service victims should receive from the Criminal Justice System. **Enhanced services** are available for victims of **most serious crime** (*a close relative bereaved by criminal conduct, domestic violence, hate crime, terrorism, sexual offences, human trafficking, attempted murder, kidnap, false imprisonment, arson with intent to endanger life and wounding or causing grievous bodily harm with intent*); **persistently targeted** victims (*targeted repeatedly over a period of time, particularly if deliberately targeted or a victim of a sustained campaign of harassment or stalking*); and **vulnerable or intimidated** victims (*under 18 at the time of the offence; the quality of evidence is likely to be affected because the victim suffers from mental disorder, significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning, or a physical disability or disorder, or is intimidated*).

2.2) Risk of becoming a victim of crime

Anyone can become a victim of crime, but some are more vulnerable than others.

Annex D includes selected references from national research on this issue.
For violent crime and intimate violence:

- Men are more likely to be victims of violent crime than women, but women are more likely to have experienced intimate violence
- Those aged 16-24 are more likely to be victims of violent crime; the prevalence of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking is highest amongst this age group
- Those who are married, in a civil partnership or widowed are less likely to be victims of violent crime; those who are separated or divorced are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse; single women more likely to be victims of sexual assault; single/divorced women and single/separated men are more likely to be victims of stalking
- Those living in the 20% most deprived areas and people who rent their homes are more likely to be a victim of violent crime
- Those living in lone parent households and those with a long term illness or disability are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse

For young people, most incidents of violence and theft happened in or around school, in daylight hours and during the week.

Other research focusses on the particular vulnerabilities for people with severe mental illness (SMI), those who are missing and those who live on the streets, who may be suffering from the impact of crime, and may be more likely to become victims or perpetrators as a result. Further details are outlined in Annex D.

The likelihood of being targeted because of a personal characteristic, in the case of hate related crime, is also covered in Annex D.

Fraud is more likely to affect older age groups, those in higher income households, in managerial and professional occupations and living in rural areas. For property crime, those aged 16-24 are most affected, with men more likely to be a victim of robbery. Victims of property crime were more likely to live in urban areas with the highest unemployment, were more likely to be unemployed and renting their homes, and more likely to be from lower income households. Those with higher household income were more likely to be victims of criminal damage and vehicle related theft.

2.3) Impact of crime and what victims say they need

The impact, and the support needed to help a victim to 'cope and recover' will vary depending on the seriousness of the crime and an individual's situation. Again, references and further details are provided in Annex D, but the headlines are:

- In 75% of violence incidents the victim was 'emotionally affected', including 18% who were 'affected very much'. Incidents of wounding emotionally affected 90% of victims. The most common forms of emotional reaction were annoyance (41%), anger (37%) and shock (36%).
- Only 21% of younger victims thought the violent incident was a crime, 52% of incidents were perceived to be part of a series of bullying behaviour. 32% of young victims of theft thought the incident was a crime.

- Victims with serious mental illness (SMI) are more likely to suffer social, psychological and physical adverse effects, and more likely to perceive the crime as serious. 40% of women with SMI who had experienced domestic or sexual violence, and a quarter of men, had attempted suicide as a result.

Every person's need for support will be different but we know what sort of things work in general terms. The key points captured from a 'victim-centred service design' workshop hosted by the PCC in March 2014 were:

- Understand that victims are not familiar with criminal justice language and process
- Services to remain open to victims rather than ending abruptly at the 'end' of the process
- Recognise that one size does not fit all – treat victims as individuals

A victim's primary needs were considered to be:

- Be understood and believed
- Receive a quick response (where reported to the police)
- Understand the impact on the person
- Be kept informed of activity/progress
- Feeling safe and supported to get back to normal
- Having someone to trust
- Having the ability to say 'it's not working'

Recent research done by Victim Support concludes that victims expressed the need for:⁶

- Strong, trusting relationship with a caseworker
- Support and assistance during legal proceedings
- Sharing with people who had gone through similar experiences
- Support during weekends and evenings
- Long-term support
- Support for other members of the family
- Being informed about the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and kept updated on the progress of the case

Finally, a report by the Victims' Commissioner (with an emphasis on those going through the CJS) observes/recommends:^{7 8}

- Timely and accurate information and effective methods of communication with victims, both in delivering information and listening to their needs
- The quality of service that victims get from criminal justice professionals and associated agencies is often a more important factor in victim satisfaction than the final outcome
- Co-located multi-agency partnership working across statutory and voluntary sectors can provide effective support for victims in terms of information sharing, making the (CJ) process less confusing and contribute to effective prevention strategies.
- A single point of contact or advocate to provide victims with the combination of information and support. Early identification of a victim's needs means that services can be targeted at those who most want and need them.

⁶ Understanding victims of crime; the impact of the crime and support needs (Victim Support) April 2017

⁷ What works in supporting victims of crime: a rapid evidence assessment (Victims' Commissioner) March 2016

⁸ The particular needs of children going through the CJS are covered in 'Are we getting it right for young victims of crime? A review of children's entitlements under the Victims' Code' (Victims' Commissioner) February 2017

3) VICTIMS OF CRIME: VOLUME AND PROFILE

This section looks at the overall volume and characteristics of victims of crime in Essex. It starts with a review of national data on crime, including the potential level of under-reporting, then sets out what we know about victims of crime locally from the information Essex Police collect and record. Data on levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Essex and perceptions of the fear of crime are also included.

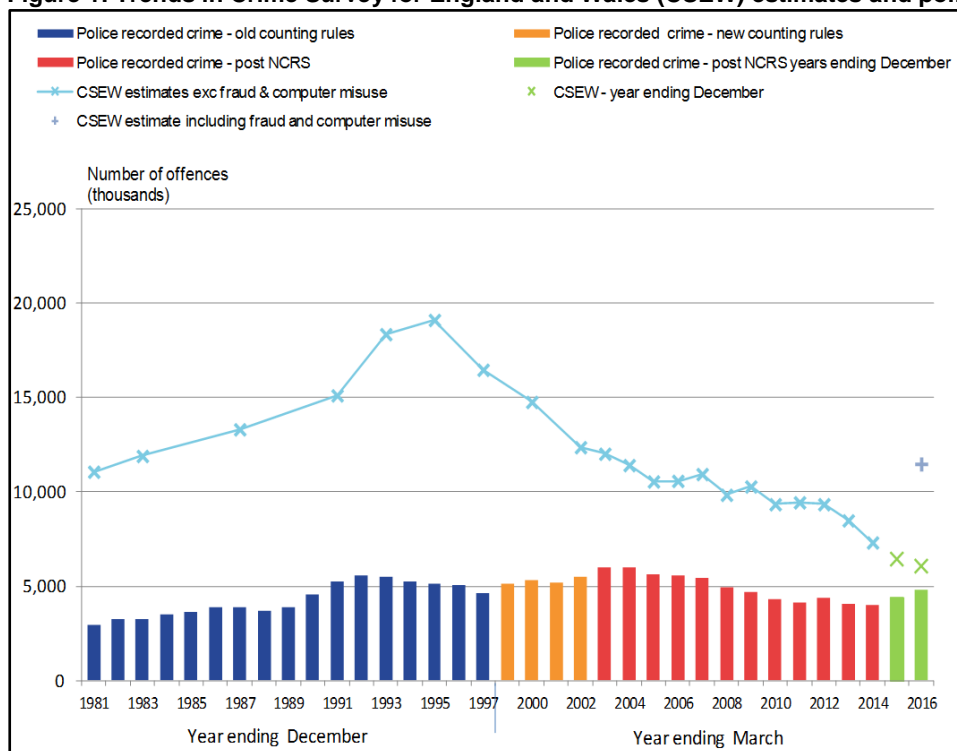
There are separate more in depth sections in the document on the profile of victims of domestic abuse (Section 5.1), sexual offences (Section 5.2), hate crime (Section 5.3), young victims of crime (Section 5.4), older victims of crime (Section 5.5), other vulnerable victims of crime (Section 5.6), victims of fraud and computer misuse (Section 5.7), and victims of business and commercial crime (Section 5.8).

3.1) Victims of crime: national information

The main sources of national information on the level and trends in crime and the impact on victims are estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime data. The data is published quarterly by the Office for National Statistics.

The following chart provides a useful overview of longer term trends, and how the two datasets compare.

Figure 1: Trends in Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates and police recorded crime⁹



Source: Statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016 (ONS) April 2017

⁹ The CSEW captures victim-based crimes experienced by respondents, not all of which will have been reported to the police. Figures up to 1999 relate to crimes experienced in the calendar year; from 2001/02 to crimes in the previous 12 months based on interviews carried out in the financial year; the last two data points are for interviews in the rolling 12 month periods for the latest available years (January to December).

The underlying trend over the past 10 years or so for both the CSEW estimates and the police recorded crime is broadly downwards, although there are signs that police recorded crime is starting to increase. The datasets measure different things however, so are not directly comparable, but the closing of the gap between the two sources suggest that we are getting a better indication over time of the true level of crime and the impact on victims as police recording improves and the CSEW is expanded to provide better estimates.¹⁰ The addition of the estimate of the level of fraud and computer misuse, taken from the CSEW experimental statistics, provides additional insight.

Headlines from the CSEW estimates include:

- There were 6.1m incidents of crime experienced by respondents in the year ending December 2016. With fraud and computer misuse added, this would be 11.5m incidents (3.5m fraud and 1.9m computer misuse)
- Estimates for most offence categories did not show significant changes, although a 10% decrease in total theft offences was statistically significant. There were 3.4m theft offences, the lowest ever recorded, accounting for 30% of all CSEW incidents.
- The likelihood of being a victim of crime (excluding fraud and computer misuse) has fallen considerably over time; around 14 in 100 adults were victims in the latest survey year. **In Essex this would be 202,661 adults aged 16 and over.**¹¹ Adding in fraud and computer misuse offences indicates that around 21 in 100 adults were victims of a crime in the latest survey year.

The police recorded crime headlines are:

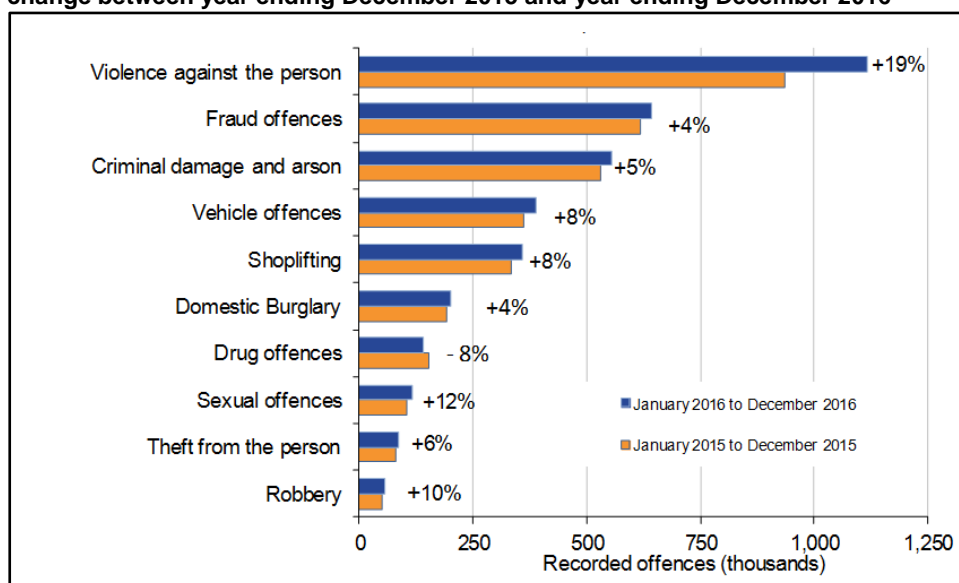
- There were 4.8m offences recorded during the year ending December 2016, an increase of 9%.¹² This was largely driven by increases in violence against the person (+19%) and public order offences (+35%). Figure 2 shows volumes and changes for selected crimes.
- Offences involving firearms increased by 13% to 5,864, and offences involving a knife or sharp instrument increased by 14% to 32,448.

¹⁰ Homicide and sexual offences are excluded from the CSEW estimates, as are crimes against commercial bodies and those living in communal establishments. The self-completion element is only currently asked of 16-59 year olds, with proposals to remove the upper age limit. The CSEW estimates also exclude crimes against children. There are separate surveys of 10-15 year olds and for commercial victimisation. Questions on fraud and computer misuse were introduced from October 2015, but excluded from the published estimates. Police recorded data excludes crimes that are not required to be notified to the Home Office, including incidents of anti-social behaviour. Responsibility for recording fraud offences transferred to Action Fraud during the year ending March 2012, but continue to be included in the police recorded time series.

¹¹ Calculated from Mid-2015 Population Estimates (ONS) October 2016. The estimated number of 16+ year olds across the county is 1,447,579.

¹² Excluding fraud offences, there were 4.2 million offences recorded by the police in the year ending December 2016, a 10% rise from last year.

Figure 2: Selected police recorded crime offences in England and Wales: volumes and percentage change between year ending December 2015 and year ending December 2016



Source: Statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016 (ONS) April 2017

In addition there were 1.1m convictions for non-notifiable offences during the year ending September 2016, which is a similar number to the previous year, and 18,000 Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) issued in relation to non-notifiable offences, a decrease of 25% from the previous year. Most of the latter were for drunk and disorderly behaviour.¹³

Comparable police crime figures for Essex show 117,934 notifiable offences recorded during the year ending December 2016, an increase of 9% from 2015.¹⁴ The national increase from 2015 to 2015, excluding fraud, was 10%. The position in 2015 (108,200) also reflected a 9% increase from the previous year.

Violence against the person accounts for the largest share of all offences at 27.7%, with an 18.3% increase from 2015.¹⁵ This is similar to the trend shown in the national profile (Figure 2). There has been a reduction in vehicle offences in Essex however (down 2.8% to 12,437, compared with a rise nationally of 8%) and theft from the person (down 2.5% to 1,571, compared with a 6% increase nationally). Drug offences have increased by 5% in Essex compared with an 8% reduction nationally. The rate of increase in sexual offences is lower at 3.9% (10% nationally) and shoplifting 3.8% (8% nationally).

¹³ Statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016 (ONS) April 2017

¹⁴ Statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016 (ONS) April 2017.

Local data for the same period shows 117,807 offences, of which 103,776 were victim based and 14,031 state based (Source: Essex Police Performance Summary, rolling 12 months to December 2016).

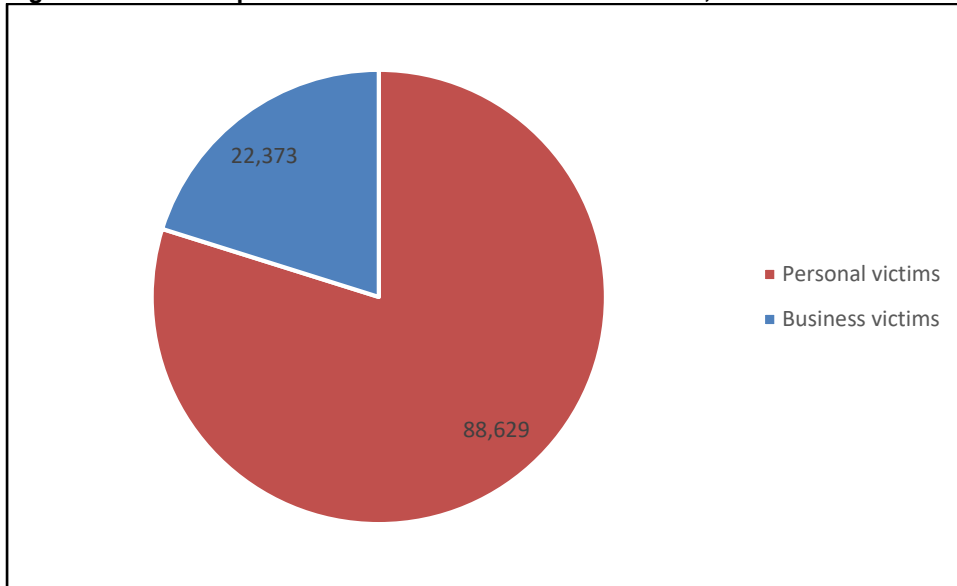
¹⁵ Essex police data elsewhere in this document relates to victims of crime not offences, and makes a distinction between individual victims of crime (80% of victims) and victims of business/commercial crime (20% of victims)

3.2) Victims of crime: Essex Police recorded information

Essex Police have provided detailed data on all victims of recorded notifiable crime during the year ending December 2016 to inform this assessment.¹⁶ Note that this data relates to **victims** of recorded crime, not the offences, so figures from the following analysis will differ from those published elsewhere on crime in Essex.

Overall there were 111,002 victims of notifiable crimes recorded by Essex Police during the calendar year 2016. Of these, 88,629 were individuals (80%) and 22,373 were businesses (20%).

Figure 3: Victims of police recorded notifiable crime in Essex, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

The position in 2013, the data used in the first Profile of Victims' Needs and Services, was 91,344 victims, comprised of 76.6% individuals and 23.4% businesses.¹⁷

The underlying trend since 2013 seems to show an increasing number of victims being recorded, with the number of victims of personal crime growing at a greater rate than business crime. This makes sense, as police recorded crime in Essex has increased steadily over the past three years with an increasing focus on victims of crime and increases in reporting certain kinds of crime such as domestic abuse.

The following information focusses on the profile of victims of *personal or household* recorded notifiable crime. There is a separate analysis of *business and commercial crime* at Section 5.8.

¹⁶ The source of this data is Athena, which was introduced in April 2015. Cases where the offence is state based **and** where there is no specific victim, or where details of the victim have not been recorded (including refusal to provide details) are excluded. State based cases include offences such as drug offences and possession of weapons. Data on victims of fraud and computer misuse are also excluded from the headline analysis but some details are included in Section 5.7.

¹⁷ The overall number for 2014 was 92,150 (77.8% individuals; 22.2% businesses). 2015 data is not available for comparative purposes due to the transition to Athena.

All victims - age and gender

For this Profile, age has been calculated as the age at which a victim reports, not the age at which the crime happened which is more commonly used. The time taken to report a crime is also presented. This is because it is important to understand victims' support needs **at the time** they report a crime, especially for crimes such as sexual offences (where the type of crime will indicate when it happened). The time taken to report different types of crime will also be explored.

The following table shows that most victims in Essex are aged between 25 and 44 (57.5%), with the 25-34 age range having the highest proportion of any age group.

Table 1: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016

| Age group | Male | Female | Not recorded/ unknown/ unspecified | Total | Percentage total |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--|---------------|------------------|
| 0-12 | 1,800 | 1,180 | 25 | 3,005 | 3.4% |
| 13-17 | 2,743 | 2,908 | 50 | 5,701 | 6.4% |
| 18-24 | 5,546 | 6,297 | 97 | 11,940 | 13.5% |
| 25-34 | 8,839 | 9,869 | 161 | 18,869 | 21.3% |
| 35-44 | 8,127 | 8,615 | 140 | 16,882 | 19.0% |
| 45-54 | 7,857 | 7,224 | 147 | 15,228 | 17.2% |
| 55-64 | 4,747 | 3,662 | 105 | 8,514 | 9.6% |
| 65-74 | 2,826 | 2,148 | 54 | 5,028 | 5.7% |
| 75-84 | 1,027 | 1,219 | 29 | 2,275 | 2.6% |
| 85+ | 306 | 620 | 9 | 935 | 1.0% |
| Not recorded | 141 | 87 | 24 | 252 | 0.3% |
| Total | 43,959 | 43,829 | 841 | 88,629 | |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

The 2013 data suggested that men were more likely to be victims of crime than women (52% compared with 48%). The 2016 data is more evenly split with some interesting differences across the ages, as shown Figure 4.

Women appear to be more vulnerable to being victims of crime in their teens to their mid twenties, after which numbers are still high but reducing, with men becoming more likely to be victims from around 40 onwards. Older victims (over 75) are more likely to be women.

The largest proportion of victims described themselves as 'White British' (79%), then 'Any Other White Background' (3.3%) and 'African' (1.8%). Self-defined ethnicity was not recorded for 9.1% of victims.

Figure 4: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by age and gender, 2016¹⁸



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

All victims - type of crime

'Theft offences' account for 37.7% of victim based reported personal crime in Essex. This is an amalgamation of a fairly broad range of crimes, including vehicle crimes (11,060 or 12.5% of the total) and domestic burglary.

Table 2: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by crime type, 2016

| Crime type ¹⁹ | Male | Female | Not recorded/ unknown/ unspecified | Total | Percentage |
|---|---------------|---------------|--|---------------|------------|
| Theft offences | 18,875 | 14,165 | 401 | 33,441 | 37.7% |
| - Vehicle offences | 7,422 | 3,489 | 149 | 11,060 | |
| - Domestic burglary | 3,382 | 3,627 | 88 | 7,097 | |
| - Theft from the person | 549 | 995 | 8 | 1,552 | |
| - Other | 7,552 | 6,054 | 156 | 13,732 | |
| Violence against the person | 14,561 | 17,170 | 228 | 31,959 | 36.1% |
| - Violence without injury | 8,099 | 11,414 | 147 | 19,660 | |
| - Violence with injury | 6,452 | 5,750 | 81 | 12,283 | |
| - Homicide | 10 | 6 | 0 | 16 | |
| Damage and arson offences | 5,728 | 5,966 | 98 | 11,792 | 13.3% |
| Public order offences | 3,176 | 3,452 | 68 | 6,696 | 7.5% |
| Sexual offences | 366 | 2,386 | 28 | 2,780 | 3.1% |
| Robbery | 785 | 228 | 7 | 1,020 | 1.2% |
| Miscellaneous crimes against society | 321 | 424 | 8 | 753 | 0.9% |
| Possession of weapons | 147 | 35 | 3 | 185 | 0.2% |
| Drug offences | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0.0% |
| Total | 43,959 | 43,829 | 841 | 88,629 | |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

The proportion of individual victims of 'violence against the person' has increased from 26% in 2013 to 36.1% in 2016.²⁰ 32.8% (10,473) of victims of 'violence against the person' and 18.6% (1,110) of victims of 'damage and arson offences' were domestic abuse related. 1.6% of victims (1,393) were classed as experiencing 'online crime'.

¹⁸ Data where the age and/or gender is not recorded, unknown or unspecified is excluded

¹⁹ 'Public order offences', 'Miscellaneous crimes against society', 'Possession of weapons' and 'Drug offences' are 'State Based Crime' offences, but are included here because they have associated victim(s).

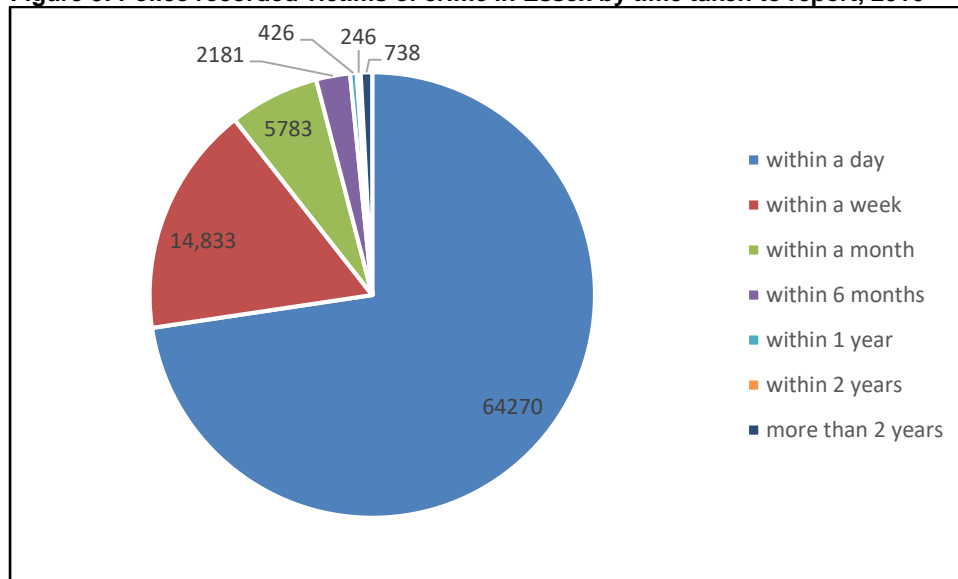
²⁰ This does not compare to national published data on offences as it relates to victims of crime excluding commercial victims. Victims of theft offences are aggregated (national data in Figure 2 shows selected offences).

There are some interesting gender variations by types of crime, with women significantly more likely to be victims of sexual offences than men, and men more likely to be victims of vehicle offences and robbery.

All victims - time taken to report/record

Overall 89% of offences are recorded within 7 days of the crime taking place, with 73% of these recorded within a day. This could be a reflection of the time taken to record a crime rather than the time taken to report it so care should be taken in using these figures. The type of crime will be a factor, and further details are provided under the relevant sections.

Figure 5: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by time taken to report, 2016

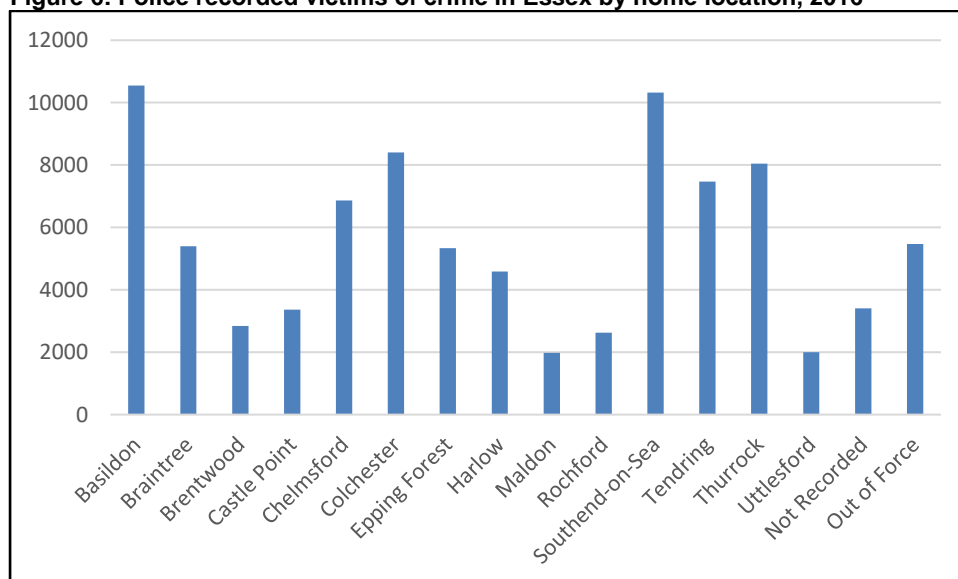


Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

All victims - victim's home location

This data reflects a victim's home location rather than the place where the offence took place.

Figure 6: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by home location, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

The reason for this to understand where people need support, which is more likely to be accessible if it is near to where they live.

The highest numbers of victims live in Basildon (11.9%) and Southend (11.6%), followed by Colchester (9.5%) and Thurrock (9.1%).

All victims - outcomes of police reported crime

The following table shows the 'outcomes' for victims of notifiable crime recorded during 2016, at the time the data was extracted, i.e., March 2017.²¹ For some victims the offences are still being investigated, with sexual offence investigations in particular often complex and lengthy, so these figures reflect an interim snapshot only. They also reflect the outcome at the end of the Police investigation and not what happens as an outcome of any subsequent Court process.

There were 1,393 victims during 2016 for whom an investigation had not yet been completed.

Table 3: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by crime type and investigation outcomes, 2016

| Crime type | Number of 'solved' outcomes during period ²² | Number victims | Percentage 'solved' during period | Investigation not yet complete (March 2017) |
|---|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Theft offences | 1,518 | 33,441 | 4.5% | 317 |
| Violence against the person | 7,218 | 31,959 | 22.6% | 506 |
| Damage and arson offences | 1,316 | 11,792 | 11.2% | 57 |
| Public order offences | 1,318 | 6,696 | 19.7% | 60 |
| Sexual offences | 218 | 2,780 | 7.8% | 379 |
| Robbery | 131 | 1,020 | 12.8% | 53 |
| Miscellaneous crimes against society | 115 | 753 | 15.3% | 16 |
| Possession of weapons | 62 | 185 | 33.5% | 3 |
| Drug offences | 0 | 3 | 0.0% | 2 |
| Total | 11,896 | 88,629 | 13.4% | 1,393 |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Figure 7 shows the recorded outcomes for all victims of crime recorded during 2016, including those 'solved' (13.4%) and those where the investigation is not yet complete (1.6%). For the highest proportion of victims, their investigation was completed with no suspect identified (49%).

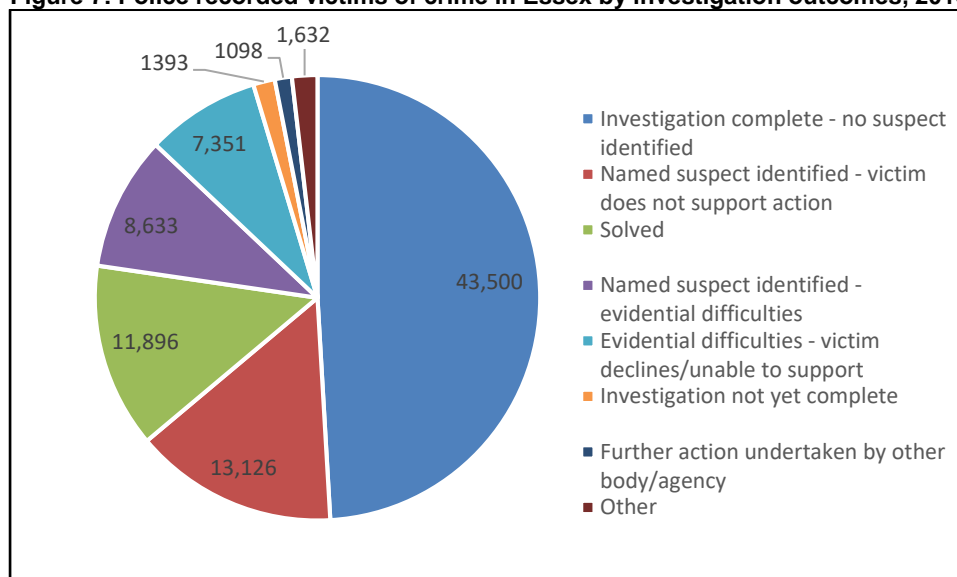
National data for the year ending December 2016 shows 17.7% 'solved', 7.7% not yet assigned an outcome and 47.2% as investigation complete with no suspect identified.²³

²¹ Percentages vary from 'solved' rates published in the Essex Police Performance Summary, which are calculated by comparing a cohort of offences during a period with a cohort of completed outcomes during the same period (the cases will not all be related), and combine data for individuals and businesses. **The comparable percentage 'solved' for victims of business crime during 2016 was higher at 26.6%.**

²² 'Solved' includes Type 1 (charged/summonsed/postal requisition), Type 1A (charged/summonsed – alternate offence), Type 2 (Caution Youth), Type 2A (Caution Youth – alternate offence), Type 3 (Caution Adult), Type 3A (Caution Adult – alternate offence), Type 4 (TIC – Taken into Consideration), Type 6 (Penalty notice for disorder), Type 7 (Cannabis/Khat warning), Type 8 (Community Resolution (crime))

²³ Crime outcomes in England and Wales, year to December 2016: data tables (Home Office) April 2017

Figure 7: Police recorded victims of crime in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

3.3) Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and fear of crime

Levels of recorded and estimated incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) are also collated and reported as part of the national crime statistics.²⁴

30% of respondents to the CSEW reported experiencing or witnessing ASB in their local area in the previous 12 months. This estimate has remained at a similar level (between 27% and 30%) since first collected in the year ending March 2012.

The types of anti-social behaviour most commonly experienced or witnessed were 'drink related behaviour' (8.7%) and 'groups hanging around on the streets' (7.9%). 9% thought there was a high level of anti-social behaviour in their area, with the main problems being 'rubbish or litter lying around' (30%) and 'people using or dealing drugs' (23%).

The greatest ASB problems residents in Essex experience were 'rubbish or litter lying around' (41%), followed by 'people using or dealing drugs' (26%) and 'teenagers hanging around the streets' (25%).²⁵ The districts with the highest proportions thinking that 'people using or dealing drugs' was a problem in their area were Castle Point (41%), Tendring (41%) and Harlow (38%).

The same residents' survey provides local perspectives on feeling safe. 85% of those surveyed felt safe during the day, and only 49% after dark (on a downward trend from a peak of 65% in 2010). 51% of respondents were worried about their house being broken into, the highest proportions living in Castle Point (67%), Basildon (63%) and Harlow (61%), and 45% worried about being a victim of crime in general.

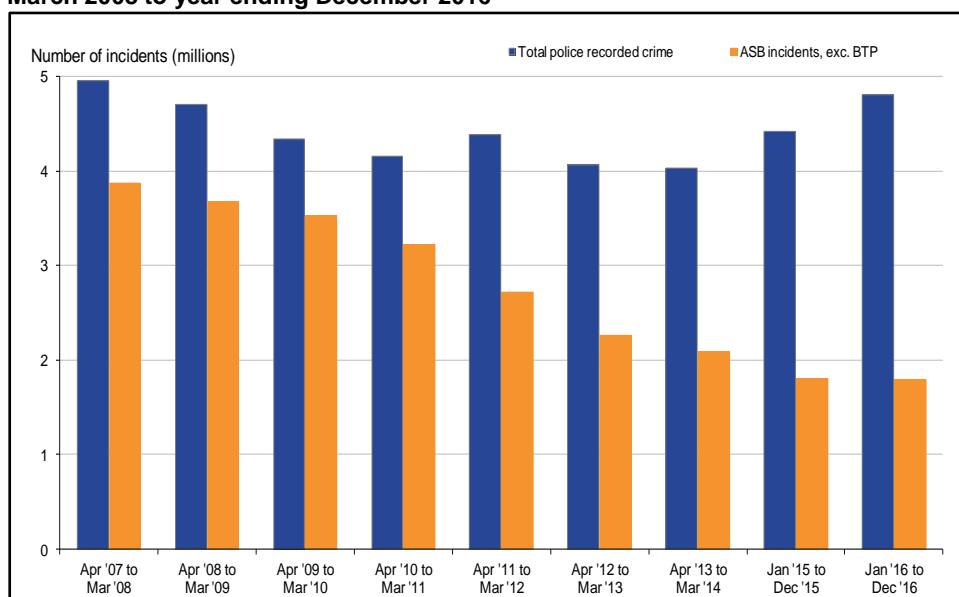
Figure 8 shows trends in police recorded ASB, compared with trends in recorded crime.²⁶ 1.8m incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded by the Police during 2016, a decrease of 1% from 2015.

²⁴ Statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016 (ONS) April 2017

²⁵ Essex County Council Residents' Survey 2015 (Tracker 16). The 2016 Survey has been conducted but not yet published (as at 17 May 2017). Data excludes Southend and Thurrock.

²⁶ ASB incidents may still be crimes in law, e.g., littering or dog fouling, but not severe enough to result in the recording of a notifiable offence

Figure 8: Police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents in England and Wales: year ending March 2008 to year ending December 2016



Source: Statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016 (ONS) April 2017

Essex Police data shows 52,447 recorded anti-social behaviour incidents during 2016, with most recorded under the 'nuisance' heading as follows:²⁷

Table 4: Police recorded ASB in Essex by type, 2016

| Type of ASB | Number | % Essex Total | % Essex Total (2013) |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Nuisance | 36,108 | 68.8% | 74.4% |
| Personal | 6,598 | 18.6% | 13.9% |
| Environmental | 9,741 | 12.6% | 11.7% |
| Total | 52,447 | | 56,865 |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

This reflects a 7.8% reduction from the overall number in 2013 of 56,865, with some shifts in the proportions of the type of incidents.^{28 29}

²⁷ As recorded on STORM command and control system. The procedure is: initial assessment > decision on whether a police response is needed > STORM record finalised with summary of advice given/agencies referred to > officer attendance > risk assessment. Where an investigation is required an Athena record will be created. In 2016, 792 ASB incidents progressed to being recorded on Athena.

²⁸ A review by HMIC in 2012 found significant variation in the quality of decision making associated with recording ASB incidents, including 35% of all incidents reviewed considered to be incorrectly categorised. ONS advise that all ASB incident data should be interpreted with caution.

²⁹ ASB can now be reported online. Data from February - April 2017 suggests a steady increase in reports.

4) SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME IN ESSEX

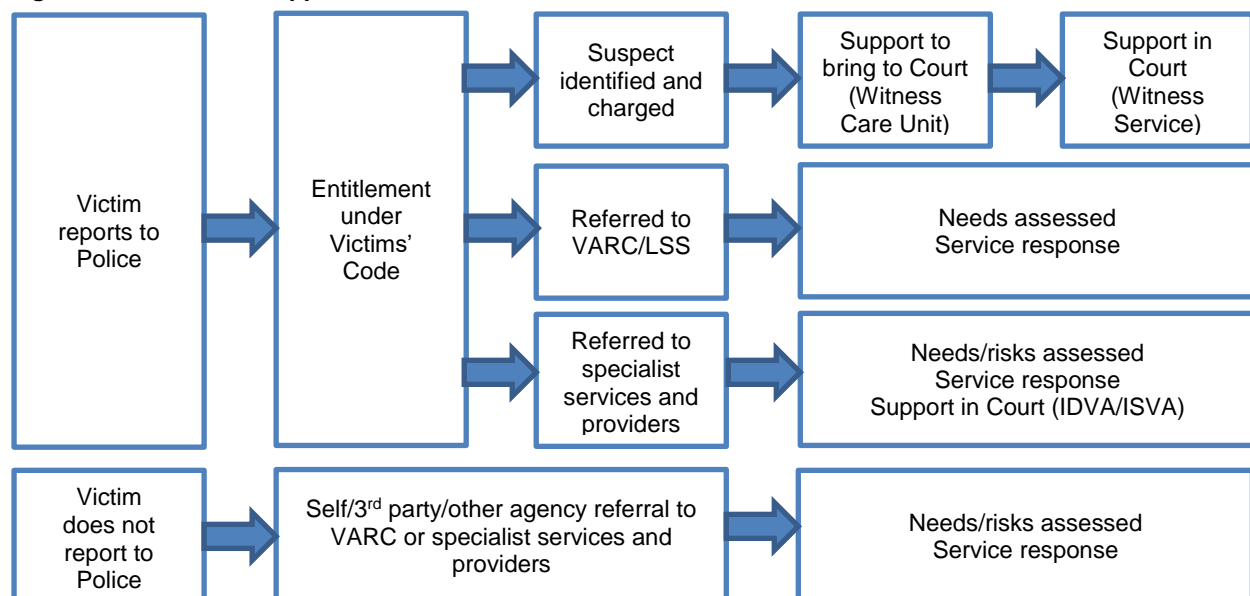
4.1) Overview of support and how to access

The PCC has awarded the following important contracts to support victims of crime in Essex, and has collaborated with partners to award other key contracts:

- **Victims' Assessment and Referral Centre (VARC) and Local Support Services (LSS)** - awarded to Victim Support from April 2015 to March 2018. The contract covers the assessment and onward referral of victims and the provision of largely non-specialist support, with separate targets for enhanced and standard services as defined under the Victims' Code. Victims of hate crime are also supported by the VARC.³⁰
- **Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) Service** – awarded to Safer Places from April 2015 to March 2018. The contract covers support to victims of high risk domestic abuse.³¹
- **Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service and 'wraparound' services** – awarded to Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres from April 2016 to March 2019. The contract covers support to all victims of sexual violence.³²

The following diagram broadly illustrates how victims of crime can access support to help them 'cope and recover' from the impact of the crime, regardless of whether they report to the Police, and the support available to them where a suspect is identified, charged and the case goes to Court.

Figure 9: Overview of support available to victims of crime in Essex



Further detail of what is involved at each stage of the above process is outlined as follows:

- what happens when a victim reports to Essex Police, and how the Force is continuing to develop its focus on victims of crime (*section 4.2*)

³⁰ In addition, Victim Support has national referral and support arrangements in place with Action Fraud and the British Transport Police

³¹ Community based outreach and Refuge support for victims of domestic abuse is commissioned by Essex County Council, and Southend and Thurrock unitaries, and current contracts are due to run until March 2019

³² Forensic and sexual health support is provided at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) by Mountain Healthcare

- how a victim is supported when a suspect is identified and charged, and when the case goes to Court (*sections 4.3 and 4.4*)
- what happens when victims' details are passed to the VARC, and how the VARC/LSS support victims (*section 4.7*)
- what happens when victims are referred to specialist support services (*Section 5*)

4.2) Reporting to Essex Police

Crime is reported through the Crime Bureau, either by phone or online.³³ If by phone, the caller is informed by messaging on the 101 system that their details will be referred to Victim Support (VARC) unless they prefer not to. If online, the Crime Bureau calls back and relays the same message. An initial needs assessment is done, which determines entitlement under the Victims' Code (i.e., an enhanced or standard response).

In roughly 22% of cases there will be a desk based investigation by the Bureau. In 78% of cases an officer will attend and should leave a Victim Care Card.³⁴ Every victim should get a letter when the crime is recorded, by post or e-mail, setting out details of the Victims' Code and their entitlement under it, and be advised that their details have been referred to Victim Support (VARC).

High risk domestic abuse cases, together with so called honour based crime, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Forced Marriages, are dealt with by specialist domestic abuse teams.³⁵ Serious sexual offences are dealt with by the 'Serious Sexual Violence' team. The Hate Crime Unit will automatically be alerted to any hate related crime.

In terms of referral for victim support services, high risk victims of domestic abuse should be manually excluded from the daily Automatic Data Transfer (ADT) listing sent to the VARC, as should victims of serious sexual offences, i.e., rape or cases involving children. Referrals for appropriate support should subsequently be made by specialist police teams.

When the investigation ends, the victim receives a closing letter. Where a case is ongoing, through the Criminal Justice System, support for victims passes to the Witness Care Unit (see 4.3).

A new Victim Focus and Public Confidence Board was set up by Essex Police in November 2016 to oversee activity to improve victims' experience, ensure compliance with the Victims' Code and improve public confidence. Actions recently completed or underway include:

- issuing a new Victims' Code leaflet to all operational officers and police staff who have contact with victims, to refresh and reinforce knowledge about key statutory obligations
- a review of internal audit findings on compliance with the Victims' Code, setting baselines against which the impact of future work can be assessed
- monitoring the overall level of overdue contacts with victims, following efforts to improve the timeliness of providing updates³⁶

³³ Online reporting was introduced in March 2016. Crimes reported online are steadily rising from 292 in May 2016 to 1,290 in April 2017. The Crime Bureau assess online reports (which also cover ASB incidents, traffic collisions and property lost and found), recording on Athena, or forwarding to the Force Command Room if ASB.

³⁴ The Victim Care Card, introduced in December 2013, includes contact details, a summary of what to expect and a checklist of things an officer should have discussed, such as the opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement (VPS), or a Business Impact Statement (BIS) in the case of commercial crime, the option of Restorative Justice and the Right to Review. Compliance is monitored through 'dip check' sample, review of how many cards are being ordered, call backs with victims and witnesses.

³⁵ Dedicated specialist investigation (Operation Juno) teams for High and Medium risk domestic abuse cases

³⁶ The responsibility to keep victims informed of decisions and progress rests with the officer in charge. 64% of victims were satisfied with '*being informed of progress*' in 2016/17 (Table 5).

Efforts are being made to ensure that victims are aware of the right to prepare a Victim Personal Statement, and to have it read out in Court.³⁷ Compliance is monitored through internal audit of records and review of case files submitted for court.³⁸

- Audit results for November 2016 show that of 60 records inspected, 20 showed no evidence that a 'Victim of Crime Letter' had been sent, 11 did not have a Victim Personal Statement (VPS) included and 8 should have been offered an enhanced service.³⁹
- Supplementary information from files submitted for court during January to March 2017 suggests that for 726 crimes where there was a victim: a VPS was offered and was on file in 13% of cases; was offered but outstanding (37% of cases); was offered but declined (13% of cases) and there was no indication of being offered (37% of cases).
- The take up of Business Impact Statements is not being monitored, but is believed to be low.

During 2016 Essex Police received 56 requests under the Police Right to Review Scheme.⁴⁰ Of these, 48 resulted in the original decision to take no further action being upheld, 2 resulted in the original decision being overturned and the case referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for charging decision, and 6 are currently being reviewed.

Levels of satisfaction with the way Essex Police respond to and support victims of crime appear to be reducing over time, with '*action taken by the police*' and '*being informed of progress*' relatively low. There are limitations however with the scope of the existing survey, with plans to develop extended and more meaningful surveys.⁴¹

Table 5: Victim of crime satisfaction with Essex Police, 2013/14 to 2016/17

| Aspect | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Making contact | 94.5% (+/-1.2pp) | 92.8% (+/-1.4pp) | 90.4% (+/-1.6pp) | 87.4% (+/-1.7pp) |
| Action taken by Police | 82.6% (+/-1.7pp) | 81.5% (+/-1.8% pp) | 72.8% (+/-2.1pp) | 70.1% (+/-2.5pp) |
| Being informed of progress | 77.1% (+/-1.9pp) | 75.0% (+/-2.0pp) | 65.3% (+/-2.3pp) | 64.0% (+/-2.7pp) |
| Treatment by staff | 92.3% (+/-1.2pp) | 92.2% (+/-1.2%) | 88.4% (+/-1.5pp) | 85.4% (+/-1.6pp) |
| Overall service | 82.0% (+/-1.7pp) | 80.4% (+/-1.8pp) | 73.8% (+/-2.0pp) | 70.4% (+/-2.1pp) |

Source: Essex Police User Satisfaction Results, 2017

³⁷ Nationally, less than one in five victims is offered the chance to make a VPS for court hearings, with some groups having an even greater chance of being disadvantaged. Source: Victim Personal Statement: Victim Inequality 2015/16 (Victims' Commissioner) January 2017

³⁸ Athena captures information about VPS in free text, so is difficult to extract with the current management information tool facilities.

³⁹ Victims' Code Performance Pack, Essex Police, April 2017

⁴⁰ The Police Right to Review Scheme came into effect in April 2015, where a victim has the right to ask for a review of a decision not to prosecute a suspect. National data is not available.

⁴¹ The existing user satisfaction survey is limited to domestic burglary, violent crime, vehicle crime and hate crime and those over 16. A wider public perception/experience survey of Policing and Criminal Justice in Essex has been commissioned with the PCC, with first results expected July/August 2017.

4.3) Witness Care Unit

Where a suspect is identified and charged, details are passed after the first hearing to the Witness Care Unit in Essex Police, whose main focus is to get victims and witnesses to Court. Throughout the Court process, the Witness Care Unit keeps victims and witnesses informed, and arranges special measures where needed.

The Unit promotes the opportunity to make or update Victim Personal Statements, and ensures that these are made available to the Crown Prosecution Service.⁴² If a VPS is done after an initial transfer of data from Athena to the Courts, then it may not be transferred automatically. The Witness Care Unit attempts to mitigate this through manual checks.

A victim's experience of the Magistrate Court process is likely to be more straightforward, as there are fixed date hearings, shorter processes, Counsels are not required and there is less need for witnesses. The majority of Crown Court trial dates are set within a three week 'window of opportunity' and only confirmed at 3:00pm the day before, which is likely to add to victims' anxiety, whether or not they have been called as witnesses.

The Unit dealt with 13,282 cases in 2016, 3,544 of which (27%) proceeded to trial.⁴³ This is almost a 13% decrease in overall cases from the position in 2013 and a 19.3% decrease in cases proceeding to trial.⁴⁴

Table 6: Cases overall supported by Essex Witness Care Unit by type and plea, 2016

| Type of case | Anticipated guilty plea | Anticipated non guilty plea | Remanded in custody | Total |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Volume crime | 3,510 | 2,349 | 2,115 | 7,974 |
| Vulnerable, intimidated witnesses/serious crime | 2,340 | 1,560 | 1,408 | 5,308 |
| Total cases | 5,850 (44.0%) | 3,909 (29.4%) | 3,523 (26.5%) | 13,282 |
| Change from 2013 | -21.4% | -1.0% | -8.0% | -12.8% |

Source: Essex Witness Care Team, May 2017

Table 7: Cases proceeding to trial supported by Essex Witness Care Unit by type and Court, 2016

| Type of case | Magistrates Court | Crown Court | Total |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Volume crime | 1,610 | 501 | 2,111 |
| Vulnerable and intimidated witnesses | 1,068 | 221 | 1,289 |
| Serious crime | - | 144 | 144 |
| Total cases | 2,678 (75.6%) | 866 (24.4%) | 3,544 |
| Change from 2013 | -21.4% | -12.1% | -19.3% |

Source: Essex Witness Care Team, May 2017

76% of cases going to trial were heard in Magistrates Courts, compared to 78% in 2013.⁴⁵

Once the case gets to Court, ongoing support is provided by the Court Based Witness Service (See 4.4). All civilian victims and witnesses required to attend are referred to a [YouTube guide](#) on going to Court.

⁴² Tracking the progress of a VPS through the CPS and Court processes is more difficult, and there are particular issues in providing victims with the opportunity to read their statements in Court where there is an anticipated guilty plea and sentencing is likely to be done at the first hearing.

⁴³ A Magistrate's Court case has an average of 5 witnesses, and Crown Court cases an average of 12. A case has around 5 hearings before it ends. Not all witnesses will be victims, and just over half will be professionals.

⁴⁴ The reduction in overall cases is considered to reflect the national trend in the fall of arrest rates, which is envisaged to continue. Pre-trial bail limited to 28 days could also impact (Policing and Crime Act 2017).

⁴⁵ There were an additional 252 Magistrate Court re-trials in 2016.

4.4) Court Based Witness Service

The Witness Service is managed by the Citizens Advice Bureau to support victims and witnesses in Crown and Magistrates Courts.⁴⁶ An outreach service is also available.

The following table provides a high level analysis of witnesses supported by the Service during 2016/17.

Table 8: Witnesses supported by the Witness Service in Essex, 2016/17

| | Number | Percentage |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Witnesses supported | 4,799 | |
| - prosecution | 4,688 | 97.7% |
| - defence | 111 | 2.3% |
| Vulnerable and intimidated | 1,074 | 22.4% |
| - receiving outreach ⁴⁷ | 13 | 1.2% |
| Total advance referrals from Witness Care Unit | 1,288 | 26.8% |
| - pre-trial visits ⁴⁸ | 306 | 23.8% |

Source: Citizens Advice Bureau, May 2017

The overall numbers and proportions in terms of witnesses supported for the prosecution and defence are similar to those reported for 2013/14. A new case management system allows the progression of a case to be seen and records to be accessed away from the Court. In terms of improvement, the service think that more support could be offered to defence witnesses.

4.5) Victim and Witness Action Team (VWAT)

The Victim and Witness Action Team, a subgroup of the Essex Criminal Justice Board, monitors the workloads of the Courts and their effectiveness, the impact on victims and witnesses, and reoffending rates.

A selection of measures, targets and performance during 2016/17 relating to the experiences of victims are as follows:

Table 9: Meeting the needs of victims and witnesses through the Court process in Essex, 2016/17

| Measure | Target | Monthly range 2016/17 | March 2017 |
|--|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ineffective trials Prosecution Witness absent (Magistrates Court) | N/a | 0.3%-2.0% | 0.4% |
| Ineffective trials Prosecution Witness absent (Crown Court) | N/a | 0.0%-1.7% | 0.8% |
| Witness waiting time within 2 hours (Magistrates Court) | >60% | N/a | 61.8% (Dec 2016) |
| Witness waiting time within 2 hours (Crown Court) | >80% | N/a | 50.6% (Dec 2016) |
| Unsuccessful outcomes due to victim issues (Magistrates Court) | 25% | 22.8%-32.0% | 31.3% |
| Unsuccessful outcomes due to victim issues (Crown Court) | 25% | 11.7%-28.8% | 21.3% |
| Violence against women conviction rate | N/a | 69.1%-83.7% | 77.4% |
| Rape conviction rate | 60% | 37.5%-85.7% | 54.5% |
| Domestic violence conviction rate | 75% | 68.7%-85.1% | 78.0% |
| Hate crime conviction rate | 85% | 58.3%-92.9% | 92.9% |

Source: Victim and Witness Action Team, April 2017

⁴⁶ The Witness Service is commissioned nationally by the Ministry of Justice, with the Citizens Advice Bureau awarded the contract from April 2015. There is no longer a separate young witness service.

⁴⁷ The outreach service was introduced in Essex in December 2016, hence the small numbers

⁴⁸ The proportion having pre-trial visits to help them give their best evidence has reduced significantly from 63.5% in 2013/14, but this is thought to be due to improved definition of what a pre-trial visit means

The challenge of tracking Victim Personal Statements through the justice system and ensuring that victims have the opportunity to read their statements in Court has been included in the VWAT's delivery plan.

4.6) Restorative Justice and Mediation

The Essex Restorative and Mediation Service is managed within the Office of the PCC. It is a scheme whereby a victim can communicate with the offender, directly face to face or indirectly by letter or other means. Victims are given the chance to explain the impact the crime or conflict has had on them, ask questions of the perpetrator and seek an apology. The service helps offenders take responsibility for the harm they have caused.⁴⁹

During 2016/17 there were 300 referrals to the service, 72% of which were made by the police, 11% by housing organisations, 9% from the youth offending service and 3% were self-referrals. Most police referrals came from Southend (22%), Thurrock (17%) and Epping (12%).

61% of the referrals related to ASB, and 39% to crime. In 65% of cases there was no criminal justice service input, and 22% related to community resolution outcomes.

Many decline the service (around 61%), but 42 victims have benefitted from communicating with the offender (roughly half face to face and half by letter) with 5 active cases.

During 2016, there were 3,283 victims recorded by Essex Police for whom 'community resolution' was the outcome of the police investigation.

⁴⁹ The Essex Restorative Justice Service has achieved The Restorative Service Quality Mark

4.7) Victim Assessment and Referral Centre (VARC)/Local Support Services (LSS)

Victim Support is contracted to provide assessment and referral services for victims of crime in Essex, and to provide non-specialist local support services.⁵⁰ National arrangements are in place for Victim Support to support victims referred by Action Fraud and to respond to referrals from British Transport Police.

Most referrals come from the Police through a daily overnight automatic data transfer (ADT). Those victims who have elected not to have their details passed on should be excluded, as are victims of 'high risk' domestic abuse and serious sexual offences. Those eligible for an 'enhanced' service under the Victims' Code should be identified.

During 2016/17, the VARC received 87,505 referrals, the vast majority of which (93.6%) came from the Police via the data transfer arrangement.⁵¹ Self-referrals made up 0.8%.

Table 10: Referrals to the Victim Assessment and Referral Centre (VARC) in Essex by source, 2016/17

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2016/17 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Referrals received | 22,239 | 24,098 | 21,496 | 19,672 | 87,505 |
| Referral source: | | | | | |
| - Police – local ADT | 20,527 | 22,612 | 20,173 | 18,621 | 81,933 |
| - Police – local manual | 34 | 28 | 23 | 0 | 85 |
| - Police – other Forces | 1,216 | 1,029 | 837 | 517 | 3,599 |
| - Police – British Transport Police | 19 | 27 | 59 | 25 | 130 |
| - Action Fraud | 259 | 217 | 244 | 290 | 1,010 |
| - Self-referrals | 163 | 167 | 127 | 202 | 659 |
| - Other | 21 | 18 | 33 | 17 | 89 |
| Needs assessments conducted: | 2,251 | 2,704 | 2,480 | 2,677 | 10,112 |
| Cases with needs identified: | 680 | 712 | 605 | 1,165 | 3,162 |
| - Enhanced | 343 | 314 | 260 | 914 | 1,831 |
| - Standard | 337 | 398 | 345 | 251 | 1,331 |

Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

Of the overall referrals in 2016/17, 10,112 (11.6%) victims were assessed, and from these 3,162 (3.6%) had needs identified which were either provided by the VARC/LSS or were referred to other agencies for specialist support.

3,407 victims were supported by Victim Support during 2016/17, a 13.3% increase from 2015/16 (3,006). A more in depth analysis follows, which provides a profile of 3,296 victims supported during 2016/17 by age, gender, crime type, home location, assessed needs and services provided.⁵²

All victims - age and gender

Of the 3,296 victims supported, most were female (61.2%) and in the age range 25-55. This is different from the age and gender profile of all victims reporting to the police (Figure 4), suggesting that women were more likely to seek support and be assessed as needing it, with perhaps more support needed by those aged 35-45.

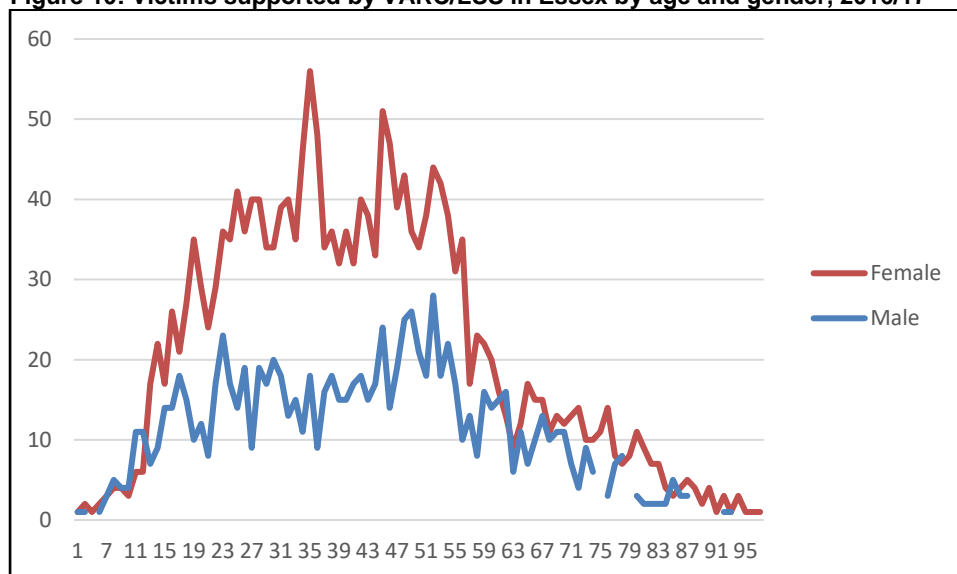
⁵⁰ Commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex from April 2015 to March 2018. Prior to this Victim Support provided services to victims of crime under a national contract with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

⁵¹ This is a slight reduction from the position in 2015/16 when there were 90,317 referrals.

There were 38,660 referrals in 2013/14, restricted to 'people affected by crime' under specific Home Office crime categories: violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, other theft offences, criminal damage and other miscellaneous offences, those from and about vulnerable people, and self referrals

⁵² The reason this number is lower than the 3,407 figure, is that Victim Support changed their case management system towards the end of 2016/17, and figures exclude data only recorded on the new system during Q4.

Figure 10: Victims supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by age and gender, 2016/17⁵³



Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

All victims - type of crime

The following table shows the type of crime experienced by this cohort of victims, with the highest proportion (41.4%) being 'violence against the person'.

Table 11: Victims supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by crime type, 2016/17

| Crime type | Female | Male | Not given/ Unknown | Total | Police recorded victims | % recorded victims |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Theft offences | 435 | 252 | 56 | 743 | 33,441 | 2.2% |
| - Burglary | 282 | 156 | 49 | 487 | | |
| - Other theft | 153 | 96 | 7 | 256 | | |
| Violence against the person | 799 | 448 | 116 | 1,363 | 31,959 | 4.3% |
| - Violence without injury | 471 | 171 | 64 | 706 | | |
| - Violence with injury | 315 | 260 | 31 | 606 | | |
| - Homicide | 13 | 17 | 21 | 51 | | |
| Damage and arson offences | 200 | 91 | 18 | 309 | 11,792 | 2.6% |
| Public order offences | 173 | 93 | 12 | 278 | 6,696 | 4.2% |
| Sexual offences | 247 | 33 | 36 | 316 | 2,780 | 11.4% |
| Robbery | 11 | 11 | 2 | 24 | 1,020 | 2.4% |
| Other crime | 88 | 45 | 19 | 152 | 941 | 16.2% ⁵⁴ |
| Fraud and forgery | 51 | 27 | 11 | 89 | N/a | |
| Non-crime | 12 | 2 | 8 | 22 | N/a | |
| Total | 2,016 | 1,002 | 278 | 3,296 | 88,629 | 3.7% |
| Domestic violence related | 537 | 112 | 29 | 678 | 13,023 | 5.2% |
| Hate crime related | 106 | 63 | 7 | 176 | 1,684 | 10.5% |
| Vulnerable flag | 44 | 23 | 5 | 72 | N/a | |

Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

Whilst not an exact 'like for like' comparison it is interesting to look at the proportion of police recorded victims in each crime category or situation supported by Victim Support. 20.6% of those supported by the VARC/LSS were victims of domestic abuse relate crime. Victims of sexual offences and hate crime appear to be most likely to proceed to receiving support when they are referred to the VARC, with 11.4% and 10.5% respectively of all victims.

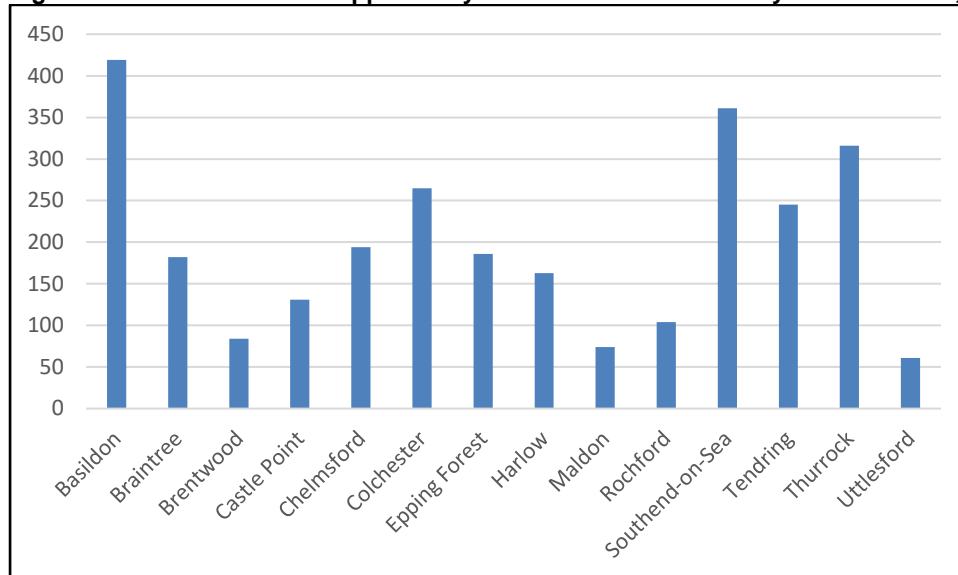
⁵³ Excludes 278 where gender is unknown, and a further 48 where the age is blank

⁵⁴ This relatively high percentage could reflect Victim Support's lack of access to information about crime type for those cases not referred by the Police

All victims – victim’s home location

The victim’s ‘local authority’ location within Essex can be identified for 2,785 records (84.5%). The home location profile is as follows, which is remarkably similar to the profile of all victims of crime reporting to Essex Police shown in Figure 6. This suggests that support is being provided on a relatively equal basis geographically across the county.

Figure 11: Victims of crime supported by the VARC/LSS in Essex by home location, 2016/17



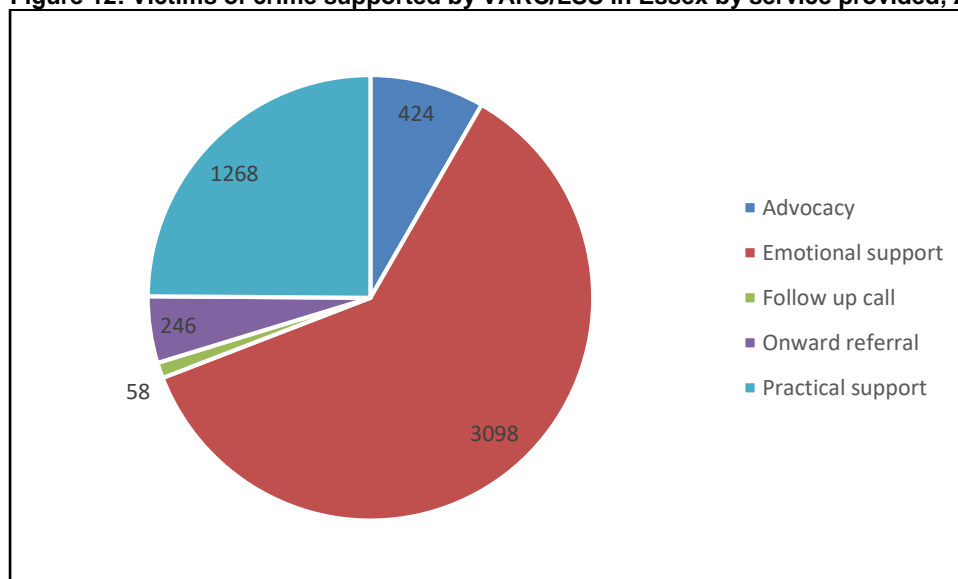
Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

All victims - assessed needs and services provided

The cohort of 3,296 victims supported by the VARC/LSS during 2016/17 had 6,091 assessed needs and 5,094 services provided. It is difficult to aggregate the long list of options for assessed need, but most appear to relate to emotional support (roughly 53% of the total, with ‘ongoing emotional support’ accounting for 33%) and practical support (33%).

Of the 5,094 services provided to these victims, 61% related to emotional support, with a relatively high proportion of this done by ‘telephone, e-mail or SMS ongoing contact’ (1,916 services). There were 420 services delivered under the category of ‘developing coping strategies’. Practical support covers 25% of the total services, with the highest numbers for ‘information provision’ (371), ‘personal alarms’ (177) and ‘security items’ (174), although there are several other categories which could be included in these headings.

Figure 12: Victims of crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17



Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

There were 246 recorded instances of victims being referred to other agencies.

This prompts the question about whether victims with specialist support needs are being referred appropriately, particularly when high risk domestic abuse victims and victims of serious sexual offences should be manually excluded from the ADT, and where specialist services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence are in place across Essex, commissioned by the PCC and partners.⁵⁵

Further details of support provided by the VARC/LSS to victims of domestic abuse and victims of sexual offences are provided in Section 5.1 and 5.2 respectively.

⁵⁵ Victim Support has also highlighted that it is receiving referrals via Essex Police relating to domestic abuse and sexual offences with no safe contact number in the case of domestic violence, or when the case is already being supported by a specialist IDVA or ISVA.

5) SPECIALIST NEEDS AND SERVICES

This section starts with analyses of victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, looking at national data about likely prevalence, and local information drawn from Essex Police and service providers. It should be noted that there is some cross over in definition and therefore support provided for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.⁵⁶

The section continues with a review of victims of hate crime, young victims of crime, older victims of crime, other vulnerable victims, victims of fraud and computer misuse, and victims of business and commercial crime.

5.1) Victims of domestic abuse

Domestic abuse by its nature often goes unrecognised and the full extent is not known. Like sexual violence, it disproportionately affects women who tend to be at higher risk of harm.

5.1.1) Domestic abuse: national trends

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) includes a self-completion module on intimate violence.⁵⁷ The headlines from the latest published data are:⁵⁸

- An estimated 7.7% of women and 4.4% of men experienced any type of domestic abuse in the last year. **In Essex this would equate to 38,870 female and 21,783 male victims aged 16-59.**⁵⁹ Non-sexual partner abuse was the most common type of intimate violence experienced in the last year (5.4% of women compared with 2.8% of men).
- The longer term underlying trend is downward, from an overall prevalence of 7.1% for the year ending March 2012 to 6.1% for the year ending March 2016
- 26.3% of women and 13.6% of men had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16, **equivalent to an estimated 132,766 female and 67,329 male victims aged 16-59 in Essex.**

A total of 1.03m domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes were recorded by the police in England and Wales in the year ending March 2016. Of these 41% were recorded as crimes, and 59% as incidents.

Additional information is available on what happens when a crime is reported to the Police:⁶⁰

- Domestic abuse related crime accounts for 1 in 10 crimes, 78% are for 'violence against the person'. **In Essex, the proportion is 11.7% of all victims and 14.7% of victims of personal/household crime (excluding business crime); 80.4% of victims of domestic violence have a crime type of 'violence against the person'.**

⁵⁶ Domestic abuse is defined as '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. It can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional' (Cross-government definition)

⁵⁷ The self-completion module is currently asked of adults aged 16 to 59 (upper age limit under review) and covers experience of emotional, financial and physical abuse by partners or family members, as well as sexual assaults and stalking by any person. It is considered to be more accurate than the face to face survey.

⁵⁸ Focus on violent crime and sexual offences, England and Wales, year ending March 2016: Chapter 4 Domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking (ONS) February 2017

⁵⁹ Calculated from Mid-2015 Population Estimates (ONS) October 2016. The estimated number of females aged 16-59 in Essex is 504,813; the estimated number of males 495,066.

⁶⁰ Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2016, Statistical Bulletin (ONS) December 2016

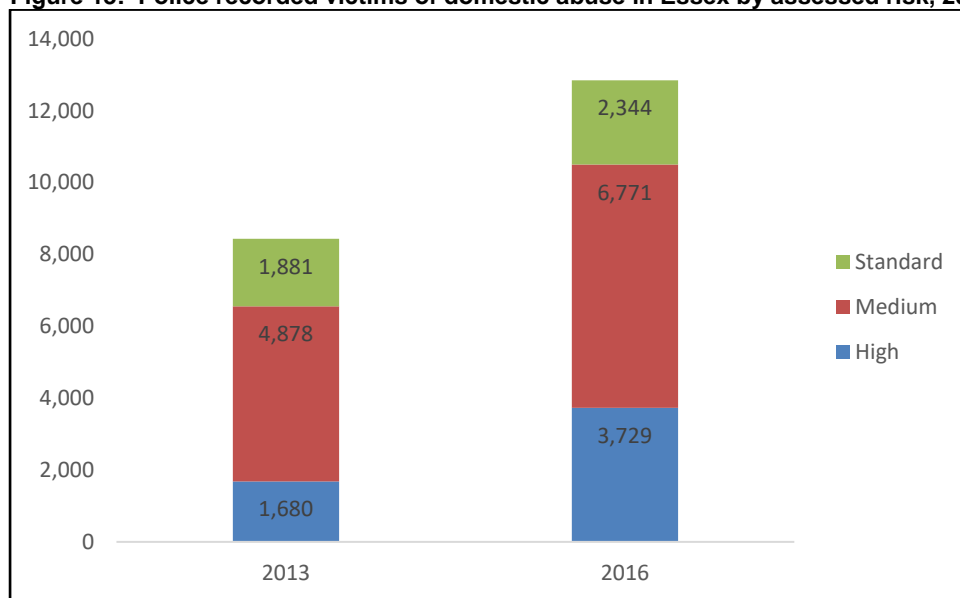
- A decision to charge was made for 70% of domestic abuse related cases referred to the CPS, with convictions secured for 75% of prosecutions.⁶¹ **In Essex, the domestic violence conviction rate was 78% in March 2017** (see Table 9)

5.1.2) Domestic abuse: Essex police data

The following analysis is taken from a cohort of individual victims where a domestic abuse flag has been recorded by Essex Police during 2016. 13,023 victims were recorded in this category during 2016, compared with 8,439 recorded during 2013, an increase of 54.3% over a three year period.⁶²

Of the 13,023 recorded victims, 28.6% (3,729) were assessed as high risk, 52.0% (6,771) as medium risk and 18.0% (2,344) as standard risk.⁶³ The following chart shows the change in volumes of domestic abuse related offences from 2013 to 2016, and changes in the proportions of assessed risk.

Figure 13: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by assessed risk, 2013 and 2016



Source: Essex Police data, April 2014 and March 2017

The number of victims assessed to be at higher risk has more than doubled over the period (120%), and makes up a larger proportion of all cases.

The establishment of specialist 'Operation Juno' teams has enabled greater consistency in secondary risk assessment, and the recent trend is for a reduction in the proportions of high and medium level risk cases, considered to be more in line with the national profile, and an increase in standard level risk cases which are dealt with by local policing teams. Increasing attention is being given to those assessed at the higher end of medium risk.

Police perceptions are that domestic abuse related crime is continuing to rise in Essex, with no signs that it will reduce.

⁶¹ Over half of unsuccessful prosecutions (53%) were due to either victim retraction, victim non-attendance or the victim not supporting the case

⁶² There were an additional 7 commercial victims of crime with a 'domestic abuse' flag

⁶³ The remaining 1.4% records had no assessment of risk attached (1 shown as 'incomplete' and 178 as 'blank')

Age and gender

Women make up 77.1% of the total victims of domestic abuse related crime, where gender is recorded, and men 22.9%. This compares with 79.2% and 20.8% respectively in 2013, suggesting a shift to proportionately more domestic abuse related crimes being reported against men.

In terms of age, the majority of victims appear to be in the 18-44 year range, with those aged 25-34 most likely to be assessed as high risk.

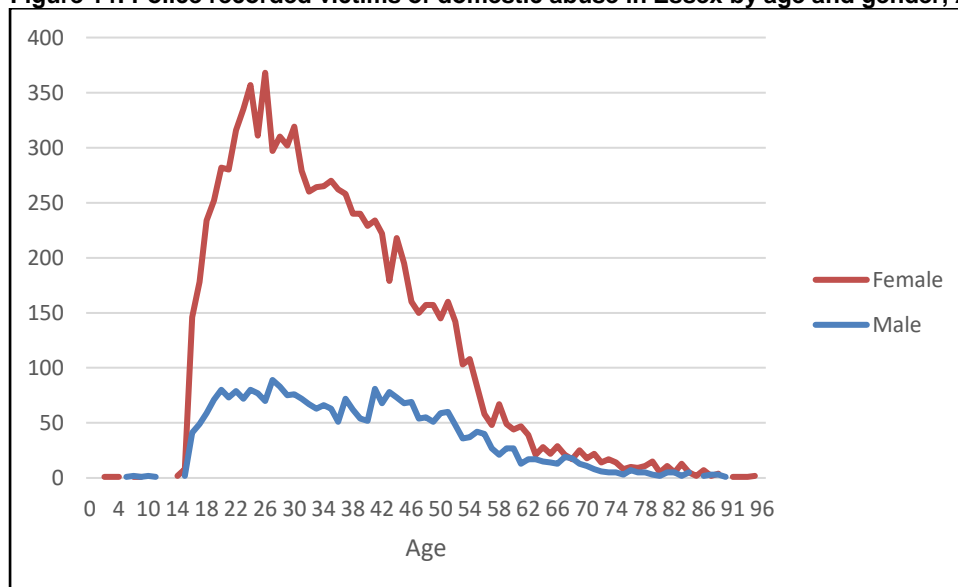
Table 12: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by agegroup, gender & assessed risk, 2016

| Age group | Female | Male | Not recorded | Total | High risk | Medium risk |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0-12 | 8 | 11 | 0 | 19 | 2 | 8 |
| 13-17 | 334 | 95 | 3 | 432 | 97 | 249 |
| 18-24 | 2,056 | 514 | 14 | 2,584 | 767 | 1,299 |
| 25-34 | 2,975 | 738 | 18 | 3,731 | 1,222 | 1,865 |
| 35-44 | 2,352 | 654 | 11 | 3,017 | 863 | 1,593 |
| 45-54 | 1,477 | 537 | 7 | 2,021 | 470 | 1,099 |
| 55-64 | 484 | 246 | 3 | 733 | 169 | 414 |
| 65-74 | 199 | 112 | 4 | 315 | 82 | 164 |
| 75-84 | 92 | 42 | 1 | 135 | 48 | 63 |
| 85+ | 20 | 11 | 0 | 31 | 9 | 12 |
| No age recorded | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 9,999 | 2,962 | 62 | 13,023 | 3,729 | 6,771 |
| High risk | 3,313 | 399 | 17 | 3,729 | | |
| Medium risk | 5,065 | 1,680 | 26 | 6,771 | | |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

The following graph shows the overall picture of age and gender. Numbers of female victims of domestic abuse climb sharply from around the age of 16 to those in their mid-twenties (the highest number is 368 at age 26), before falling off steadily.

Figure 14: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by age and gender, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Most victims of police recorded domestic abuse described themselves as 'White British' (83.8% compared with 79% for all victims), then 'Any Other White Background' (3.3%) and 'African' (2% compared with 1.8% for all victims). Self-defined ethnicity was not recorded for 4.9% of victims.

Type of crime

The majority of police recorded victims of domestic abuse were victims of 'violence against the person' (80.4%), with just over half of these (53%) assessed as medium risk.

Table 13: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by crime type and assessed risk, 2016

| Crime type | High | Medium | Standard | Blank/ incomplete | Total |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Violence against the person | 3,002 | 5,558 | 1,805 | 108 | 10,473 |
| - Violence without injury | 1,401 | 3,520 | 1,427 | 69 | 6,417 |
| - Violence with injury | 1,601 | 2,038 | 378 | 36 | 4,053 |
| - Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Damage and arson offences | 196 | 620 | 273 | 21 | 1,110 |
| Sexual offences | 254 | 114 | 40 | 29 | 437 |
| Theft offences | 92 | 170 | 135 | 16 | 413 |
| Public order offences | 116 | 233 | 59 | 1 | 409 |
| Miscellaneous crimes against society | 48 | 66 | 31 | 3 | 148 |
| Robbery | 13 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 21 |
| Possession of weapons offences | 8 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 12 |
| Total | 3,729 | 6,771 | 2,344 | 179 | 13,023 |

Source: Essex Police data March 2017

'Harassment' is included in the 'violence without injury' category: there were 6,128 victims of harassment overall during 2016, with 1,634 victims of domestic abuse related harassment, including 319 high risk and 819 medium risk victims. There were 116 victims of stalking overall, with 32 victims of domestic abuse related stalking, of which 12 were high and 16 medium risk.

Victims of domestic abuse related crime accounted for 32.8% of all victims of 'violence against the person', 15.7% of all victims of sexual violence and 9.4% of all victims of 'damage and arson'. 58% of domestic abuse victims of sexual offences were high risk.

For 33 victims of domestic abuse, the crime was considered to be a 'hate crime', 8 of these related to harassment. For 162 victims the crime was tagged as 'online', 133 of these were for harassment.

Time taken to report/record

89% of victims of domestic abuse have the offence recorded by the Police within a week of it having taken place, with 46% recorded the same day.⁶⁴ This compares with 89% and 73% respectively for victims of all crime. The picture across the levels of risk is fairly similar, but with 50% of high risk victims recorded on the same day.

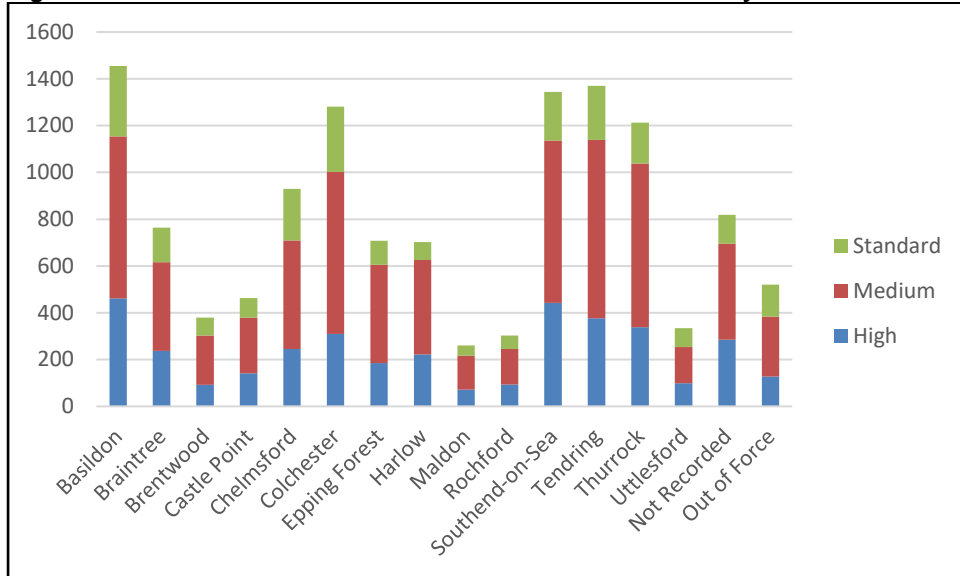
Victim's home location

The following graph shows the home location for victims of domestic abuse related crimes, by level of risk.⁶⁵ Victims of domestic abuse related crime in Essex in 2016 accounted for 15% of all victims. In Tendring it was 18%, in Uttlesford 17% and Harlow 16%.

⁶⁴ 2016 figures for domestic abuse are likely to reflect an operational delay in recording rather than a delay in reporting, until after an officer has attended and spoken to the victim. Details are now taken and recorded immediately.

⁶⁵ A home location is not recorded for 839 victims of domestic abuse (6.4% of the overall number), including 285 high risk and 411 medium risk victims

Figure 15: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by home location and assessed risk, 2016

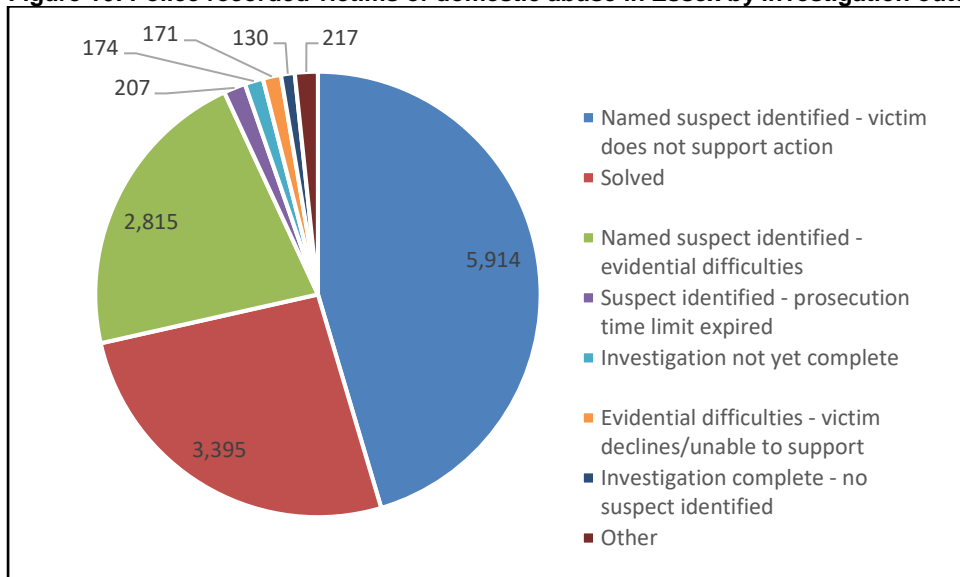


Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Victims of domestic abuse - outcomes of police reported crime

26% of victims of domestic abuse related crime during 2016 had a 'solved' outcome. This compares to 13.4% for victims of all crime. For high risk victims the percentage 'solved' increased to 39%.

Figure 16: Police recorded victims of domestic abuse in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

45% did not support action, with this percentage falling as the risk increases (34.7% for high risk and 47.6% for medium risk). This is understandable, especially where children are involved. This compares with 14.8% for all victims of crime.

5.1.3) Domestic abuse: specialist service provider data

Services to support victims of domestic abuse in Essex are commissioned by a number of public sector organisations: the PCC, Essex County Council, Thurrock and Southend unitaries and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

Data has been brought together to show the full picture of demand, service provision and outcomes for the various elements, regardless of who funds. There are gaps in the picture however, with variable detail available on commissioned services, and the existence of non-commissioned voluntary sector provision.⁶⁶

Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) Service

A new countywide service was commissioned from Safer Places by the PCC from April 2015.⁶⁷ The service is available to all victims of high risk domestic abuse. Most IDVAs are ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) qualified, so can work with domestic abuse related sexual offences, and two are qualified to support victims of stalking.

During 2016/17 there were 3,472 referrals to the IDVA service, down from 3,922 referred in the previous year. The main referrer is Essex Police (84%). Numbers of referrals have fallen during the year as a consequence of changes in police practice and fewer victims of domestic abuse being assessed as high risk. The service has raised this as a concern in contract monitoring discussions, and would like more insight into those victims assessed as medium risk (who are currently referred to the VARC/LSS for support).

Referrals from the police account for 78% of all police recorded victims of domestic abuse assessed as high risk during 2016 (3,729).

Table 14: Referrals to the IDVA service in Essex by source and service response, 2016/17

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2016/17 | % |
|---|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----|
| No victims referred | 1,164 | 914 | 705 | 689 | 3,472 | |
| Repeat referrals ⁶⁸ | 236 | 204 | 166 | 165 | 771 | 22% |
| Referral source: | | | | | | |
| - Police | 1020 | 792 | 558 | 534 | 2,904 | 84% |
| - MARAC | 65 | 57 | 71 | 57 | 250 | 7% |
| - Gateway referrals | 58 | 52 | 50 | 60 | 220 | 6% |
| - Other (including VARC) | 21 | 13 | 26 | 38 | 98 | 3% |
| Service response: | | | | | | |
| Ongoing engagement | 336 | 285 | 260 | 278 | 1,159 | 33% |
| Of which: | | | | | | |
| - Risk assessment | 325 | 284 | 252 | 271 | 1,132 | 98% |
| - Safety plan | 324 | 273 | 260 | 275 | 1,132 | 98% |
| - Referred for counselling/ other recovery | 155 | 91 | 61 | 71 | 378 | 33% |
| Information/advice only | 159 | 131 | 121 | 105 | 516 | 15% |
| Declined | 195 | 167 | 101 | 85 | 548 | 16% |
| Unable to contact | 474 | 331 | 223 | 221 | 1,249 | 36% |

Source: Safer Places, May 2017

Of those referred, 33% progressed to ongoing support (compared with 35% for 2015/16). 36% were unable to be contacted.

⁶⁶ Safer Places provides the majority of commissioned services in Essex, but no longer sub-contracts from some Women's Aid organisations across the county, which continue to provide services from grant and other income

⁶⁷ Additional IDVA resources are managed by Safer Places, such as those funded by CCGs to work within hospitals. Data for these additional services is excluded from the figures.

⁶⁸ Referred back into the service within 12 months with the original or new perpetrator

There were 542 victims of domestic violence receiving IDVA support in Q4 (January to March) 2017.⁶⁹ The split by age group was as follows:

Table 15: Victims of domestic abuse supported by the IDVA service in Essex by age group, Q4 2016/17

| Agegroup | Number supported Q4 | % supported (where age known) | Total 'high risk' victims recorded by Essex Police 2016 | % recorded |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| 0-12 | 0 | 0.0% | 2 | 0.05% |
| 13-17 | 5 | 1.1% | 97 | 2.6% |
| 18-24 | 86 | 19.0% | 767 | 20.6% |
| 25-34 | 148 | 32.7% | 1,222 | 32.8% |
| 35-44 | 121 | 26.7% | 863 | 23.1% |
| 45-54 | 47 | 10.4% | 470 | 12.6% |
| 55-64 | 33 | 7.3% | 169 | 4.5% |
| 65-74 | 8 | 1.8% | 82 | 2.2% |
| 75-84 | 4 | 0.9% | 48 | 1.3% |
| 85+ | 1 | 0.2% | 9 | 0.2% |
| Age not given | 89 | | 0 | |
| Total | 542 | | 3,729 | |

Source: Safer Places, May 2017

The age profile of those supported by the IDVA service appears to be fairly similar to the age profile of high risk victims recorded by Essex Police, with higher proportions for those aged 18-44 and those aged 25-34 most likely to be assessed as high risk and most likely to be receiving IDVA support.

Roughly 6% are those supported male, compared with 10.7% of male victims of police recorded high risk domestic abuse.

8% are black, minority ethnic, compared with approximately 7.2% of those reporting to the police. 4% have disabilities and 0.4% are LGBT.

Data is not available on the victims' home location. Of the 542 victims, 25.3% were supported in North Essex (Colchester and Tendring), 20.5% in West Essex (Harlow, Uttlesford and Epping), 19% in Southend and Thurrock, 18.8% in Mid Essex (Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon) and 16.4% in South Essex (Castle Point, Rochford, Basildon and Brentwood).

It is hard to tell from this information whether there are geographic gaps in provision when compared to the police data.

IDVAs report that on average 75% of their cases involve stalking, the only outlier being Thurrock where about half of cases include stalking. An area of growing concern for the service is domestic violence where the perpetrator is a gang member, which makes engaging with victims and providing support particularly challenging.⁷⁰

86% of those leaving the service with a completed review (247) had reported to the Police. Charges were brought in the cases of 61% of these victims, with a successful prosecution for 39% of them (or 79% of those where the CPS proceeded). This compares with the national average of a decision to charge in 70% of cases, with convictions for 75%.

⁶⁹ This is a snapshot to enable further analysis of the age profile, and area where the service is provided, and does not represent the total numbers being supported through the year.

⁷⁰ Annual Report, Essex IDVA Service 2016/17 (Safer Places) May 2017

Table 16: Outcomes for those leaving IDVA service in Essex, rolling 12 months ending Q4 2016/17

| Outcomes: | Q4 |
|---|------------------|
| Of those leaving service with completed review (rolling 12 months) | 247 |
| - Cessation all types of abuse | 198 (80%) |
| - Reduction risk of further harm | 189 (76%) |
| - Sustainability of any reduction of risk | 170 (69%) |
| - Feeling safer | 187 (76%) |
| - Quality of life improved | 181 (73%) |
| - Confidence in accessing support | 192 (78%) |
| - Accessing health and wellbeing advice | 164 (66%) |
| Reported to Police | 213 (86%) |
| Charges brought | 150 (61%) |
| - CPS proceeded | 123 (50%) |
| - Successful prosecution | 97 (39%) |
| Victims supported by case worker with civil orders | 64 (26%) |
| Number of children of victims engaged | 209 |
| - Safeguarding addressed or initiated | 142 (68%) |
| - Support with child contact issues | 116 (55%) |

Source: Safer Places, May 2017

Community Based Support

Community based outreach and refuge support for victims of domestic abuse is commissioned by Essex County Council from Safer Places; by Southend Council from Southend on Sea Domestic Abuse Project (SOSDAP);⁷¹ and by Thurrock Council from Changing Pathways (formerly Basildon Women's Aid).⁷²

Data is not available in a comprehensive or consistent format for these services. The following partial data from Safer Places is presented to provide some insight and a baseline for future improvement in this area.⁷³

Table 17: Referrals to Safer Places outreach service by source and service response, 2016/17

| | Q3 | Q4 | Sep 2016 to March 2017 | % |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| No victims referred | 55 | 174 | 229 | |
| Referral source: | | | | |
| - Self referral | 24 | 73 | 97 | 42% |
| - Other DV services | 12 | 21 | 33 | 14% |
| - Police/CJS | 10 | 22 | 32 | 14% |
| - Essex Social Care | 3 | 19 | 22 | 10% |
| - Health services | 2 | 13 | 15 | 7% |
| - Other (including MARAC) | 4 | 26 | 30 | 13% |
| Service response: | | | | |
| Ongoing engagement | 38 | 135 | 173 | 76% |
| Of which: | | | | |
| - Risk assessment | 38 | 135 | 173 | 100% |
| - Safety plan | 38 | 135 | 173 | 100% |
| Information/advice only | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2% |
| Referred to other service | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1% |
| Declined | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3% |
| Unable to contact | 14 | 30 | 44 | 19% |

Source: Safer Places, May 2017

Most referrals to Safer Places were self-referrals (42%). 76% of those referred received a service.

⁷¹ The contract with SOSDAP is new and undergoing service design changes. Southend Council hope to have information to share on referrals and caseloads later in 2017.

⁷² The Early Offer of Help (EOH) service in Thurrock helped 75 victims of domestic abuse in 2016/17. Changing Pathways are also commissioned to provide support to children/young people resident at Thurrock Refuge.

⁷³ Data is only available in the format presented from September 2016

There were 228 victims of domestic violence considered to be 'in service', or receiving a community based outreach service from Safer Places in Q4 (January to March) 2017.⁷⁴

Table 18: Victims of domestic abuse supported by Safer Places outreach by agegroup, Q4 2016/17

| Agegroup | 'In service' | % supported (where age known) |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 13-17 | 4 | 2% |
| 18-24 | 31 | 14% |
| 25-34 | 81 | 36% |
| 35-44 | 61 | 27% |
| 45-54 | 34 | 15% |
| 55-64 | 10 | 4% |
| 65-74 | 5 | 2% |
| Age not given | 2 | |
| Total | 228 | |

Source: Safer Places, May 2017

Again, victims in the age group 25-34 are more likely to receive community based support. There will be some double counting, where a high risk victim of domestic abuse continues to receive support from an IDVA for the criminal justice aspect of their case. The service estimates that 25% of those receiving community based support also have IDVA support.

Of the 228 'in service', 32% were supported in Mid Essex (Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon), 29% in North Essex (Colchester and Tendring), 26% in West Essex (Harlow, Uttlesford and Epping) and 13% in South Essex (Castle Point, Rochford, Basildon and Brentwood).

Table 19: Outcomes for those leaving Safer Places outreach, rolling 12 months ending Q4 2016/17

| Outcomes: | Q4 |
|---|------------|
| Of those leaving service with completed review | 140 |
| - Reduction risk of further harm | 62 (44%) |
| - Feeling safer | 27 (19%) |
| - Emotional/physical wellbeing improved | 26 (18%) |
| - Confidence in accessing support | 45 (32%) |
| Number of children of victims leaving service | 199 |

Source: Safer Places, May 2017

Refuge provision

As with community based support, data is not yet available in a comprehensive or consistent format for these services.

Table 20: Referrals to Safer Places refuge service by source and service response, Q4 2016/17

| | Q4 | % |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------|
| No victims referred | 47 | |
| Referral source: | | |
| - Self referral | 17 | 36% |
| - Police/CJS | 10 | 21% |
| - Other DV services | 5 | 11% |
| - Essex Social Care | 5 | 11% |
| - Housing services | 5 | 11% |
| - Other (family/friend) | 5 | 11% |
| Service response: | | |
| Ongoing engagement, of which: | 42 | 89% |
| - Risk assessment | 41 | 98% |
| - Safety plan | 42 | 100% |
| Did not arrive | 5 | 11% |

Source: Safer Places, May 2017

⁷⁴ This is a snapshot to enable further analysis of the age profile, and area where the service is provided, and does not represent the total numbers being supported through the year.

Safer Places manage four refuges, but there is a trend to move away from placing families in refuges and support them in other ways instead. Most victims to Safer Places refuge services self-referred (36%). 89% subsequently received a service.

Numbers are small, of 57 families supported most were in the age group 18-44.

Table 21: Victims of domestic abuse supported in Safer Places refuges by agegroup Q4 2016/17

| Agegroup | In Refuge | % supported (where age known) |
|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 13-17 | 1 | 2% |
| 18-24 | 14 | 25% |
| 25-34 | 16 | 29% |
| 35-44 | 16 | 29% |
| 45-54 | 9 | 16% |
| Age not given | 1 | |
| Total | 57 | |

Source: Safer Places, May 2017

Less positive outcomes are reported for those leaving the refuge service, in respect of feeling safer and emotional/physical wellbeing in particular.

Table 22: Outcomes for those leaving Safer Places refuge service, rolling 12 months ending Q4 2016/17

| Outcomes: | Q4 |
|---|-----------|
| Of those leaving service with completed review | 35 |
| - Reduction risk of further harm | 29 (83%) |
| - Feeling safer | 1 (3%) |
| - Emotional/physical wellbeing improved | 11 (31%) |
| - Confidence in accessing support | 23 (66%) |
| Number of children of victims leaving service | 45 |

Source: Safer Places, May 2017

Victim Support profile

Section 4.7 outlined the way in which Victim Support, through the PCC contract to deliver the Victim Assessment and Referral Service (VARC)/Local Support Services (LSS), receives referrals about victims of crime from Essex Police. This is done through a daily Automatic Data Transfer (ADT), from which high risk victims of domestic abuse should be manually excluded.

The following provides more detail of 678 victims of domestic abuse related crime supported by Victim Support during 2016/17. These represent 5.2% of all victims of domestic abuse recorded by Essex Police.

Table 23: Victims of domestic abuse supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17

| Age group | Female | Male | Not recorded | Total | Police recorded DV victims | % DV recorded victims |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 0-12 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 15.8% |
| 13-17 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 432 | 2.1% |
| 18-24 | 72 | 11 | 4 | 87 | 2,584 | 3.4% |
| 25-34 | 146 | 26 | 5 | 177 | 3,731 | 4.7% |
| 35-44 | 142 | 25 | 2 | 169 | 3,017 | 5.6% |
| 45-54 | 106 | 26 | 8 | 140 | 2,021 | 6.9% |
| 55-64 | 43 | 13 | 2 | 58 | 733 | 7.9% |
| 65-74 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 13 | 315 | 4.1% |
| 75-84 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 135 | 5.9% |
| 85+ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 31 | 6.4% |
| No age recorded | 8 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 5 | |
| Total | 537 | 112 | 29 | 678 | 13,023 | 5.2% |

Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

Whilst most victims supported are in the 25-44 age group, consistent with police recorded victims, Victim Support provided support to higher proportions in some age groups, notably younger and older victims. A relatively high proportion of those being supported are male (17.3%), compared with men comprising 22.9% of police recorded victims.

Table 24: Victims of domestic abuse supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by crime type, 2016/17

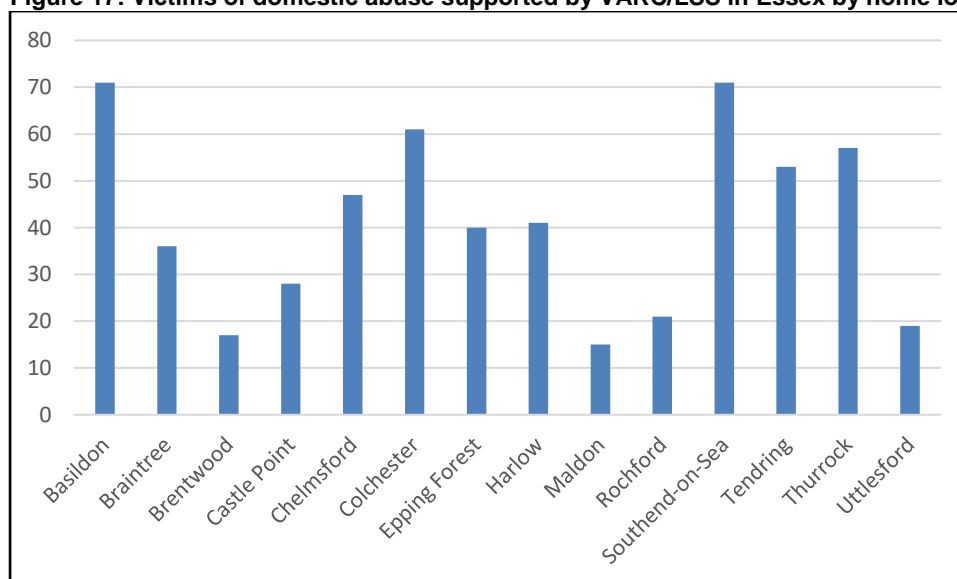
| Crime type | Female | Male | Not given/ Unknown | Total | Police recorded DV victims | % DV recorded victims |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Violence against the person | 367 | 77 | 17 | 461 | 10,473 | 4.4% |
| - Violence without injury | 227 | 49 | 15 | 291 | | |
| - Violence with injury | 140 | 27 | 2 | 169 | | |
| - Homicide | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Damage and arson offences | 50 | 9 | 2 | 61 | 1,110 | 5.5% |
| Sexual offences | 37 | 0 | 3 | 40 | 437 | 9.2% |
| Theft offences | 24 | 6 | 0 | 30 | 413 | 7.3% |
| - Burglary | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | | |
| - Other theft | 16 | 6 | 0 | 22 | | |
| Public order offences | 32 | 8 | 2 | 42 | 409 | 10.3% |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0.0% |
| Other crime | 17 | 9 | 4 | 30 | 160 | 18.8% ⁷⁵ |
| Fraud and forgery | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 | | |
| Non-crime | 7 | 0 | 1 | 8 | | |
| Total | 537 | 112 | 29 | 678 | 13,023 | 5.2% |

Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

Victim Support provided support to 40 victims of domestic abuse related sexual violence, 9.2% of all police recorded victims in this category. The level of assessed risk is not available from this data, but 68% of those supported had experienced violence against the person, and 25% of these violence with injury.

The victim's home location is available in 577 cases (85%). Again, the profile is fairly similar to that shown in Figure 15, all victims of domestic abuse recorded by Essex Police, with perhaps more than would be expected receiving support from Southend and fewer from Tendring.

Figure 17: Victims of domestic abuse supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by home location, 2016/17

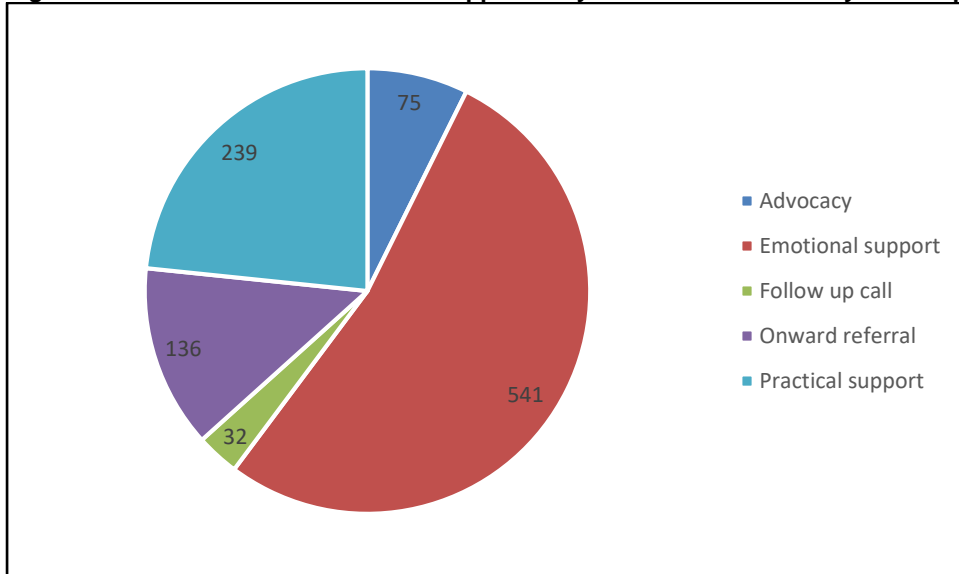


Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

⁷⁵ The relatively high number of 'other crime' is probably a reflection of Victim Support's lack of information about the nature of the crime.

The 678 victims of domestic abuse supported by Victim Support had 1,381 assessed needs and 1,023 services provided.

Figure 18: Victims of domestic abuse supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17



Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

Of the 1,023 services, the majority was emotional support (53%). There were 136 instances of victims being referred to other agencies.

In addition, Victim Support operates the 'Domestic Violence Protection Order' (DVPO) project, supporting victims assessed as medium risk who are subject of a police issued protection notice and an order granted by the courts. During 2016/17, 124 people were supported with DVPOs with regard to their rights, available services and preparing for what to do when the order expired.

5.2) Victims of sexual violence

5.2.1) Sexual violence: national trends

The most recent estimates from the self-completion module on intimate violence in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) on intimate violence indicate:^{76 77}

- An estimated 3.2% of women and 0.7% of men experienced some form of sexual assault (including attempts) in the last year. **In Essex this would equate to 16,154 female and 3,465 male victims aged 16-59.**⁷⁸ The majority of these were incidents of indecent exposure and unwanted sexual touching (2.8% of women and 0.6% of men).
- The overall proportion has remained around 2% since the year ending 2009, with some year on year fluctuation.
- 19.9% of women and 3.6% of men had experienced sexual abuse (including attempts) since the age of 16, **the equivalent to an estimated 100,458 female and 17,822 male victims aged 16-59 in Essex.** Again the majority were incidents of indecent exposure or unwanted touching (18.6% of women and 3.3% of men). 6% of women had experienced rape (including attempts) compared with 0.5% of men.

A total of 116,012 sexual offences were recorded by the police in England and Wales in the year ending December 2016.⁷⁹ The rate of increase has been rising since year ending March 2013, when non-recent offences accounted for much of the rise, but is now thought to be slowing. Part of the increase is considered to be a reflection of improved recording and a greater willingness of victims to report these crimes.

Recorded rape offences increased by 13% (to 39,335 offences) compared with the previous year, other sexual offences by 12% (to 76,677). Categories directly relating to offences against children accounted for 36% of the overall increase.

Experimental statistics are being developed on victims of police recorded sexual offences from those forces who can supply data of sufficient quality.⁸⁰ Headlines for the year ending March 2016 are:

- 90% of victims of 'rape offences' were female, and 10% male **(91% and 9% in Essex)**
- 84% of victims of 'other sexual offences' were female, 16% male **(same in Essex)**
- 78% of sexual offences recorded involved a victim under 30 **(76% in Essex)**⁸¹
- 48% of victims were aged under 16 **(47% in Essex)**

⁷⁶ The self-completion module is currently asked of adults aged 16 to 59 (upper age limit under review) and covers experience of emotional, financial and physical abuse by partners or family members, as well as sexual assaults and stalking by any person. It is considered to be more accurate than the face to face survey.

⁷⁷ Focus on violent crime and sexual offences, England and Wales: year ending March 2016: Chapter 4 Domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking (ONS) February 2017

⁷⁸ Calculated from Mid-2015 Population Estimates (ONS) October 2016. The estimated number of females aged 16-59 in Essex is 504,813 females; the estimated number of males 495,066.

⁷⁹ Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016, Statistical Bulletin (ONS) April 2017

⁸⁰ Focus on violent crime and sexual offences, England and Wales: year ending March 2016: Chapter 5 Experimental statistics: Victims of police recorded violent and sexual offences (ONS) February 2017.

Data supplied via the Data Hub or separate manual collection (excludes Essex). Data on relationship between victim and perpetrator, and whether an alcohol flag is present on the record, is also collected but not yet reported.

⁸¹ The Essex comparisons show the age when the offence was reported, not when it happened. The national figures may not be calculated in the same way.

5.2.2) Sexual violence: Essex police data

2,780 victims of sexual offences were recorded by Essex Police during 2016. This compares with 1,716 in 2013, an increase of 62% over the three year period. 15.7% (437) of these offences were domestic abuse related, with 254 high risk and 114 medium.

Comparable information about victims is not available for 2015 due to the transition to Athena, but published national police recorded crime figures for Essex suggest the rate of increase in sexual offences from the year ending December 2015 to December 2016 is slowing at a faster rate than the national trend at 3.9% (compared with 10% nationally from the same source).⁸²

Age and gender

The majority of victims of sexual offences, where gender is recorded, were women (86.7%), and for men 13.3%. In 2013 the gender split was 88% and 12% respectively. For rape offences the percentage of female victims rises to 91.2%.

Table 25: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016

| Age group | Female | Male | Not recorded | Total | % DV |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0-12 | 228 | 97 | 4 | 329 | 0.0% |
| 13-17 | 696 | 79 | 9 | 784 | 4.1% |
| 18-24 | 461 | 42 | 3 | 506 | 20.8% |
| 25-34 | 380 | 42 | 7 | 429 | 27.5% |
| 35-44 | 290 | 39 | 0 | 329 | 31.3% |
| 45-54 | 200 | 40 | 3 | 243 | 23.9% |
| 55-64 | 72 | 17 | 2 | 91 | 16.5% |
| 65-74 | 15 | 7 | 0 | 22 | 18.2% |
| 75-84 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 5.0% |
| 85+ | 22 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 4.3% |
| No age recorded | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0.0% |
| Total | 2,386 | 366 | 28 | 2,780 | 15.7% |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

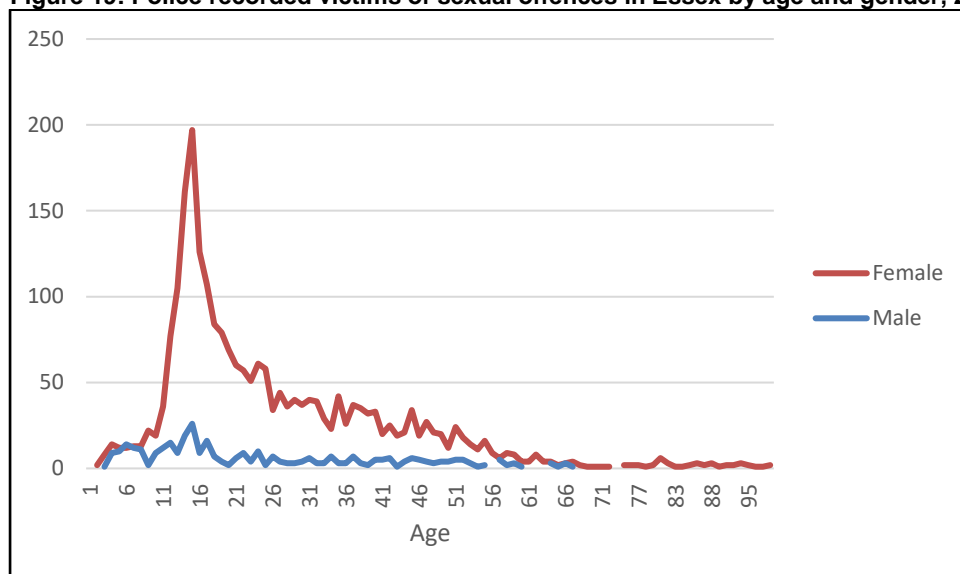
40% were under 18 at the time the incident was reported, with the highest proportions overall in the 13-17 age group (28.2%).

The following graph shows the age and gender differences more starkly, with significantly higher numbers of teenage girls and young women. The highest number was female victims aged 15 (197), most of whom were victims of the offence 'sexual activity with a child under 16' (92), with 50 of these victims of rape.

A more in depth review of this group would be useful to understand what is happening. One explanation is that this is a reflection of 'peer on peer' activity. 7.6% of girls aged 15 had an outcome of 'solved' and in 28.4% of cases there was a named suspect but the victim did not support action (compared with 23.7% for all victims of sexual offences).

⁸² Statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016 (ONS) April 2017

Figure 19: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by age and gender, 2016



Source: Essex Police data March 2017

The largest proportion of victims described themselves as 'White British' (79.5%, similar to the profile for all victims of 79%), with approximately 4.7% from BME self-defined headings. Self-defined ethnicity was not recorded for 13.3% of victims.

Type of crime

The detailed crime types for sexual offences are shown below, with the numbers of victims in each category and the age they were when the crime was reported. This provides insight into the degree of historic reporting and in particular victims of historic child sexual abuse.

Table 26: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by type of offence and age reported, 2016

| Type of sexual offence | Number | Age when reported | | | % share |
|--|--------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------|
| | | 0-12 | 13-17 | 18+ | |
| Rape of a ... | | | | | |
| - Female child under 13 | 119 | 32 | 27 | 60 | 37.2% (1,034) |
| - Female child under 16 | 150 | 0 | 94 | 56 | |
| - Female aged 16 and over | 676 | 0 | 66 | 610 | |
| - Male child under 13 | 57 | 19 | 4 | 34 | |
| - Male child under 16 | 15 | 0 | 4 | 11 | |
| - Male aged 16 and over | 17 | 0 | 2 | 15 | |
| Sexual assault on a ... | | | | | |
| - Female under 13 | 164 | 61 | 25 | 78 | 33.6% (934) |
| - Female aged 13 and over | 646 | 0 | 173 | 473 | |
| - Male under 13 | 46 | 20 | 0 | 26 | |
| - Male aged 13 and over | 78 | 1 | 15 | 62 | |
| Sexual activity involving a ... | | | | | |
| - Child under 13 | 207 | 159 | 19 | 29 | 18.6% (518) |
| - Child under 16 | 311 | 2 | 286 | 23 | |
| Exposure and voyeurism | 217 | 19 | 36 | 162 | 7.8% (217) |
| Other | | | | | |
| - Sexual grooming | 34 | 6 | 25 | 3 | 2.8% (77) |
| - Causing sexual activity without consent | 12 | 0 | 2 | 10 | |
| - Incest or familial sexual offences | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | |
| - Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | |
| - Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | |
| - Abuse of children through sexual exploitation | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| - Trafficking for sexual exploitation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Other miscellaneous sexual offences | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Total | 2,780 | 329 | 784 | 1,667 | |

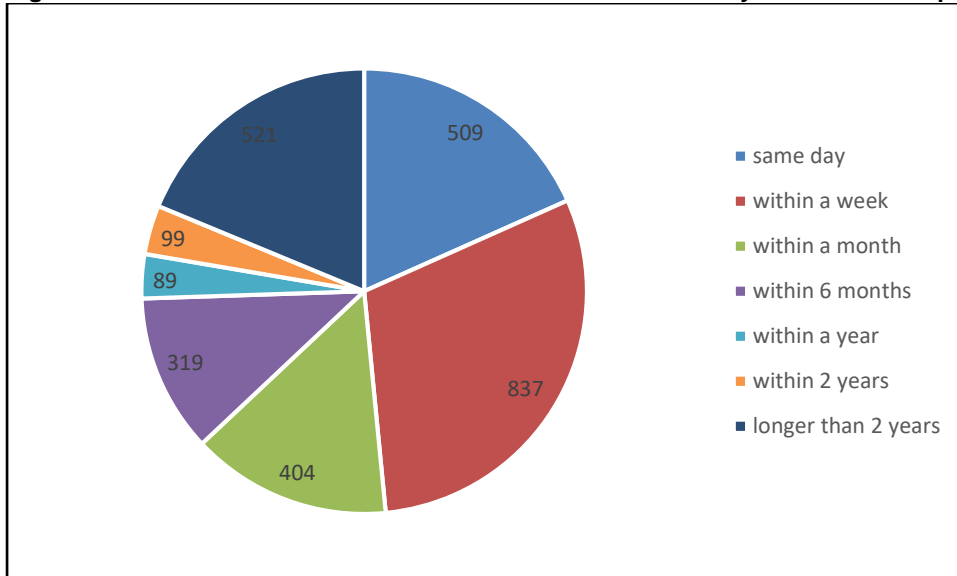
Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Victims of reported rape accounted for 37.2% of total victims of sexual offences in Essex, compared with 33.9% of total offences nationally. Of the 676 recorded victims of 'rapes of females aged 16 and over' in Essex during 2016, 48.5% were domestic abuse related. 3.3% of all victims of sexual offences (91 people) had an 'online' flag attached to their case.

Time taken to report/record

The following diagram shows how long after the incident the crime is reported for those victims of sexual offences in Essex during 2016.

Figure 20: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by time taken to report, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

48% reported within a week (within timescales for forensic examination), and just 18% the same day.⁸³ This compares with 90% and 73% respectively for victims of all crime, and 89% and 46% for victims of domestic abuse related crime. 19% reported two or more years after the offence.

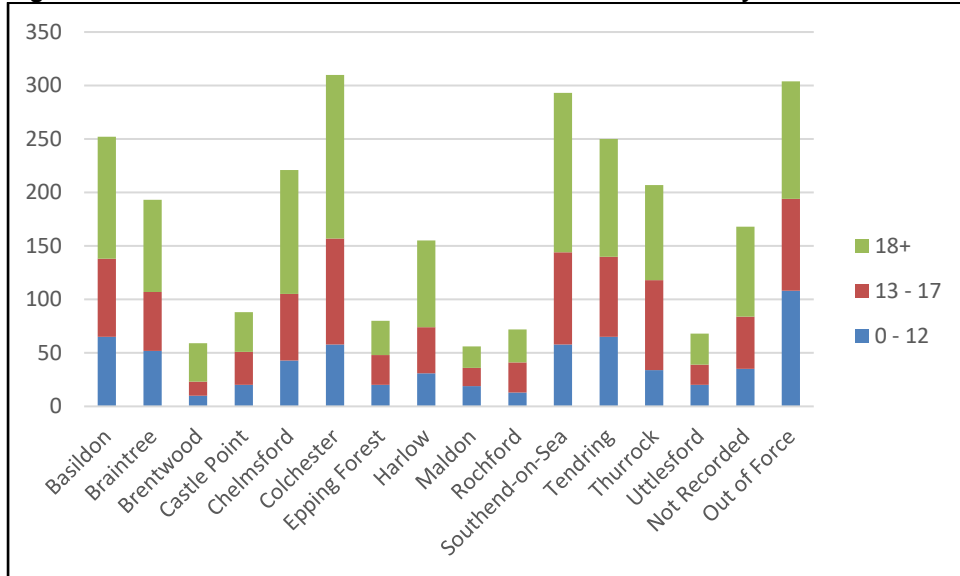
Victim's home location

The picture of where victims of sexual offences in Essex live is as follows. Areas where victims of sexual offences make up a larger proportion of all victims are Colchester (3.7%) and Braintree (3.6%). The Essex wide figure is 3.1%. Epping Forest has a particularly low proportion of victims of sexual offences at 1.5%.

A home location was not recorded for 168 victims of sexual offences (6%) and 307 lived 'out of force' (11%).

⁸³ Recording practice is likely to have improved since 2016

Figure 21: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by home location and agegroup, 2016

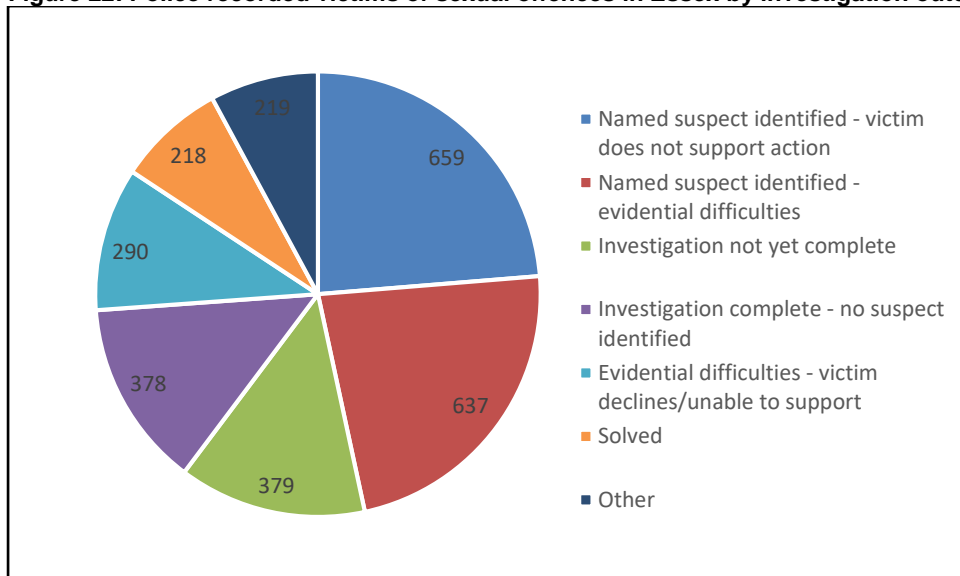


Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Outcomes of police reported crime

Only 8% of victims of sexual offences during 2016 had a ‘solved’ outcome recorded. This compares to 26% for victims of domestic abuse related crime and 13% for victims of all crime. This is partly a reflection of the length of time more complex investigations take (14% of outcomes for this cohort of victims had not been recorded).

Figure 22: Police recorded victims of sexual offences in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

The solved rate for all victims of sexual offences is 7.8% with 13.6% where the investigation is not complete and the outcome recorded. 23.7% did not support action. The solved rate for rape is lower at 2.1% with 18.8% not yet complete and recorded.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ Essex Police is working with the CPS to shorten the length of investigations, including being clearer about what is needed and improving the quality of paperwork (Rape Action Plan). It is felt that some victims drop out of the process when it becomes too lengthy as they wish to ‘get on with their lives’. Work is also underway to improve how victims are kept updated on progress, including the support needed when a decision is taken not to proceed.

5.2.3) Sexual Violence: specialist service provider data

Services to support victims of sexual violence in Essex mainly comprise those provided by the Sexual Health Referral Centre (SARC) and Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres (EPRCC). Victim Support also provides some services.

The Children's Society delivers preventative activity in the case of child sexual exploitation. This is covered under section 5.4.

Sexual Health Referral Centre (SARC)

Mountain Healthcare was commissioned by NHS England in partnership with the PCC and others to manage the SARC at Oakwood Park, Brentwood from April 2016.

During 2016/17 there were 297 referrals to the service, most of which were made by the police (74.1%).⁸⁵ Around 65% of these were for alleged rape. Forensic services were required in 70.7% of cases.

Table 27: Referrals to the SARC in Essex by source and response, 2016/17

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2016/17 | % |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Number of referrals | 76 | 75 | 56 | 90 | 297 | |
| Referral source: | | | | | | |
| - Police | 66 | 58 | 45 | 51 | 220 | 74.1% |
| - Self referral/family and friends | 3 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 22 | 7.4% |
| - Partner agency | 7 | 10 | 10 | 28 | 55 | 18.5% |
| Forensic services required | 49 | 65 | 46 | 50 | 210 | 70.7% |

Source: Oakwood Place/Mountain Healthcare, June 2017⁸⁶

Of those referred, 277 (93%) were female, 18 male and 2 transgender. Most were in the age group 18-24, with 36% under 18 (and 22.4% under 12).

Table 28: Victims of sexual violence supported by the SARC in Essex by agegroup, 2016/17

| Agegroup/ | Number supported 2016/17 | % supported (where age known) |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 0-12 | 66 | 22.4% |
| 13-17 | 41 | 13.9% |
| 18-24 | 87 | 29.5% |
| 25-34 | 44 | 14.9% |
| 35-44 | 29 | 9.8% |
| 45-54 | 20 | 6.8% |
| 55-64 | 5 | 1.7% |
| 65+ | 3 | 1.0% |
| Age not given | 2 | |
| Total | 297 | |

Source: Oakwood Place/Mountain Healthcare, June 2017

In terms of additional vulnerabilities, 76 (26%) had a history of mental health issues, 15 (5%) a history of signs of self harm, 15 (5%) learning disability, 12 (4%) substance misuse and 11 (4%) domestic violence.

Most of those referred were 'White British' (75%) with 15% unknown/not given.

⁸⁵ 351 referrals were made to the SARC in the year ending December 2013

⁸⁶ Data from quarterly contract monitoring reports. Totals differ slightly from those provided in Annual Report.

Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres (EPRCC)

The PCC commissioned a new community based support service to victims of sexual violence in Essex through a three year contract which started in 1 April 2016. This is being delivered by the Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres.⁸⁷

The service comprises:

- dedicated Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs), for adults and children – typically supporting victims who go through the Criminal Justice System
- specialist advocacy – helping survivors with accommodation, employment, education, financial, drug and alcohol dependency
- specialist sexual violence counselling for adults, young people, children, and those with learning difficulties
- specialist sexual violence service for child (under 11) and family support

There were 4,700 referrals to the service during 2016/17, with numbers steadily increasing over the period.⁸⁸ The adult ISVA service received 511 referrals, and the ISVA for those under 18 received 159 referrals. The greatest demand was for ongoing support and counselling for adults over 26 (986 referrals and 21% of all referrals).

Table 29: Referrals to EPRCC by service required, 2016/17

| Number of service users | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2016/17 | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Existing service users at start of period | 1,150 | 1,314 | 1,220 | 1,338 | | |
| New service users during period | 1,045 | 1,100 | 1,110 | 1,445 | 4,700 | |
| - Adult ISVA (18+) | 117 | 128 | 122 | 144 | 511 | 10.9% |
| - Children ISVA (under 18) | 39 | 33 | 45 | 42 | 159 | 3.4% |
| - Advocacy | 27 | 25 | 51 | 57 | 160 | 3.4% |
| - Ongoing Support/Counselling (young people, 13-25) | 116 | 118 | 109 | 186 | 529 | 11.3% |
| - Ongoing Support/Counselling (adults, 26+) | 188 | 241 | 218 | 339 | 986 | 21.0% |
| - Ongoing Support/Counselling (learning difficulties) | 36 | 23 | 19 | 26 | 104 | 2.2% |
| - Child and Family Services (family and parenting, therapies for u13s) | 31 | 26 | 24 | 55 | 136 | 2.9% |
| - Group Work Services (individuals who attended a group) | 11 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 27 | 0.6% |
| - First Contact & Assessment Service | 480 | 501 | 515 | 592 | 2,088 | 44.4% |
| Total known | 2,195 | 2,414 | 2,330 | 2,783 | | |
| Waiting List at end of period | 555 | 506 | 613 | 748 | | |
| Existing people being worked with | 1,037 | 1,123 | 1,166 | 1,281 | | |
| New people being worked with | 455 | 450 | 499 | 596 | | |
| Total being worked with | 1,492 | 1,573 | 1,665 | 1,877 | | |

Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

Of the 1,877 being worked with at the end of Q4, 32% were self referrals and 22.2% referrals from the police and others working in the Criminal Justice services.

⁸⁷ A consortium of the three centres operating in the county: South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC), Southend on Sea Rape Crisis (SOSRC) and the Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA)

⁸⁸ Figures for 2013/14 were 565 referrals to the ISVA service, including 83 young people. 1,250 people received a 'wraparound' service in 2013/14, 366 under 18.

Table 30: Referrals to EPRCC by source of referral, Q4 2016/17

| Source of referral | Total | % |
|---|--------------|-------|
| Self | 600 | 32.0% |
| Friend/family, third party | 102 | 5.4% |
| Criminal Justice Services (Police, Probation, Courts, witness service) | 416 | 22.2% |
| Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs/rape suites) | 177 | 9.4% |
| Health Services (IAPT, Mental Health, GP, hospitals, psychiatrist) | 204 | 10.9% |
| Local Authority (Social Services, Education, Housing) | 182 | 9.7% |
| Voluntary Sector Services (MIND, Women's Aid, Victim Support, Relate etc) | 164 | 8.7% |
| Other | 32 | 1.7% |
| Total | 1,877 | |

Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

In total 3,056 victims or survivors of sexual violence were supported by the EPRCC during the whole of 2016/17. Of these, 575 were referred by Essex Police (18.8%), 298 by Essex SARC, 60 from Victim Support and 51 by domestic abuse services in the county. 74% of referrals were made online in 2016/17, enabled by a new website and clearer referral process. <https://synergysessex.org.uk/>.

Looking again at the Q4 data, of the 1,877 people referred, 51% were victims of historic incidents, including 26.3% who were adult survivors of historic child sexual abuse. 35.6% had experienced multiple assaults.

Table 31: Referrals to EPRCC by presenting incident and multiple assaults, Q4 2016/17

| Presenting incident | Total | % |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Adult (18+) – recent rape | 338 | 18.0% |
| Adult (18+) – historic rape | 352 | 18.8% |
| Adult (18+) – historic child sexual abuse | 494 | 26.3% |
| Adult (18+) – sexual violence | 248 | 13.2% |
| Adult (18+) – unknown | 13 | 0.7% |
| Young person (13-17) – recent rape/sexual abuse/exploitation | 132 | 7.0% |
| Young person (13-17) – historic rape/sexual abuse/exploitation | 110 | 5.9% |
| Young person (13-17) – unknown | 1 | 0.05% |
| Child (under 13) – sexual abuse/exploitation | 90 | 4.8% |
| Child (under 13) – unknown | 0 | 0.0% |
| Supporter of survivor/other service user type, e.g., parent, carer, sibling | 99 | 5.3% |
| Total | 1,877 | |
| Experiencing multiple assaults: | | |
| Adults (18+) – total 1,535 adults | 505 | 32.9% |
| Young person (13-17) – total 246 young people | 142 | 57.7% |
| Child (under 13) – total 96 children | 22 | 22.9% |
| Total | 669 | 35.6% |

Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

The service wants to do targeted work to reduce the numbers of repeat victims of sexual offences, by the same or different perpetrators, by helping to build resilience.

281 (15%) of those supported in Q4 had mental health issues, 94 (5%) had long term illness, 81 (4.3%) had a physical or sensory disability and 54 (2.9%) a learning disability. 232 (12.4%) were non-white/BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic, Refugee), compared with approximately 4.7% of those reporting to the police defining themselves in this way.

Of those referred in Q4, 59.2% had reported the incident to the police. This relatively high proportion is considered by the service to be a reflection of the good relationship with Essex Police, and people being more confident to report and talk about their experience.

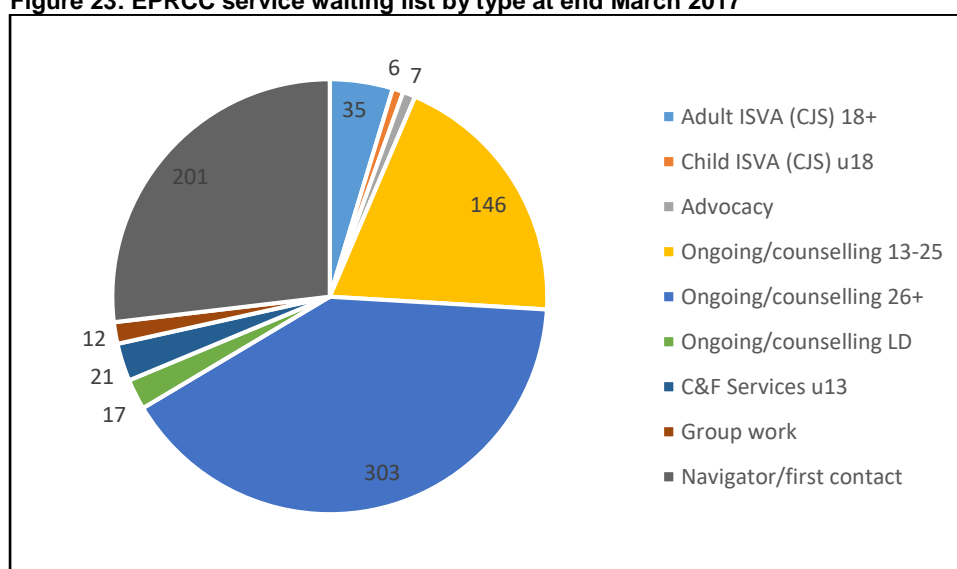
Table 32: Referrals to EPRCC by Criminal Justice Service involvement, Q4 2016/17

| | Q4 |
|--|----------------------|
| Incident(s) reported to Police? | |
| Experience of sexual violence reported to the Police: | |
| - There is an active Criminal Justice Service (CJS) case | 541 |
| - The CJS process has completed | 440 |
| - The outcome is unknown | 131 |
| Total reported to Police | 1,112 (59.2%) |
| - Experience of sexual violence not reported to the Police | 659 (35.1%) |
| - Not yet obtained/disclosed | 106 (5.6%) |
| Total | 1,877 |

Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

Further information is available about those on the waiting list for services at the end of each quarter.⁸⁹ For Q4, there were 877 people on the waiting list.

Figure 23: EPRCC service waiting list by type at end March 2017



Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

Ongoing support and counselling is for immediate needs and provided in-house. This makes up most of the waiting list, 41% for those over 26 and 20% for those aged 13-25. Demand for the ISVA service for children is likely to grow as the service becomes more established and promoted. EPRCC wants to develop the service for under 12s. There are a regular level of referrals for those with learning disability, and the waiting list manageable.

The service is focusing on filling geographic gaps, whilst dealing with increased demand and availability of accessible outreach sites, and working on reducing the length of time on waiting lists for those in the mid and north of the county in particular.⁹⁰

⁸⁹ Individuals can be on more than one waiting list. Navigator/first contact services are cleared on a 3 month rolling basis, so are not technically unmet need.

⁹⁰ Services are continuing to develop in the west of the county (Epping, Harlow and Uttlesford), with potential to do more with schools in these areas. Travelling time is sometimes an issue in the west of the county and victims may choose other locations to visit. Length of time on waiting lists is an historic issue in mid/north Essex.

The age and gender of those supported by the EPRCC during 2016/17 is shown below.

Table 33: Victims of sexual violence supported by EPRCC by agegroup and gender, 2016/17

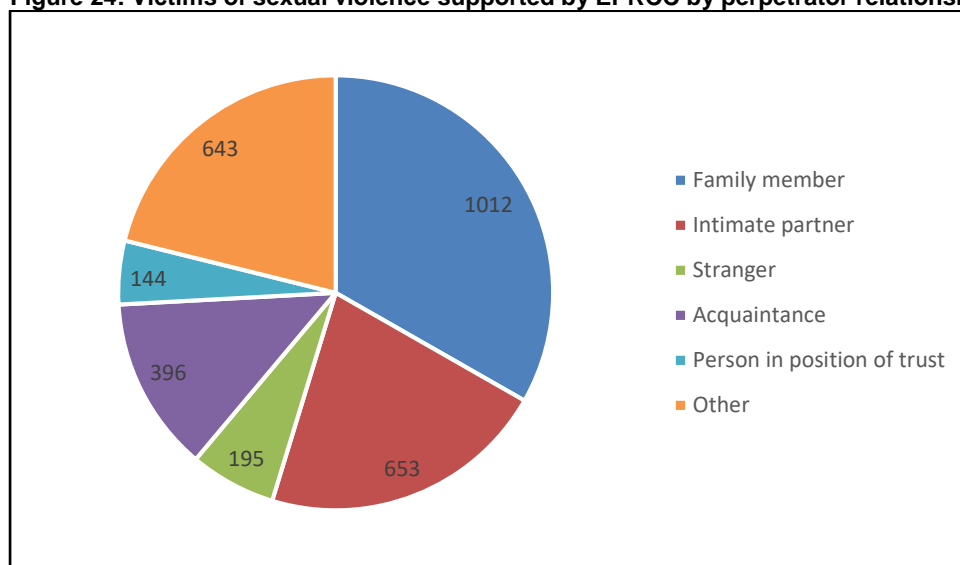
| Agegroup | Female | Male | Trans | Total | % share | Police reported | % share |
|--------------|--------------|------------|----------|--------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| 0-12 | 106 | 36 | 0 | 142 | 4.7% | 329 | 11.9% |
| 13-17 | 401 | 34 | 1 | 436 | 14.4% | 784 | 28.2% |
| 18-24 | 602 | 32 | 3 | 637 | 21.0% | 506 | 18.2% |
| 25-34 | 614 | 33 | 2 | 649 | 21.4% | 429 | 15.5% |
| 35-44 | 502 | 50 | 1 | 553 | 18.3% | 329 | 11.9% |
| 45-54 | 383 | 49 | 0 | 432 | 14.3% | 243 | 8.8% |
| 55-64 | 118 | 21 | 1 | 140 | 4.6% | 91 | 3.3% |
| 65-74 | 30 | 3 | 0 | 33 | 1.1% | 22 | 0.8% |
| 75+ | 6 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0.2% | 43 | 1.5% |
| Not stated | 24 | 3 | 0 | 27 | | 4 | |
| Total | 2,786 | 262 | 8 | 3,056 | | 2,780 | |

Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

91% were female and most were in the 18-34 age range. A relatively high proportion self-refer and only 575 were referred by the police in 2016/17, but the police reported data is provided for comparison.

Of those supported in 2016/17, the perpetrator relationship was:⁹¹

Figure 24: Victims of sexual violence supported by EPRCC by perpetrator relationship, 2016/17



Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

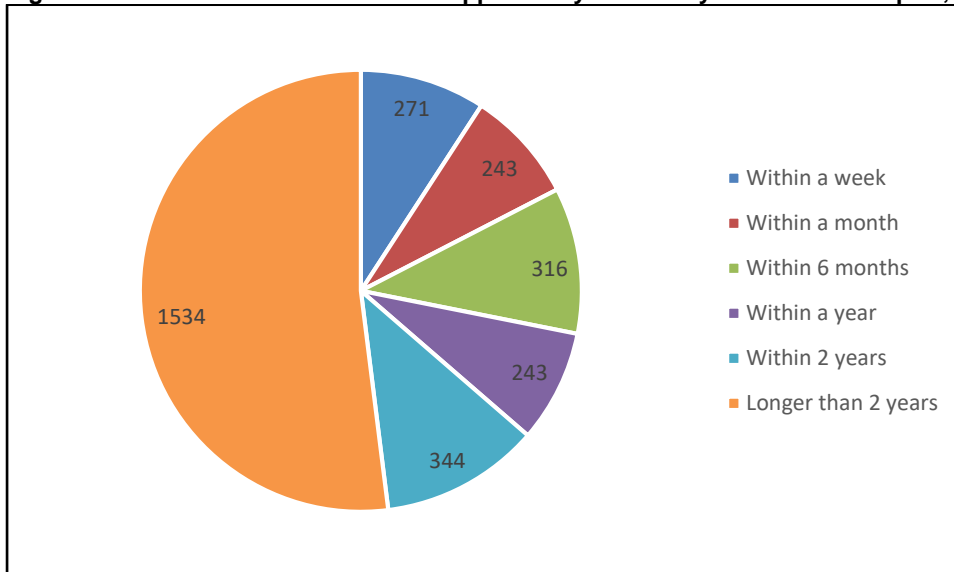
The perpetrator was a family member such as a father or uncle in 33% of cases, for 21% it was an intimate partner (i.e., a sexual domestic violence situation) and for 21% the perpetrator was classed as 'other', such as a friend of the family or babysitter.

52% of those seeking help from the EPRCC do so more than 2 years after the incident took place, compared with 18.7% of those reporting to the Police.⁹² This is consistent with the level of historic abuse cases the sector supports (51%). Only 9.2% seek help within a week, compared with 48% of those reporting to the police within a week of the incident.

⁹¹ The perpetrator relationship as known for 3,043 victims

⁹² Data on time taken to report is available for 2,951 victims

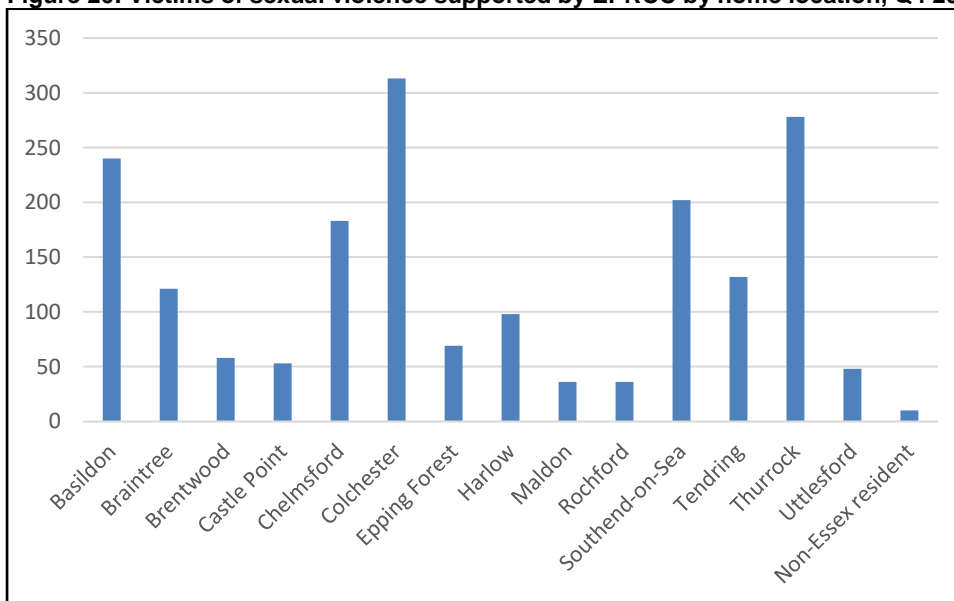
Figure 25: Victims of sexual violence supported by EPRCC by time taken to report, 2016/17



Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

The profile of those supported in Q4 by home location is as follows. Most victims live in Colchester (16.7%), followed by Thurrock (14.8%) and Basildon (12.8%). The pattern is fairly similar to that seen from the police data (Figure 21), but with some variations.⁹³

Figure 26: Victims of sexual violence supported by EPRCC by home location, Q4 2016/17⁹⁴



Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

⁹³ Comparisons with the police profile are difficult due to the number of historic cases and numbers who self-refer

⁹⁴ Victim may live outside Essex, but incident occurred here and the case is being dealt with by Essex Police

Selected outcomes for those leaving services provided by EPRCC in Q4 are:

Table 34: Selected outcomes for those leaving EPRCC services, Q4 2016/17

| Outcomes: | Q4 |
|--|------------------------------|
| For those leaving ISVA and advocacy service | % (number of returns) |
| - More able to consider choices and make informed decisions | 98% (50) |
| - More confident in communicating needs | 97% (50) |
| - More confident about personal safety | 97% (50) |
| - Accurate up to date information about CJS | 99% (50) |
| - Accurate up to date information about civil and family proceedings | 93% (36) |
| For those leaving community based services | |
| - More in control of lives | 94% (181) |
| - Better health and wellbeing | 94% (181) |
| - More able to access further support | 96% (167) |
| - More able to develop and maintain positive relationships | 75% (132) |
| - More able to assert their rights | 97% (161) |

Source: Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres, May 2017

Victim Support profile

Victim Support receives a daily Automatic Data Transfer (ADT) from Essex Police, providing details of those victims of crime who wish to be referred for support, as part of the contract with the PCC to deliver the Victim Assessment and Referral Service (VARC)/Local Support Services (LSS). Victims of serious sexual offences should be excluded from these listings.

During 2016/17, Victim Support supported 316 victims of sexual offences, 11.4% of the total numbers reported to the police. 40 of these were domestic abuse related. Most were female (88%) and within the 18-34 age group (42%). 20.5% were under 18.

Table 35: Victims of sexual offences supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17

| Age group | Female | Male | Not recorded | Total | Police recorded SV victims | % SV recorded victims |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0-12 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 329 | 3.9% |
| 13-17 | 43 | 4 | 4 | 51 | 784 | 6.5% |
| 18-24 | 51 | 7 | 6 | 64 | 506 | 12.6% |
| 25-34 | 62 | 3 | 5 | 70 | 429 | 16.3% |
| 35-44 | 29 | 10 | 4 | 43 | 329 | 13.1% |
| 45-54 | 36 | 1 | 7 | 44 | 243 | 18.1% |
| 55-64 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 91 | 14.3% |
| 65-74 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 31.8% |
| 75+ | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 43 | 4.7% |
| No age recorded | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | |
| Total | 247 | 33 | 36 | 316 | 2,780 | 11.4% |

Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

34.8% were victims of rape and 35.1% victims of sexual assault, as shown Table 36. Both the age profile and crime type suggest that victims of serious sexual crimes are being referred to the Victim Support and receiving services from them.

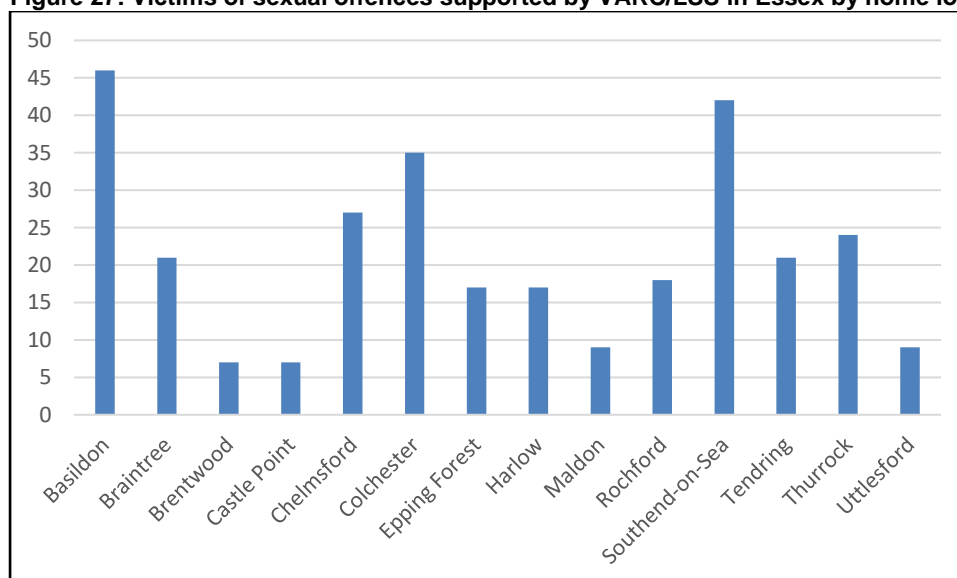
Table 36: Victims of sexual offences supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by crime type, 2016/17

| Type of sexual offence | Total | % share |
|--|------------|---------|
| Rape of a ... | | |
| - Female child under 13 | 12 | |
| - Female child under 16 | 16 | |
| - Female aged 16 and over | 72 | 34.8% |
| - Male child under 13 | 4 | (110) |
| - Male child under 16 | 4 | |
| - Male aged 16 and over | 2 | |
| Sexual assault on a ... | | |
| - Female under 13 | 22 | |
| - Female aged 13 and over | 78 | 35.1% |
| - Male under 13 | 10 | (111) |
| - Male aged 13 and over | 1 | |
| Sexual activity involving a ... | | |
| - Child under 13 | 16 | 9.8% |
| - Child under 16 | 15 | (31) |
| Exposure and voyeurism | 21 | 6.6% |
| | | (21) |
| Other | | |
| - Sexual grooming | 2 | |
| - Causing sexual activity without consent | 0 | |
| - Incest or familial sexual offences | 9 | |
| - Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder | 1 | 13.6% |
| - Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature | 2 | (43) |
| - Abuse of children through sexual exploitation | 4 | |
| - Trafficking for sexual exploitation | 1 | |
| - Other miscellaneous sexual offences | 24 | |
| Total | 316 | |

Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

The victim's home location is available in 300 cases (95%). Most victims live in Basildon (15.3%) and Southend (14%).

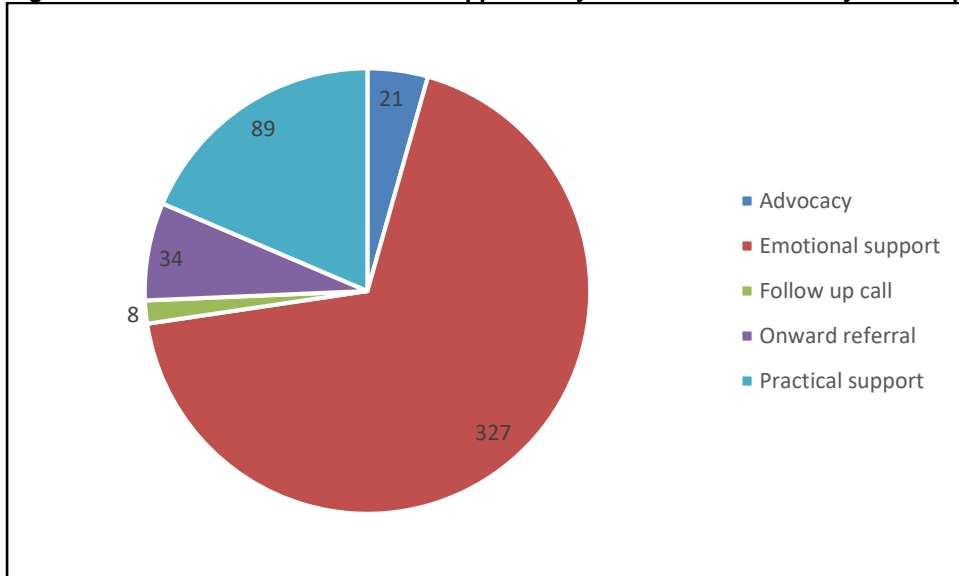
Figure 27: Victims of sexual offences supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by home location, 2016/17



Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

The 316 victims of sexual offences supported by Victim Support had 595 assessed needs and were provided with 479 services.

Figure 28: Victims of sexual offences supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17



Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

Of the 479 services, 68.3% were for emotional support, with an onward referral made in 34 instances.

5.3) Victims of hate crime

Hate crime is defined as “any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic. Hate crime can be motivated by disability, gender identity, race, religion or faith and sexual orientation”.⁹⁵

Since the last Profile, the PCC has let the VARC/LSS Contract, which explicitly requires enhanced support to be provided to victims of hate crime in line with the Victim Code, and has also funded a Hate Crime Champion, based with Victim Support, to further develop the work of the county’s multi-agency Strategic Hate Crime Partnership.

Hate Incident Reporting Centres (HIRCs) are in place in Essex, but reporting levels are low, which is a situation not unique to Essex. A review of the HIRCs set out options for addressing the low reporting, i.e., do nothing, enhance the HIRCs or replace the HIRCs.⁹⁶ As a result, the HIRC model is being refreshed, with additional training and support from Hate Crime Officers, and the Stop Hate UK helpline commissioned by the PCC to enable all hate incident in Essex to be reported, especially when out of hours.

A further review has been done of the experiences of victims of hate crime of reporting to the police and the subsequent investigation.⁹⁷ Recommendations include improved frequency and quality of communication about the progress of investigations and options for disposal.

Essex Police has a small dedicated hate crime team with Hate Crime Officers (HCOs), who follow up any incidents recorded on Athena with a ‘hate’ tag. Depending on the initial risk assessment, a more thorough risk assessment will be completed with HCOs ‘triaging’ medium, repeat and high risk victims of hate related crime, safeguarding as required.⁹⁸

5.3.1) Hate crime: national trends

62,518 hate crime related offences were recorded by the Police across England and Wales in 2015/16, an increase of 19% from 2014/15.⁹⁹ 79% were racially motivated, 12% related to sexual orientation, 7% religious hate crimes, 6% disability and 1% transgender. There were increases in offences for all strands of hate crime between 2014/15 and 2016/17.

There was a sharp increase in the number of racially and religiously aggravated offences recorded by the Police following the EU Referendum, with these offences being 41% higher in July 2016 than in July 2015. There is also anecdotal and partial evidence about rises in hate crime following recent acts of terror.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁵ Home Office Policy paper, 2010 to 2015 Government policy: crime prevention, updated 8 May 2015

⁹⁶ Hate Incident Reporting Centres in Essex: Addressing Third Party Reporting (Victim Support) November 2016

⁹⁷ Hate crime reporting: Addressing service provision in Essex (Victim Support) February 2017

⁹⁸ HC1 form, which has a series of 19 questions similar to the DASH questions asked in domestic abuse cases

⁹⁹ Hate Crime, England and Wales 2015/16, Statistical Bulletin October 2016 (Home Office)

¹⁰⁰ In Essex, hate crimes reached their highest level in July and August 2016, one month after the Referendum, and figures for May 2017 indicate that these levels have been reached again.

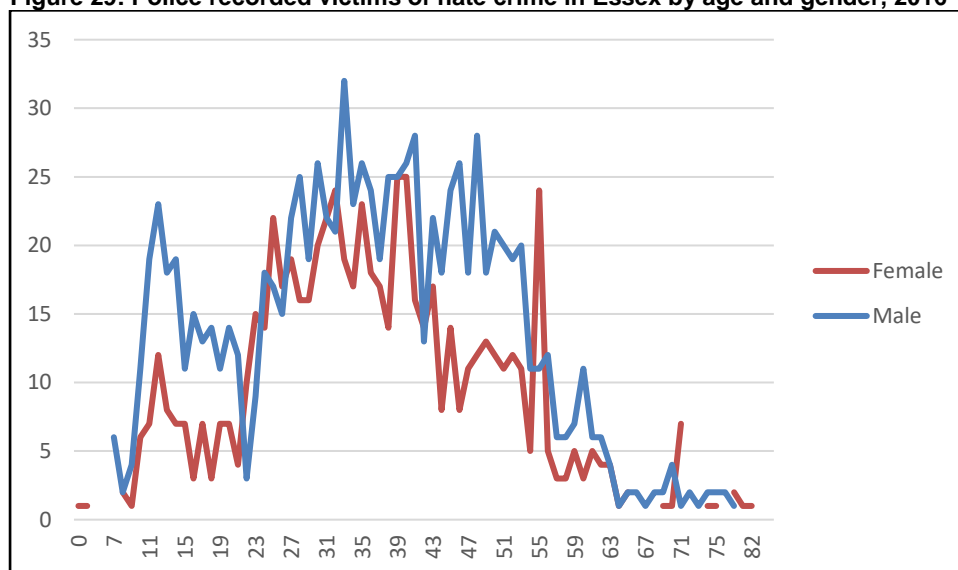
5.3.2) Hate crime: Essex Police data

There were 1,684 individual victims of hate related crime in Essex during 2016, representing 1.9% of all crime affecting individuals.¹⁰¹ This is a significant increase from the position in 2013, when there were 989 individual victims of recorded hate crime in Essex. One factor is increased awareness of hate crime, and better recording.

Age and gender

Of the 1,684 people who were victims of hate related crime during 2016, 59% were male and 41% female.¹⁰² The majority were aged 25-44 (49.3%), with 12.3% under 18. The following graph shows the age and gender profile.

Figure 29: Police recorded victims of hate crime in Essex by age and gender, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Type of crime/hate crime type

Most hate crime offences related to racial hate (74%). This compares with 79% nationally, although it should be noted that the comparison is not like for like.¹⁰³ Religiously motivated hate crime is lower than the national share (4% in Essex compared with 7% nationally), whilst disability hate crime is higher (9% compared with 6% nationally).

Public order offences (49%) and violence against the person (40%) account for the majority of offences, with 30% being violence without injury. This compares with public order offences for all victims making up 7.5% of the total, and violence against the person for all victims making up 36%.

65 victims (3.6%) of hate crime were targeted on line. 35 victims (2.1%) of hate crime were domestic abuse related.

¹⁰¹ There were an additional 35 commercial victims of hate crime in 2016, compared with 18 in 2015

¹⁰² Where gender was recorded: the remaining 23 were either not recorded, unknown or unspecified.

¹⁰³ Essex data relates to victims of crime, national data relates to crime (which may have no victim associated)

Table 37: Police recorded victims of hate crime in Essex by crime and hate type, 2016¹⁰⁴

| Crime Type/ Hate Crime Type | Racial | Homophobic | Disability | Religious ¹⁰⁵ | Transgender | Multiple | Total | % total |
|---|--------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| Public order offences | 642 | 73 | 65 | 20 | 9 | 16 | 825 | 49.0% |
| Violence against the person | 460 | 67 | 74 | 39 | 14 | 14 | 668 | 39.7% |
| - Violence without injury | 332 | 58 | 66 | 32 | 12 | 11 | 511 | |
| - Violence with injury | 127 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 156 | |
| Damage and arson offences | 101 | 12 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 137 | 8.1% |
| Theft offences | 23 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 31 | 1.8% |
| Robbery | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0.5% |
| Miscellaneous crimes against society | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0.5% |
| Sexual offences | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0.3% |
| Possession of weapon offences | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.1% |
| Total | 1,241 | 157 | 156 | 67 | 29 | 34 | 1,684 | |
| % total | 73.7% | 9.3% | 9.3% | 4.0% | 1.7% | 2.0% | | |

Source: Essex Police Victim data, March 2017

575 (34.1%) of victims defined themselves as 'White British'; of the 1,241 victims of 'racial hate crimes, 316 (25.5%) described themselves as 'African/Caribbean/Mixed', 269 (21.7%) as 'Asian/Mixed' and 244 (19.7%) as 'White British'.¹⁰⁶

3.9% of victims of hate crime (65 victims) had an 'online' flag associated with their case.

An additional 463 hate crime incidents ('non-crimes') were recorded in 2016, which provide more insight into the level and type of hate related activity in Essex. Disability related hate incidents account for a higher proportion of all disability related hate crime and non-crime (30% compared with 22% for all hate types). A Hate Crime Officer observed that hate crime cases often have a history of anti-social behaviour reports.

Table 38: Police recorded victims of hate crime and non-crime in Essex by type, 2016

| Hate type | Crime | Non-crime | Total |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Racial | 1,241 | 314 | 1,555 |
| Homophobic | 157 | 46 | 203 |
| Disability | 156 | 68 | 224 |
| Religion | 67 | 19 | 86 |
| Transgender | 29 | 9 | 38 |
| Multiple | 34 | 7 | 41 |
| Total | 1,684 (78%) | 463 (22%) | 2,147 |

Source: Essex Police Victim data, March 2017

Time taken to report/record

82% of victims of hate crime have their crimes recorded within a week, with 29% on the same day.¹⁰⁷ This suggests a slight delay in reporting and/or recording: 73% of all victims of crime are recorded within a day of the incident.

¹⁰⁴ There were an additional 35 business victims of hate crimes in 2016, 24 of which were racially motivated. 20 were damage and arson, 8 public order, 5 violence against the person and 2 theft offences.

¹⁰⁵ Of the 67 individual victims of religious hate crime, 23 were 'Religion – Jewish' and 19 'Religion – Muslim'

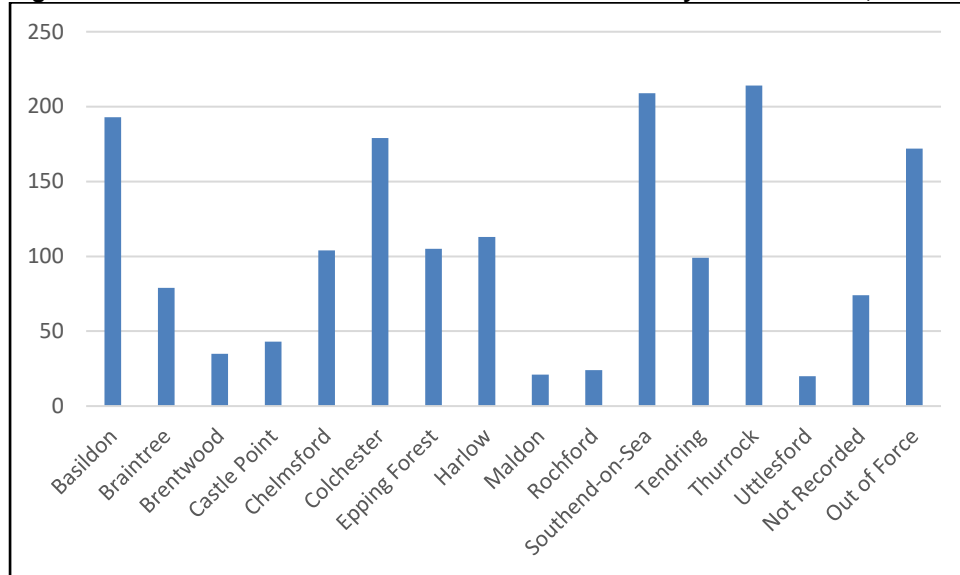
¹⁰⁶ Data on ethnicity has been extracted by 'self-defined' terms, so aggregated totals are the author's own interpretation of how to group the resulting categories

¹⁰⁷ Some delays in recording could be due to 3rd party reporting arrangements, some to insufficient details taken and the need for follow up

Victim's home location

Higher numbers of victims of hate related crime lived in Thurrock (12.7%), Southend (12.4%) and Basildon (11.5%).

Figure 30: Police recorded victims of hate crime in Essex by home location, 2016

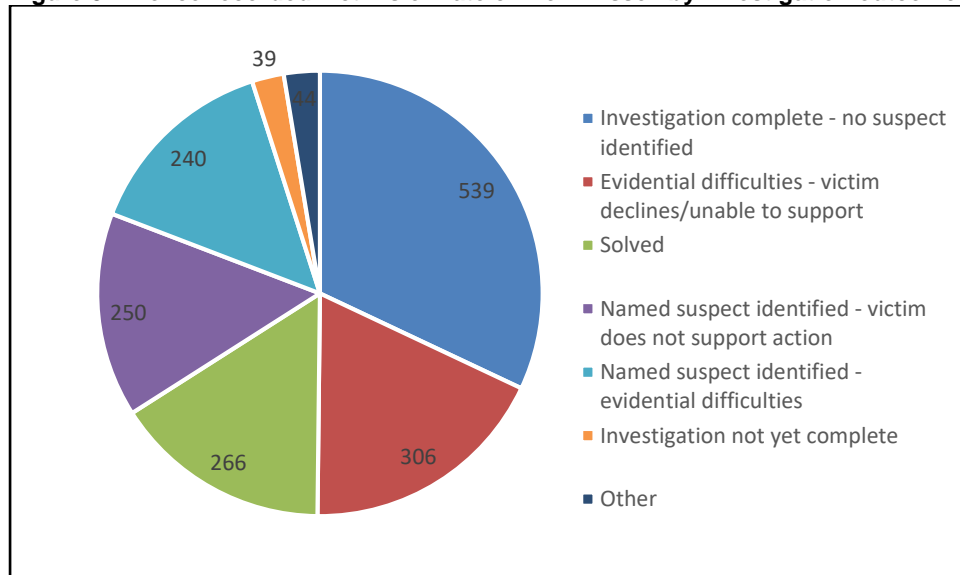


Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Outcomes of police reported crime

The 'solved' rate for victims of hate related crime is 15.8%, higher than the rate for all crime (13.4%).

Figure 31: Police recorded victims of hate crime in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

5.3.3) Hate crime: specialist service provider data

Victims of hate related crime are mainly referred to Victim Support by the police via the Automatic Data Transfer (ADT) and Hate Crime Officers, or by the HIRCs or Stop Hate UK. Other agencies can refer and self referrals can be made. Victim Support has a hate crime training package that volunteers undergo before supporting hate crime cases.

Victim Support

Victim Support provided support to 176 victims of hate related crime in 2016/17, which represents 10.5% of those reporting to the police. Women were more likely to seek support than men, with 63% of those being supported female, compared with 41% women reporting to the police. The age profile for those receiving support was slightly older than the police profile, with most victims in the 35-54 age range (51%).

Table 39: Victims of hate crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17

| Age group | Female | Male | Not recorded | Total | Police recorded hate crimes | % hate recorded victims |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 0-12 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 11 | 100 | 11.0% |
| 13-17 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 108 | 4.6% |
| 18-24 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 143 | 2.8% |
| 25-34 | 18 | 10 | 2 | 30 | 420 | 7.1% |
| 35-44 | 29 | 12 | 3 | 44 | 411 | 10.7% |
| 45-54 | 26 | 20 | 0 | 46 | 318 | 14.5% |
| 55-64 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 18 | 128 | 14.1% |
| 65-74 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 32 | 21.9% |
| 75+ | 7 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 11 | 81.8% |
| No age recorded | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 13 | |
| Total | 106 | 63 | 7 | 176 | 1,684 | 10.5% |

Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

Whilst public order offences make up the highest proportion of policed recorded hate crime, those who have experienced 'violence against the person' are more likely to seek and receive support. A high proportion of victims of hate related theft offences go on to receive support. The high 'other crime' category could be due to victims who are not referred by the police.

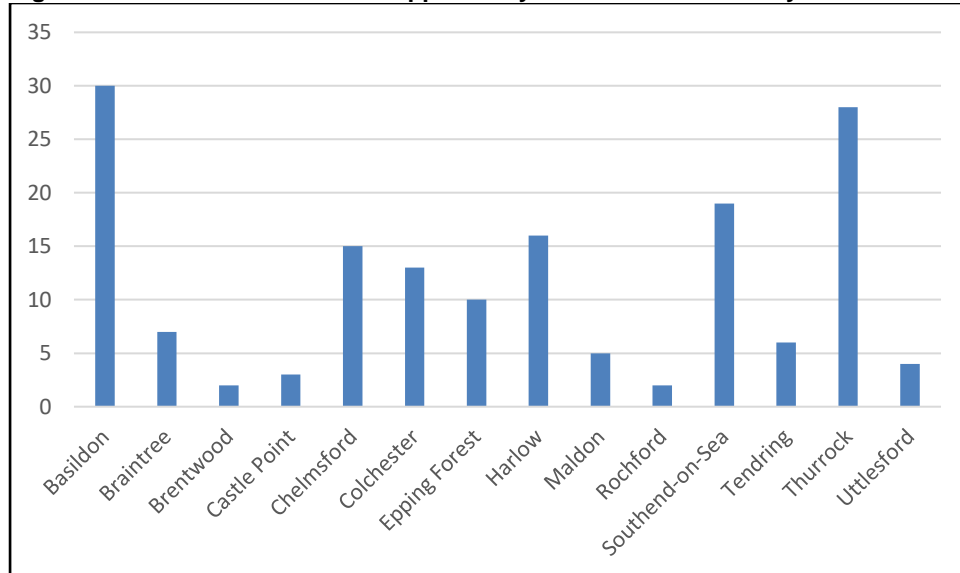
Table 40: Victims of hate crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by crime type, 2016/17

| Crime type | Female | Male | Not given/Unknown | Total | Police recorded hate crimes | % hate recorded victims |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Violence against the person | 39 | 34 | 2 | 75 | 668 | 11.2% |
| - Violence without injury | 29 | 25 | 2 | 56 | | |
| - Violence with injury | 10 | 9 | 0 | 19 | | |
| Public order offences | 27 | 15 | 0 | 42 | 825 | 5.1% |
| Theft offences | 16 | 3 | 0 | 19 | 31 | 61.3% |
| - Burglary | 5 | 1 | 0 | 6 | | |
| - Other theft | 11 | 2 | 0 | 13 | | |
| Damage and arson offences | 9 | 7 | 2 | 18 | 137 | 13.1% |
| Sexual offences | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 40.0% |
| Robbery | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 11.1% |
| Other crime | 11 | 4 | 2 | 17 | 9 | |
| Fraud and forgery | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Non-crime | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Total | 106 | 63 | 7 | 176 | 1,684 | 10.5% |

Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

Most support is provided to victims of hate crime in Basildon and Thurrock, which is line with the numbers reported to Essex Police. Other high volume hate crime areas are Colchester and Southend which do not appear to be so well covered from the Victim Support data. This suggests an element of unmet support needs for victims of hate related crime in these areas in particular.

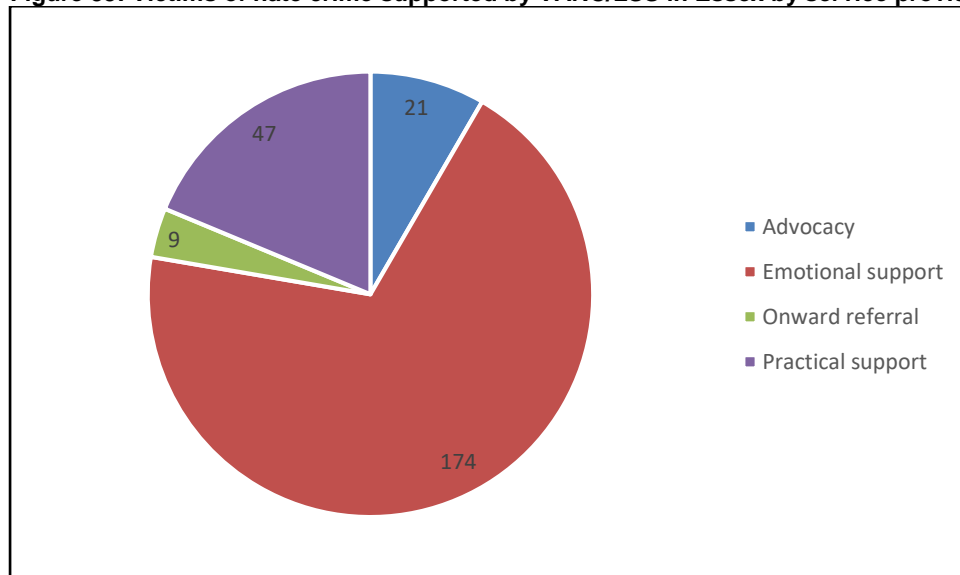
Figure 32: Victims of hate crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by home location, 2016/17¹⁰⁸



Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

The 176 victims of hate crime supported by Victim Support during 2016/17 had 361 assessed needs and 251 services provided. Emotional support was the most provided service (69% of services).

Figure 33: Victims of hate crime supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17



Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

¹⁰⁸ 160 records had a home location recorded (91%)

5.4) Young victims of crime

5.4.1) Young victims: national trends

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) includes a survey for children aged 10 to 15. There were an estimated 716,000 incidents of crime experienced by young people aged 10-15 in the year ending December 2016.¹⁰⁹

Table 41: Crime experienced by children aged 10-15, year ending December 2016

| Type of crime | Number incidents | % Total | % victims once or more |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------|------------------------|
| Violence | 371,000 | 52% | 5.7% |
| Personal theft | 249,000 | 35% | 5.1% |
| Vandalism to personal property | 55,000 | 8% | 0.9% |
| Robbery | 41,000 | 6% | 0.6% |
| Total | 716,000 | | 11.2% |

Source: Crime in England and Wales, year ending December 2016

54% of the violence incidents were assault with minor injury, and 68% of the personal theft incidents were classed as 'other theft', which includes theft of property left unattended. 11.2% of those surveyed had been victims once or more. **11.2% of the Essex population aged 10-15 would be 13,426 young victims of crime in this age group.**¹¹⁰

Further insight on the nature of incidents is available from an earlier CSEW publication.¹¹¹ For violent incidents:

- 71% happened in or around school, including 46% outside the school building
- 94% happened in daylight, 90% during the week
- 94% were able to say something about the offender(s); the offender was more likely to be a male individual, aged 10-15, a pupil at the same school and known well
- Only 21% perceived the incident as a crime, 42% perceived it as wrong but not a crime, 52% perceived it as part of a series of bullying
- 79% reported to a teacher or other member of staff, 57% to a friend. The police knew about the incident in 14% of cases.
- 78% sustained physical injury, with the most common injury (67%) minor bruising/black eye. Some form of medical attention was needed in 21% of cases.
- 28% involved a form of hitting implement, 16% stones and 11% a stabbing implement

For personal theft incidents:

- 70% happened in or around school, with 58% inside the school building
- 89% were in daylight, with 90% happening during the week
- 50% were able to say something about the offender(s); the profile was similar to violent incidents, but in 36% of cases the offender was a female
- 32% perceived the incident as a crime, 42% perceived it to be wrong but not a crime, 15% perceived it as part of a series of bullying
- 83% told a teacher/member of staff, 50% told a friend. The police knew about 8% cases.
- Clothing was most likely to be stolen (21%), followed by cash/foreign currency (16%).

¹⁰⁹ Crime in England and Wales Year Ending December 2016, Statistical Bulletin, ONS. Young persons' survey includes only personal not household crime. Figures quoted are 'preferred measures' which take into account severity, such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with perpetrator. Given the small sample size, trends are difficult to interpret. Questions on cyber-crime, e.g., sexting, online bullying and online grooming, are being tested with the aim of introducing these from October 2017.

¹¹⁰ Mid-2015 Population Estimates (ONS). The estimated population aged 10-15 in Essex is 119,874.

¹¹¹ Crime in England and Wales Year Ending March 2016, ONS. Additional tables.

A wellbeing survey is conducted in Essex with participating schools. Known as the SHEU (Schools Health Education Unit) Survey it provides a snapshot of perceptions in primary and secondary schools.¹¹²

Table 42: Young people’s perceptions of feeling safe in Essex schools, 2016

| | Primary | Secondary |
|--|---------|-----------|
| Afraid to be in school because of bullying at least sometime | 32.3% | 20.3% |
| Saying school deals with bullying badly or not very well | 12.6% | 25.7% |
| Saying always or usually feel safe at home | 92.3% | 96.1% |
| Saying always or usually feel safe at school | 88.5% | 88.8% |

Source: SHEU Survey, Essex Insight

5.4.2) Young victims: Essex Police data

Age and gender

8,706 victims of notifiable crime aged 0-17 were recorded by Essex Police during 2016. Of those where a date of birth was recorded, 52.6% were male and 47.4% female. Boys were more likely to be victims in the 0-12 age group and girls more likely in the 13-17 age group.

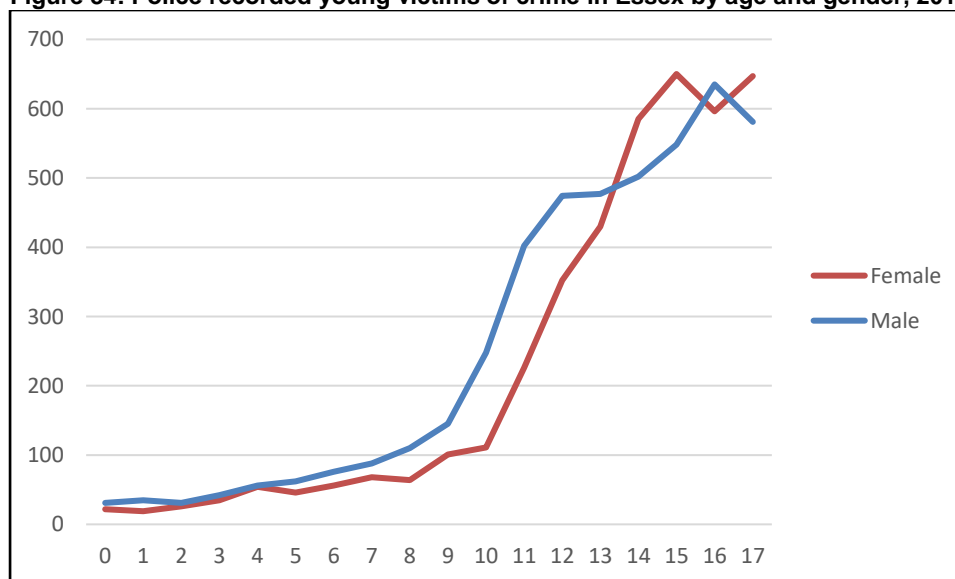
Table 43: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016

| Age group | Female | Male | Not recorded | Total |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0-12 | 1,180 | 1,800 | 25 | 3,005 |
| 13-17 | 2,908 | 2,743 | 50 | 5,701 |
| Total | 4,088 | 4,543 | 75 | 8,706 |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

The age and gender profile is as follows:

Figure 34: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by age and gender, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Most described themselves as ‘White British’ (79%). Self-defined ethnicity was not recorded for 10% of victims.

¹¹² Survey conducted with participating schools in January and February each year, with year 4 and above. Comparisons with previous years, and within Essex, is difficult because of changes in the schools taking part.

Type of crime

59.5% were victims of violence against the person, of which 5% had an online element. Theft accounted for 13.8% and sexual offences 12.8%. 7.5% of victims of sexual crime had an online element. Overall there was an online element associated with the offence for 4.4% of young victims. 451 (5%) of the offences against young victims were domestic abuse related, with 99 (22%) high risk, 257 (57%) medium risk and 80 (18%) standard risk.¹¹³ 204 (2.3%) were hate crime related.

Table 44: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by crime type, 2016

| Crime type | 0-12 | 13-17 | Total under 18 | % share | Online? |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| Violence against the person | 2,079 | 3,101 | 5,180 | 59.5% | 5.0% |
| - Violence without injury | 1,235 | 1,840 | 3,075 | | |
| - Violence with injury | 843 | 1,261 | 2,104 | | |
| Theft offences | 230 | 969 | 1,199 | 13.8% | 0.9% |
| - Bicycle theft | 82 | 409 | 491 | | |
| Sexual offences | 329 | 784 | 1,113 | 12.8% | 7.5% |
| - Rape | 51 | 197 | 248 | | |
| - Other sexual offences | 278 | 587 | 865 | | |
| Public order offences | 266 | 445 | 711 | 8.2% | 0.6% |
| Robbery | 48 | 190 | 238 | 2.7% | |
| Miscellaneous crimes against society | 22 | 96 | 118 | 1.4% | 18.6% |
| Damage and arson offences | 19 | 93 | 112 | 1.3% | |
| Possession of weapons | 12 | 20 | 32 | 0.4% | |
| Other | 0 | 3 | 3 | | |
| Total | 3,005 | 5,701 | 8,706 | | |
| Online? | 3.3% | 4.9% | 4.4% | | |

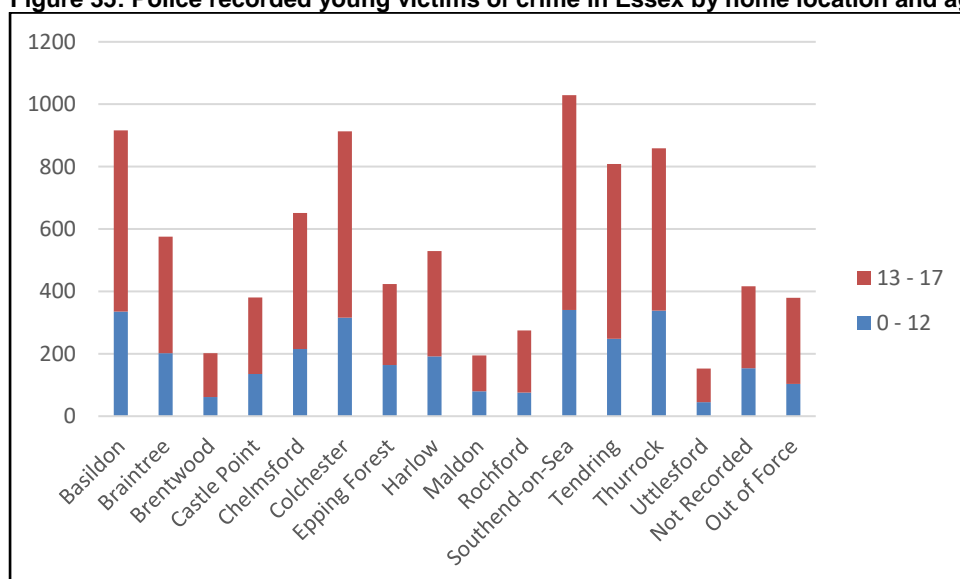
Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Time taken to report/record

81% of young victims had their crime reported/recorded within a week, 36% the same day. 73% of all victims of crime are recorded within a day of the incident.

Victim's home location

Figure 35: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by home location and agegroup, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

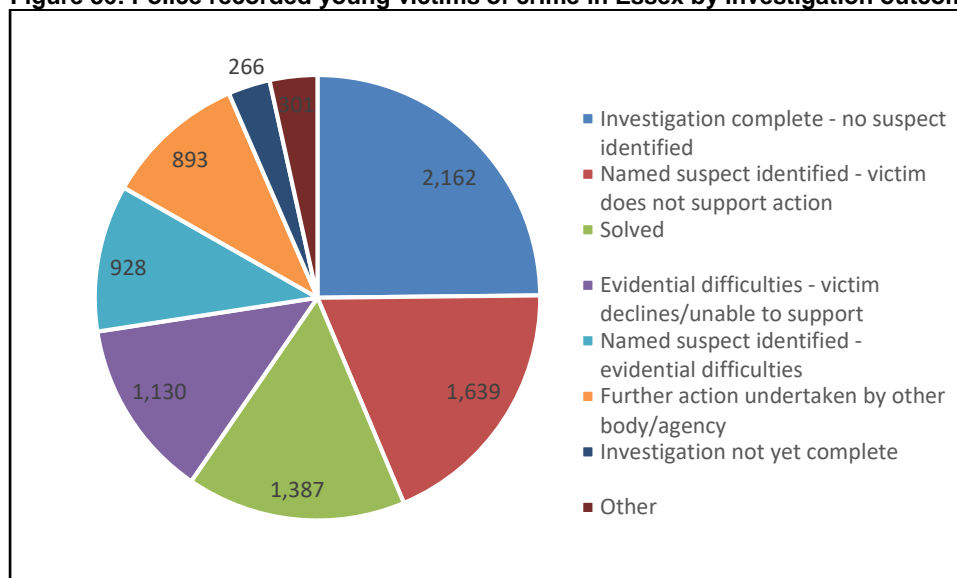
¹¹³ 15 young victims of domestic abuse had no risk level recorded

Most young victims lived in Southend (11.8% of all young victims), then Basildon (10.5%), Colchester (10.5%) and Thurrock (9.9%).

Outcomes of police reported crime

The 'solved' rate for young victims of crime is 15.9%, higher than the rate for all crime (13.4%).

Figure 36: Police recorded young victims of crime in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

5.4.3) Young people: specialist service provider data

Providing appropriate services to support young victims of crime is very important, both in terms of understanding young people's perceptions of victimisation and ensuring that they can access support services in ways that meet their needs

Support for young victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence is provided by specialist service providers, and covered under Sections 5.1 and 5.2 of this profile. Victim Support also provides support for young victims of crime (see Section 4.7). In addition there were 107 young people supported by the Sexual Assault Referral Centre during 2016/17, 66 (62%) of whom were under 12. An extract of the information about support to young people is provided here.¹¹⁴

Table 45: Support provided to young victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17

| Provider | Female | Male | Not recorded /other | Total |
|---|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Victim Support – all crime¹¹⁵ | 135 | 103 | 54 | 292 |
| 0-12 | 32 | 41 | 32 | 105 |
| 13-17 | 103 | 62 | 22 | 187 |
| Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres (EPRCC) | 507 | 70 | 1 | 578 |
| 0-12 | 106 | 36 | 0 | 142 |
| 13-17 | 401 | 34 | 1 | 436 |
| Total | 642 | 173 | 55 | 870 |

Source: Victim Support/EPRCC, May 2017

¹¹⁴ There are very few young people recorded as receiving support directly in the domestic abuse provider figures

¹¹⁵ Figures include 12 victims of domestic abuse (3 aged 0-12 and 9 aged 13-17) and 64 victims of sexual offences (13 aged 0-12 and 51 aged 13-17)

There are a number of initiatives in Essex aimed at raising awareness with young people and others of what being a victim of crime means, and for providing support to those young people who are at risk of becoming a victim and to those who have been affected by crime.

Child Sexual Exploitation

The Children's Society is running the Children at Risk of Exploitation (CARE) service, providing specialist support to children and young people aged 8-24 who are victims of or are at risk of sexual exploitation in Essex. The service also aims to raise awareness of CSE and how to identify and support young people at risk, and provides advice and guidance to professionals, parents and carers.¹¹⁶

During the first year of the project (2016):

- there were 175 referrals to the service, most from social care and the police
- therapeutic support was provided to 119 young people at high risk of or involved in CSE, through 1:1 or group work, helping to improve protection and reduce risk
- 85 parents and carers were helped
- 19 training sessions were provided, with 537 multi agency professionals trained

A [website](#) aimed at young people has been developed. Vulnerable groups are considered to be boys and young men, and young people aged 16-17.¹¹⁷ During 2017 the service wants to focus on reaching young people with learning disabilities and those from hard to reach communities such as BME groups and from the travelling community.

Barnardo's has recently released figures stating that during 2016/17 it supported 3,430 people through its child sexual exploitation direct support services, compared to 2,486 in 2015/16, and 3,444 people through its missing services, up from 2,257 the previous year.¹¹⁸

Young Victim Service

Catch22 have been funded by the PCC to develop a young victim 'Pathfinder' service, initially in North East Essex, to provide targeted support for young people who had experienced crime that had an impact on their life, and to run young victim awareness sessions.¹¹⁹

Between June and December 2016:

- 25 referrals were received for targeted 1:1 support, 16 male and 9 females aged between 12 and 16
- 796 young people were engaged in victim awareness sessions delivered in schools or in 'Crucial Crew' events, covering types of crimes that can lead to victimisation in school and out of school, the feelings of a victim and where to go, who to talk to and get support

There are potential cross overs between these projects, and with gang related involvement (which is referenced in Section 5.6).

¹¹⁶ Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, the project runs from December 2015 to December 2018. It excludes Southend and Thurrock. Funding has also been provided by the PCC for a Boys and Young Men worker (until December 2017), engaging 20 young men over a year.

¹¹⁷ Old enough to know better? Why sexually exploited older teenagers are being overlooked (The Children's Society) November 2015

¹¹⁸ Press release (Barnardo's) 26 June 2017. These are national figures, but Barnardo's do work in Essex.

¹¹⁹ This followed on from work Catch22 did on understanding the perspectives of young victims of crime during 2014. The Young Victims Service has been in place since early 2016 and is funded to the end of March 2018.

5.5) Older victims of crime

Older people who need support with daily living or help with their finances can be more vulnerable to abuse and more likely to be targeted because of their perceived frailty, e.g., through financial fraud and bogus callers or distraction burglaries.

Although older people are less likely to be victims of the most serious crimes, the impact of the crime on their health and wellbeing can be more severe. With an aging population, and an increased incidence of dementia and frailty, elder abuse is likely to be a growing concern.

5.5.1) Older victims: Essex Police data

Age and gender

There were 8,238 victims of crime aged over 65 in Essex in 2016, representing 9.3% of total victims (in 2013 the share was 10.4%, suggesting that as a proportion the number of older victims is falling).

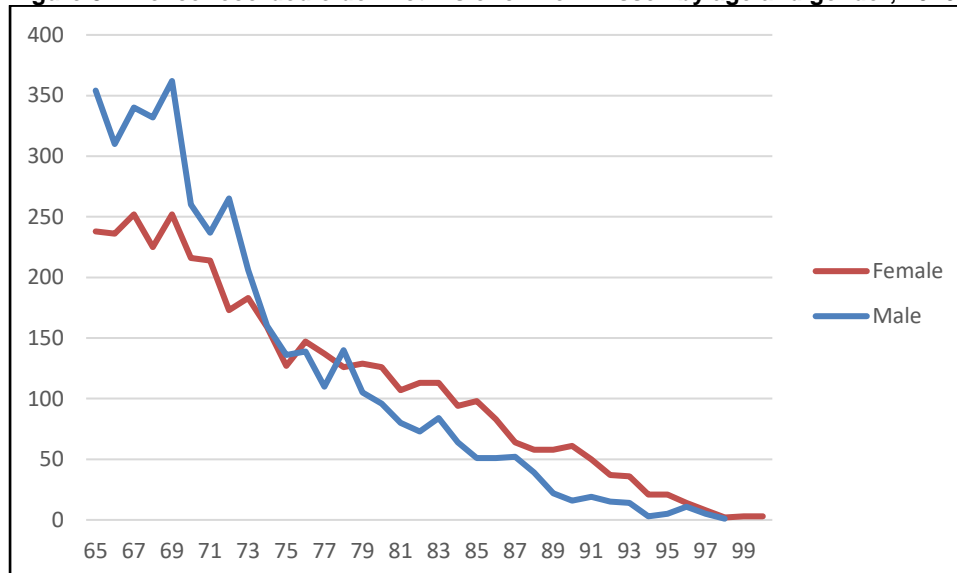
Table 46: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016

| Age group | Female | Male | Not recorded | Total |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 65-74 | 2,148 | 2,826 | 54 | 5,028 |
| 75-84 | 1,219 | 1,027 | 29 | 2,275 |
| 85+ | 620 | 306 | 9 | 935 |
| Total | 3,987 | 4,159 | 92 | 8,238 |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Numbers are fairly evenly split between males and females, but as the following chart illustrates women make up progressively more of the share as their age increases.

Figure 37: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by age and gender, 2016



Source: Essex Police Victim data March 2017

Most older victims defined their ethnicity as 'White British' (86% compared with 79% for all victims), with 9.3% not recorded.

Type of crime

People over 65 are susceptible to certain types of crime, particularly theft where they are significantly more likely to be a victim of domestic burglary and theft from the person than average. The relative incidence of theft becomes greater the older a person gets.

Table 47: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by crime type and agegroup, 2016

| Crime Type/age | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85+ | Total 65+ | % share | All ages |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Theft offences | 2,930 | 1,530 | 680 | 5,140 | 62.4% | 37.7% |
| - Domestic burglary | 834 | 473 | 264 | 1,571 | 19.1% | 8.0% |
| - Vehicle offences | 672 | 229 | 25 | 926 | 11.2% | 12.5% |
| - Theft from the person | 171 | 157 | 87 | 415 | 5.0% | 1.8% |
| Damage and arson offences | 990 | 346 | 100 | 1,436 | 17.4% | 13.3% |
| Violence against the person | 759 | 291 | 121 | 1,171 | 14.2% | 36.1% |
| Public order offences | 259 | 50 | 5 | 314 | 3.8% | 7.5% |
| Sexual offences | 22 | 20 | 23 | 65 | 0.8% | 3.1% |
| Other | 68 | 38 | 6 | 112 | | |
| Total | 5,028 | 2,275 | 935 | 8,238 | | 88,629 |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

481 (5.8%) were victims of domestic abuse related crime, 29% of whom were high risk and 50% medium risk. 44 (0.5%) were hate crimes. Online crime was a factor for 22 (0.3%) of older victims.

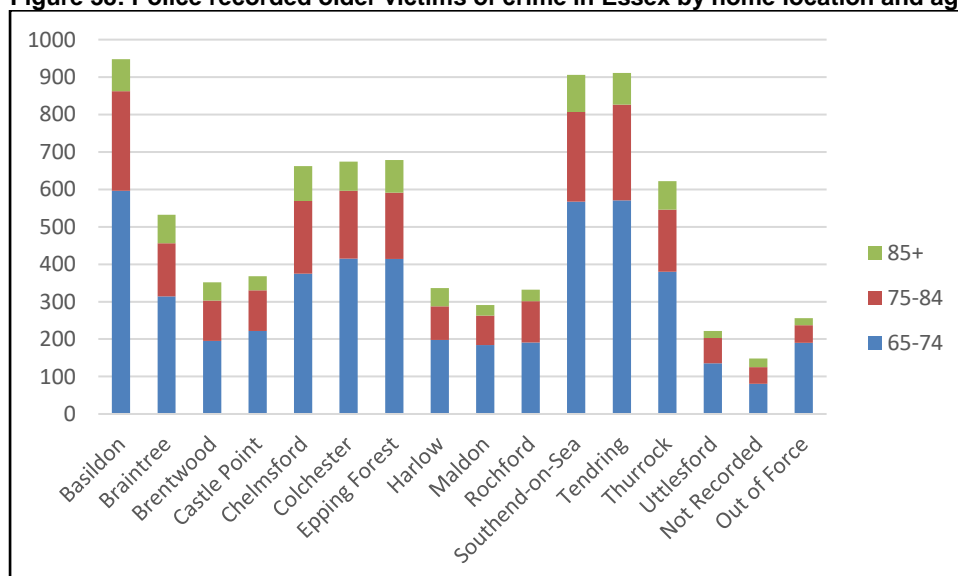
Time taken to report/record

91% of older victims had their crime reported/recorded within a week, 56% the same day. 73% of all victims of crime are recorded within a day of the incident.

Victim's home location

Most victims lived in Basildon (11.5% of all older victims), then Tendring (11.1%) and Southend (11%).

Figure 38: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by home location and agegroup, 2016

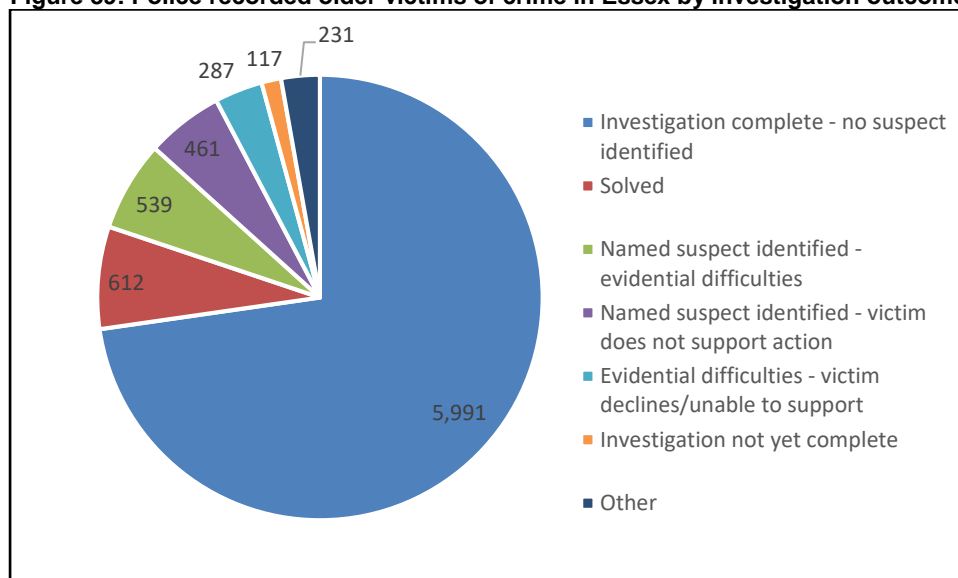


Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Outcomes of police reported crime

The 'solved' rate for older victims of crime is 7.4%, almost half that of the rate for all crime (13.4%). For 72.7% of older victims, no suspect was identified.

Figure 39: Police recorded older victims of crime in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

5.5.3) Older people: specialist service provider data

Generic support is available to older people through the VARC/LSS contract with Victim Support (Section 4.7), and also through specialist services in place to support victims of domestic abuse (Section 5.1) and sexual violence (Section 5.2).

Table 48: Support provided to older victims of crime in Essex by agegroup and gender, 2016/17

| Provider | Female | Male | Not recorded/ other | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Victim Support – all crime¹²⁰ | 249 | 132 | 34 | 415 |
| 65-74 | 130 | 88 | 17 | 235 |
| 75-84 | 86 | 29 | 16 | 131 |
| 85+ | 33 | 15 | 1 | 49 |
| Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres (EPRCC) | 36 | 4 | 0 | 40 |
| 65-74 | 30 | 3 | 0 | 33 |
| 75+ | 6 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Total | 285 | 136 | 34 | 455 |

Source: Victim Support/EPRCC, May 2017

In addition, 3 older people were supported by the Sexual Assault Referral Centre during 2016/17, and 13 older people were supported by an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate during Q4 2016/17 with 5 supported through outreach.

¹²⁰ Figures include 23 victims of domestic abuse (13 aged 65-74, 8 aged 75-84 and 2 aged 85+) and 9 victims of sexual offences (7 aged 65-74 and 2 aged 75+)

5.6) Other vulnerable victims of crime

This section covers other types of victimisation not covered elsewhere, where numbers might be relatively small but the problem is growing and/or the consequences are severe.

Where a crime has found to be committed, these victims would be hidden in the crime data presented throughout this document, based on the most serious offence.

5.6.1 Victims of trafficking and modern slavery

There are an estimated 10,000-13,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK.¹²¹ Potential victims are referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the framework for assessing whether someone is a victim of slavery.

The Government offers a 45-day reflection and recovery period for victims as they go through the NRM.¹²² Support is provided by the Salvation Army for the whole of the UK, who provide safe houses, and arrange for food, clothing, immediate medical support and psychological support.

Not all victims of modern slavery are referred to the NRM. To be eligible the victim needs to consent to be relocated away from danger, have their details passed to law enforcement agencies and agree to support any investigation. Some may not go through the NRM process, but still support investigation. Post-NRM, support can be weak.

National data

During 2016, 3,805 victims were submitted to the NRM for the whole of the UK, a 17% increase from 2015.¹²³ 51% were female and 48% male. 66% were referred for adult exploitation categories and 34% for exploitation as a minor.

The most common type of exploitation was labour related (29%), which includes criminal exploitation, followed by sexual exploitation (25%). Albanian, UK and Vietnamese nationals were the most commonly reported potential victims.

The national statistics include data for Essex. According to these there were 61 referrals to the NRM relating to Essex during 2016, including 20 which came from Essex Police, 17 from UK Border Force and 13 from Local Authorities.

Essex Police data

These figures only reflect those referrals made to the NRM however. Intelligence maintained by Essex Police tells a fuller picture of what is happening in the county.

There were 85 modern slavery investigations in Essex in 2016. 79% of these had been referred to the NRM. 53% of the victims were male. The majority were Albanian (23.5%), Vietnamese (19%) and Romanian (18%). Roughly 40% were under 18, based on given date of birth, with most 16-17.

¹²¹ Victims of Modern Slavery, Work and Pensions Committee HC803 (House of Commons) April 2017

¹²² The Work and Pensions Committee recommends an extension to this period, with a right to remain for at least a year, and that re-trafficking of victims is monitored. The Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill, a Private Members' Bill introduced on 26 June 2017, creates a statutory duty to provide support and assistance to potential victims during a reflection and recovery period of 45 days, and for confirmed victims for a further 12 months.

¹²³ National Referral Mechanism Statistics, End of Year Summary 2016 (NCA) April 2017

Most were victims of sexual exploitation (33% and predominantly women), followed by labour exploitation (20% and predominantly men). Forced criminality accounted for 12%, mainly for drug dealing and cannabis cultivation.

Table 49: Police recorded victims of modern slavery in Essex by type and gender, 2016

| Type of exploitation | Female | Male | Total | % NRM |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Sexual exploitation | 25 | 3 | 28 | 64% |
| - Prostitution | 17 | 0 | | |
| - Brothel | 7 | 1 | | |
| Labour exploitation | 2 | 15 | 17 | 82% |
| - Car wash | 0 | 4 | | |
| Forced criminality | 1 | 9 | 10 | 90% |
| - Drug dealing | 1 | 4 | | |
| - Cannabis cultivation | 0 | 4 | | |
| Domestic servitude | 4 | 1 | 5 | 80% |
| Immigration | 1 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| Unknown | 7 | 17 | 24 | 88% |
| Total | 40 | 45 | 85 | 79% |

Source: Essex Police data, May 2017

In terms of support, for those consenting to be referred to the NRM support is currently provide by the Salvation Army for the initial 45 day recovery period, after which much depends on an individual's country of origin in the case of non-UK victims and their immigration status.¹²⁴ For those not consenting, support is less clear and secure. There could also be victims locally who have referred themselves for support from rape crisis services for example, or be known to other support agencies.

5.6.2 Gangs and drug lines

The operations of gangs in criminal activity cuts across a number of situations and operational responses, such as trafficking and modern slavery, child sexual exploitation and drug offences. Those involved in gangs may themselves be vulnerable and coerced into criminal activity, through fear and dependence. Some may not see themselves as victims.

The issue of 'county lines' in particular is receiving national attention.¹²⁵ This is where young people in particular are coerced by organised gangs from London and other urban areas into carrying Class A drugs to rural and coastal areas. Vulnerable adults can also be exploited, with gangs taking over homes as a local place to store and deal drugs. This is considered to be a growing issue, and a key driver of criminality and violence, with children as young as 12 being targeted.¹²⁶

Essex Police has produced a thematic assessment on this issue, which provides excellent insight into the drivers and pathways for those recruited, and those most vulnerable, the nature and scale in Essex, and the role of the police and partner agencies in targeting offenders and supporting victims.¹²⁷ Operation Raptor is Essex Police's enforcement response to disrupting and dismantling gangs who travel to Essex to deal drugs and cause violence.

¹²⁴ The NRM is being reviewed with the possibility of devolving responsibility for providing support to local areas. Victims are usually taken to a place of safety away from where they are found, and longer term care provided by the new local authority.

¹²⁵ A County Lines National Working Group has been set up by the Government to lead a 12 month action plan to tackle the issue

¹²⁶ County Lines Gang Violence, Exploitation and Drug Supply 2016, 0346-CAD National Briefing Report (National Crime Agency) November 2016

¹²⁷ Urban Street Gang and County Drug Lines Thematic Assessment (Essex Police) November 2016 [Restricted]

The PCC made funding available in September 2016 to tackle gang-associated violence and vulnerability in Essex, in line with a commitment in the new Police and Crime Plan to tackle gangs and serious organised crime. The project initially focusses on six areas of the county (Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester, Southend, Tendring and Thurrock) and targets support to young people aged 14 to 24 at risk of being exploited by gangs.¹²⁸ Funding is available over two years.

5.6.3 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)¹²⁹

Experimental statistics on FGM are being developed nationally.¹³⁰ During 2016/17 there were 9,179 'attendances' reported at NHS Trusts and GP practices in England where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken, with 5,391 of these recorded for the first time.¹³¹ 87% were in midwifery or obstetrics services.

The average age for those recorded for the first time was 31. 95% of women and girls first recorded in 2016/17 had undergone FGM before they were 18. Most were born in Eastern Africa. 57 say they had the procedure done in the UK.

More detailed figures are available for local authority areas. There were 45 'attendances' during 2016/17 in Essex, most of which related to support for pregnancy.¹³²

5.6.4 Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse (HBA)

The extent of Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse (HBA) is difficult to ascertain. In 2016, the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1,428 cases.¹³³ 26% involved victims under 18, and 34% victims aged 18-25. 80% were women.

A good source of information and intelligence about what is happening in Essex is an analysis produced by Essex Police, which includes data on the scale and nature of forced marriage and honour based abuse in the county.¹³⁴ During the period April 2015 to December 2016 (21 months) there were 12 honour based abuse investigations with a forced marriage element, and 75 investigations relating to honour based abuse alone.¹³⁵

Karma Nirvana is the national agency supporting victims of both these crimes.

¹²⁸ The project is being run by Gangsline, who provide mentoring programmes and workshops to help young people affected by gangs.

¹²⁹ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM has been illegal in the UK since 1985, with the law being strengthened in 2003 to prevent girls travelling from the UK and undergoing FGM abroad. There have been no successful prosecutions.

¹³⁰ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Enhanced Dataset April 2016 to March 2017, England, Experimental Statistics (NHS Digital) 4 July 2017

¹³¹ An attendance is where a woman or girl with FGM has had treatment for her FGM or given birth to a baby girl, or when FGM has been identified

¹³² A victim of FGM may have more than one attendance. It is not possible to obtain 'newly recorded' data as any number between 0-4 is shown with an asterisk.

¹³³ Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016 (Foreign & Commonwealth Office/Home Office) March 2017

¹³⁴ Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Problem Profile (Essex Police) January 2017

¹³⁵ Four honour based abuse investigations had an FGM element in the same period (21 months)

5.7) Victims of fraud and computer misuse

The extent of fraud is hard to measure for a number of reasons, and is considered to be significantly under-reported. Organisations and individuals can be targeted indiscriminately. Some victims may be unaware that they have been defrauded as fraud is a deceptive crime. When they find out, they may not see themselves as a victim, and they may not report because they feel embarrassed or think it not worth reporting.

5.7.1) Fraud and computer misuse: national trends

Experimental statistics from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)¹³⁶ suggest in the year ending December 2016 there were:

- 3.5k incidents of fraud and 1.9k incidents of computer misuse. Of the fraud incidents, 70% related to bank and credit cards: 19% were with loss, with no or partial reimbursement; 51% were fully reimbursed and 30% were without loss. For computer misuse, 33% were with loss and 67% without loss. 55% of fraud and 97% of computer misuse incidents were online.
- 2.8k victims of fraud and 1.5k victims of computer misuse; 6.2% victims of fraud and 3.2% victims of computer misuse had been victims once or more

Trend data is not available yet from the CSEW, but there was a 4% increase in fraud offences recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) during the year ending December 2016 (up to 641,539) compared with the previous year.

Table 50: Fraud offences recorded by National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, year ending December 2106

| Fraud type | Examples | Number | % change 2015 | % share |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Banking/credit industry | Cheque, card, online accounts Application fraud | 376,244 | +4% | 58.6% |
| Non-investment fraud | Online shopping/auctions Computer software service Door to door/bogus tradesmen Retail fraud | 102,335 | +8% | 16.0% |
| Telecom industry fraud | Misuse of contracts | 40,069 | -15% | 6.2% |
| Advance fee payments | Lottery scams, Counterfeit cheques/drafts Rental fraud Dating scams | 39,951 | +9% | 6.2% |
| Computer misuse crime | Virus/malware Hacking | 16,261 | +17% | 2.5% |
| Insurance | Insurance related | 8,572 | -23% | 1.3% |
| Financial investments | Share/bond sales | 4,406 | -16% | 0.7% |
| Corporate fraud | Employee, procurement | 1,658 | -17% | 0.3% |
| Other fraud | Charity Business trading Pension Abuse of position | 52,039 | +16.9% | 8.1% |
| Total | | 641,535 | +4% | |

Source: Crime in England and Wales, Year ending December 2016

¹³⁶ Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016 (ONS) April 2017. New questions on fraud and cybercrime were introduced in October 2015, covering experience of fraud and computer misuse in the previous 12 months. This is a household survey, so crimes against businesses are excluded, and some of the most vulnerable victims, such as the elderly, as less likely to participate.

These figures include fraud offences reported to Action Fraud.¹³⁷ 250,496 offences were reported to Action Fraud during the year ending December 2016, an increase of 12% from 2015 - although contractual issues and operational changes to Action Fraud's Call Centre arrangements during 2015/16 mean that this increase should be treated with caution.

9,386 offences reported to Action Fraud related to victims with a home or business address in the Essex Police force area. This represents a slightly higher rate per head of 1,000 population than the national average (5 compared with 4 nationally) and a 20% increase from 2015.

5.7.2) Fraud and computer misuse: Essex Police data

Additional data is available from the City of London Police on the profile of fraud in Essex.¹³⁸ The numbers relate to October 2016 to March 2017, and show a total of 9,039 crimes reported in the six month period.¹³⁹

Of these reports, 62% were from businesses, 35% from individuals. 25% of victims reported a significant impact from the crime. 9% requested victim care. There were 832 crime referrals and 19 judicial outcomes.

Essex Police data shows that there were 970 referrals for investigation made to Essex Police from Action Fraud and the National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB) during 2016, and an additional 721 'calls for service' where a police response was required, for example when an offence was in progress.

The breakdown is as follows:

Table 51: Police recorded victims of 'non-crime' fraud in Essex by agegroup and type, 2016

| Agegroup | 'Call for service' | | | | Investigations | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | Female | Male | Not recorded | Total | Female | Male | Not recorded | Total |
| 0-12 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 13-17 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| 18-24 | 39 | 36 | 4 | 79 | 36 | 37 | 3 | 76 |
| 25-34 | 41 | 43 | 0 | 84 | 89 | 75 | 2 | 166 |
| 35-44 | 33 | 48 | 0 | 81 | 117 | 81 | 1 | 199 |
| 45-54 | 38 | 59 | 1 | 98 | 83 | 80 | 5 | 168 |
| 55-64 | 33 | 46 | 0 | 79 | 39 | 67 | 0 | 106 |
| 65-74 | 58 | 54 | 1 | 113 | 20 | 52 | 0 | 72 |
| 75-84 | 57 | 50 | 0 | 107 | 16 | 32 | 1 | 49 |
| 85+ | 31 | 26 | 0 | 57 | 7 | 10 | 0 | 17 |
| Not recorded | 3 | 7 | 2 | 12 | 52 | 48 | 8 | 108 |
| Total | 339 | 374 | 8 | 721 | 461 | 489 | 20 | 970 |

Source: Essex Police data, May 2017

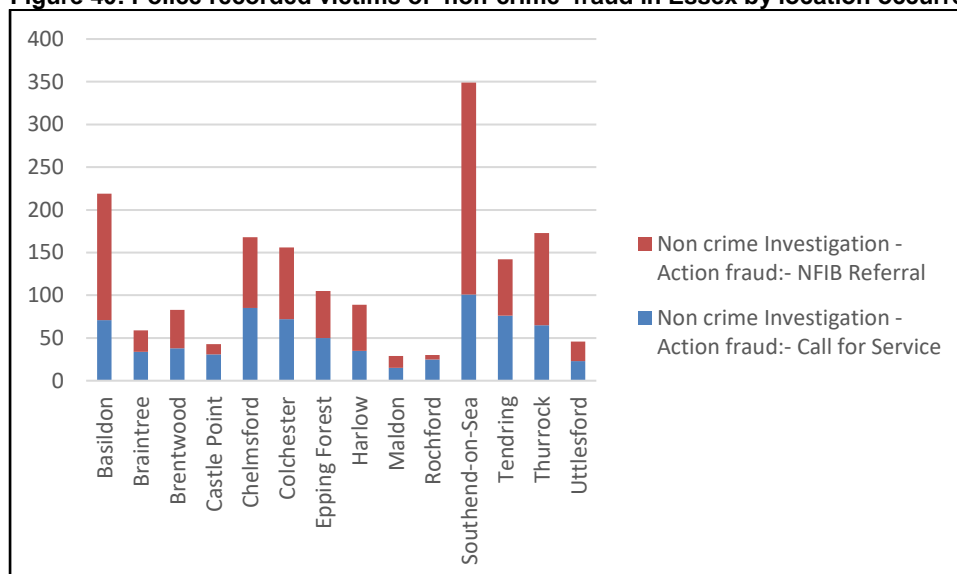
In terms of location, the home location mostly shows 'out of force' but 'district where offence occurred' suggests most victims were based in Southend (20.6%) and Basildon (13%).

¹³⁷ NFIB figures include data from Action Fraud, Cifas and Financial Fraud Action (FFA) UK. Action Fraud is the public facing national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre, and took over the recording of fraud offences from police forces in April 2013 on a phased basis. Fraud cases reported to industry organisations Cifas and FFA are less likely to have been reported to the police.

¹³⁸ Essex Fraud Profile Oct 2016 to Mar 2017 (Essex Police/City of London Police)

¹³⁹ This is different to the Essex data published by ONS, which counts only referrals made to Action Fraud

Figure 40: Police recorded victims of 'non-crime' fraud in Essex by location occurred, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, May 2017

Essex Police is planning to set up a primary investigation team for volume fraud, where cases can be 'triaged' and more consistent assessments of risk and vulnerability can be done. Currently fraud cases referred from Action Fraud are going to local teams for response.

5.7.2) Fraud: specialist service provider data

As these offences are no longer reported to the police, victims will not be referred for support as a matter of agreed routine, i.e., through the ADT, although could be referred subsequently where an investigation is required.

Action Fraud currently has a national arrangement with Victim Support to provide emotional support and practical help to victims of fraud. When a fraud is reported the victim will be given the option for their contact details to be passed to Victim Support.

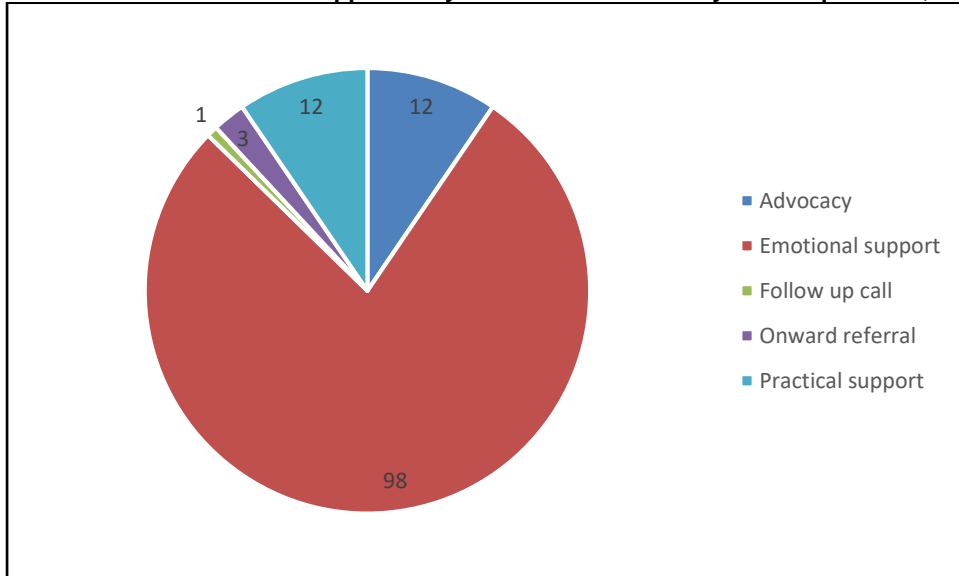
Victim Support

During 2016/17 Victim Support provided support to 82 victims of fraud in Essex, 65% of whom were female (where an age was recorded). There is no discernible pattern by age.

Most victims were from Basildon (13), followed by Southend (10) and Thurrock (8).

The 82 victims of fraud had 157 assessed needs and 126 services provided. 78% of the needs were for emotional support, in line with the arrangement with Action Fraud.

Table 41: Victims of fraud supported by VARC/LSS in Essex by service provided, 2016/17



Source: Victim Support data, May 2017

5.8) Victims of commercial and business crime

5.8.1) Commercial and business crime: national trends

The Commercial Victimization Survey provides estimates of the volume and type of crime committed against business premises in England and Wales covered in its sample. The following table brings together comparable information for sectors covered over the period 2012-2106.¹⁴⁰

Table 52: Proportion of commercial premises experiencing crime in last 12 months by sector

| Type of crime/ Sector | 2016 CVS | | | 2015 CVS | | | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| | Wholesale and retail | Transportation and storage | Administration and support | Agriculture, forestry and fishing | Construction | Information and communications | Accommodation and food | Art, entertainment and recreation | Manufacturing |
| Theft | 24% | 6% | 5% | 8% | 6% | 3% | 13% | 18% | 9% |
| Burglary | 7% | 6% | 6% | 11% | 6% | 3% | 10% | 16% | 13% |
| Vandalism | 8% | 6% | 5% | 7% | 2% | 4% | 13% | 20% | 11% |
| Assaults and threats | 6% | 6% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 12% | 13% | 4% |
| Fraud | 9% | 5% | 5% | 2% | 4% | 7% | 8% | 7% | 5% |
| Vehicle related | 2% | 6% | 3% | 3% | 7% | - | 1% | 1% | 5% |
| Robbery | 4% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 1% | - | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Total | 37% | 24% | 18% | 24% | 21% | 15% | 37% | 45% | 30% |
| Incidents per 1,000 premises | 13,426 | 2,575 | 1,504 | 1,009 | 910 | 300 | 4,677 | 4,660 | 1,500 |
| Online crime | 16% | 12% | 18% | 12% | 15% | 16% | 7% | 16% | 12% |

Source: Commercial Victimization Survey, 2016

The sector experiencing by much the highest level of crime is the wholesale and retail sector, with 13,426 incidents of crime per 1,000 premises (37% of all premises). The highest prevalence, however, is for the accommodation and food industry, where 45% of all premises have experienced crime (4,660 incidents per 1,000 premises).

Shoplifting accounts for 67% of all crime against the wholesale and retail sector, and the average cost to the victim increased from £237 in 2012 to £500 in 2016. 40% of businesses in this sector reported shoplifting to the police.

23% of commercial victims surveyed in 2016 thought that an organised group of criminals had been responsible for customer theft, and 51% thought organised groups had been responsible for fraud (other than by employees).

¹⁴⁰ Crime against businesses: findings from the 2016 Commercial Victimization Survey. Statistical Bulletin 06/17 (Home Office), May 2017. The Survey focusses on a selection of sectors each year. Small sample sizes mean that caution should be used in comparing data over time.

5.8.2) Commercial and business crime: Essex Police data

There were 22,373 commercial and business victims of notifiable crimes recorded by Essex Police between during 2016, representing 20% of the total victims recorded. 29% of these were classified as 'retail', although the type of organisation was not recorded for 66% of business victims.

Type of crime

The largest proportion of business and commercial crime was 'theft' at 82.3%, in line with national trends, with shoplifting accounting for 44.3% of crime.

Table 53: Police recorded business/commercial victims in Essex by crime type and selected crimes, 2016

| Crime type | Number | Percentage | Hate crime? | Online? | Domestic abuse? |
|---|---------------|------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|
| Theft offences | 18,422 | 82.3% | 2 | 12 | 3 |
| - shoplifting | 9,901 | - | - | - | - |
| - burglary non-domestic | 2,937 | - | - | - | - |
| - vehicle offences | 1,355 | - | - | - | - |
| Damage and arson offences | 3,480 | 15.6% | 20 | 3 | 2 |
| Miscellaneous crimes against society | 216 | 1.0% | - | 2 | - |
| Robbery | 102 | 0.5% | - | - | - |
| Violence against the person | 97 | 0.4% | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Public order offences | 45 | 0.2% | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| Other offences | 11 | 0.05% | - | - | - |
| Total | 22,373 | | 35 | 25 | 7 |

Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

There were a small number of hate related crimes and domestic abuse related offences recorded as being committed against businesses. Online crime is flagged in a few instances too.

Time taken to report/record

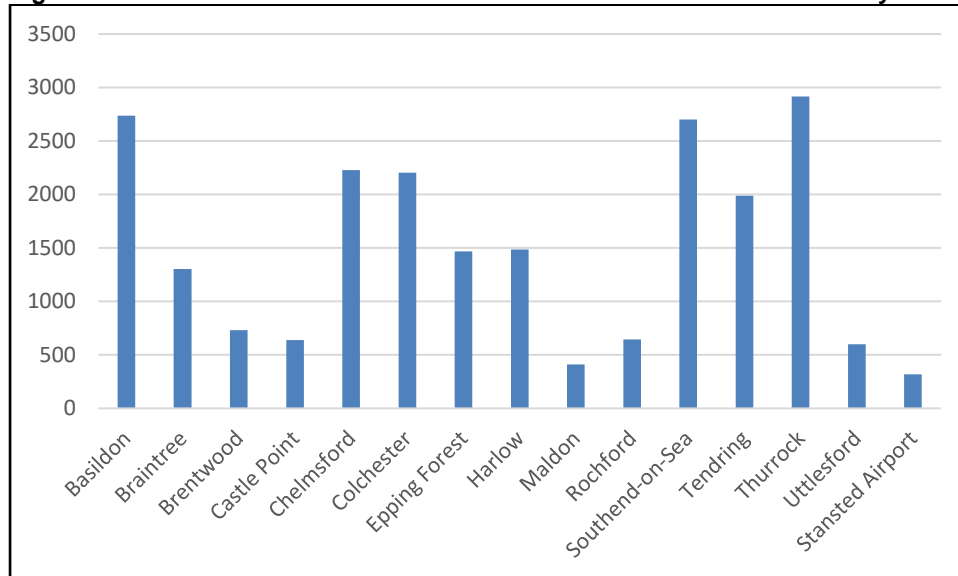
93% of business and commercial victims of crime had their crime reported/recorded within a week, 61% the same day.

Victim's 'home' location

The location of the business is as follows, although this could be the location of a head office rather than the physical location of where the crime took place.

Most victims were located in Thurrock (13.0%), which would include Lakeside, then Basildon (12.2%), Southend (12.1%) and Chelmsford (10%). 1.4% were based at Stansted Airport.

Figure 42: Police recorded business/commercial victims of crime in Essex by location, 2016

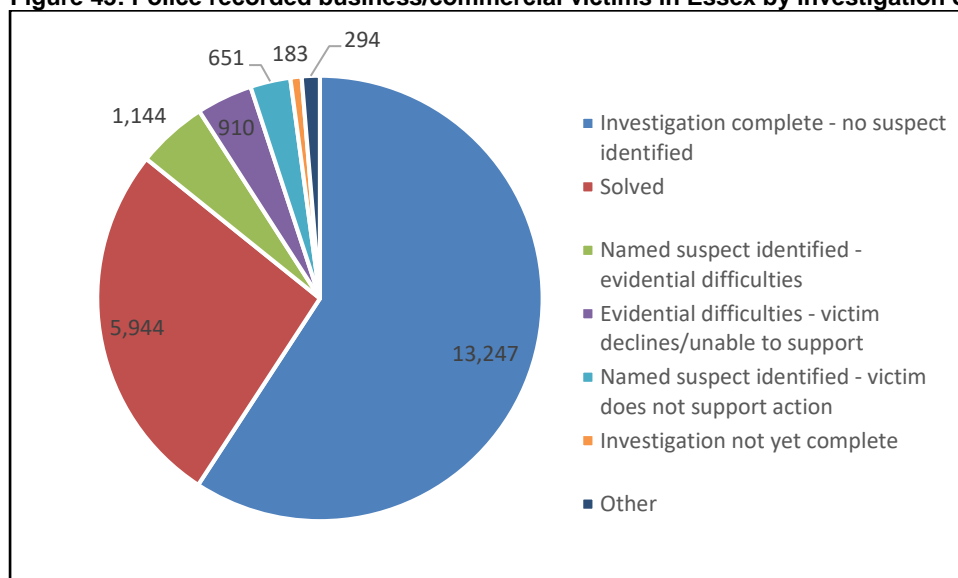


Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

Outcomes of police reported crime

The 'solved' rate for business and commercial victims of crime is 27%, double that for victims of personal and household crime (13.4%). 7.4% of these were dealt with by 'community resolution'. No suspect was identified in 59% of cases.

Figure 43: Police recorded business/commercial victims in Essex by investigation outcomes, 2016



Source: Essex Police data, March 2017

All businesses or enterprises (such as charities) that have had criminal offences committed against them are entitled to receive services in accordance with the Victims' Code provided they give a named point of contact for all communication between the business and service provider, make an Impact Statement, and say whether the business would like to have relevant parts of the Impact Statement read aloud by a CPS advocate before the defendant is sentenced.

Key National Statistical Sources¹⁴¹

| Title (and source) | Description/contents | Available for period | Next update due |
|--|---|---|---|
| Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016 (Statistical Bulletin, ONS) | Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) data; Police recorded crime; Fraud Offences recorded by National Fraud Intelligence Bureau <i>Includes additional Experimental Statistics on Fraud¹⁴²</i> Crime against households and adults, also including data on crime experienced by children. | Quarterly updates: Main CSEW data from 1981; CSEW data for children aged 10-15 from 2010; Police recorded crime from 2003; Fraud from year end September 2015 | <i>Released 27 April 2017</i> Subsequent release 20 July 2017 (data too late to include in this profile – headline trends continue) |
| Focus on violent crime and sexual offences, England and Wales, year ending March 2016 (Compendium, ONS) | Analyses on violent crime and sexual offences from the year ending March 2016 Crime Survey (CSEW) data, and Police recorded crime. Includes: Homicide; Offences involving the use of weapons; Domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking <i>Includes Experimental Statistics on Victims of police recorded violent and sexual offences</i> | Annual publication, available from year ending March 2014 | <i>Released 9 February 2017</i> <i>Next release to be announced</i> |
| Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2016 (Statistical Bulletin, ONS) | Brings together data to enable a more thorough analysis at local level: includes CSEW data; Home Office incident and Police recorded crime data; Home Office Homicide Index data; and data from the CPS on referrals, prosecutions and convictions for domestic abuse. | New publication year ending March 2016 – planned to be annual. | <i>Released 8 December 2016</i> <i>Next release to be announced</i> |
| Hate Crime, England and Wales 2015/16 (Statistical Bulletin, Home Office) | Statistics on hate crimes and racist incidents recorded by the police | Annual publication: Racist incidents only from 2009/10 Hate crimes from 2011/12 | <i>Released 13 October 2016</i> |
| Overview of fraud statistics: year ending March 2016 (Article, ONS) | Definitions and main sources. Overview of long term trends, characteristics of victims and nature/circumstances of fraud offences. | First publication | <i>Released 21 July 2016</i> <i>Next release to be announced</i> |
| Crime against businesses: findings from the 2016 Commercial Victimisation Survey (Statistical Bulletin, Home Office) | Topics include nature of crimes against businesses, experience of crime, prevention, costs against businesses, anti-social behaviour and perceptions of policing. The survey is done on a rolling basis by sector. | Annual publication, available from 2012 | <i>Released 4 May 2017</i> |

¹⁴¹ Local data sources include: Essex Police data on individual and business victims of crime, victims of hate incidents, non-crime fraud, modern slavery and victims of anti-social behaviour; Criminal Justice Service partner data; contract monitoring data from VARC/LSS (Victim Support), Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres and Safer Places.

¹⁴² Experimental Statistics are those which are in the testing phase and not yet fully developed. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development, and as a means to build in quality at an early stage.

Victims Needs Profile 2014: Recommendations and Actions Taken

| Ref | Recommendation | Actions taken/evidence of implementation |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Self-referral to victims' services should be encouraged, with appropriate services to help 'cope and recover' available regardless of whether a victim has reported to the Police. Promoting direct self-referral is one of the core commissioning principles included in our Commissioning Intentions document, alongside building confidence to report crime to the Police and others. The design and promotion of the <i>Essex Victim Portal</i> can help reinforce key messages. | The VARC/LSS and specialist provider contracts with the PCC include the expectation that self-referral will be promoted, and support provided regardless of whether the victim has reported to the police. There is evidence that this is happening from contract monitoring reports. 32% of referrals to the EPRCC are self-referrals. The Essex Victim Gateway stresses that help is still available to victims whether or not they have reported to the police. |
| 2a | The level and nature of ISVA provision in Essex, and associated pathways to specialist 'wraparound' services, to be reviewed as part of the re-tendering of the SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) contract with NHS England and partners. | A decision was taken to tender for ISVA and associated wraparound services as a combined service, removing the ISVA element from the SARC re-commissioning. The level and nature of provision was considered as part of drafting the resulting Specification for Sexual Violence Services in Essex. |
| 2b | The OPCC to continue to convene discussions with other agencies responsible for commissioning services across Essex to review levels of 'wrap around' provision to victims of sexual violence in the county, and particularly services for children and young people, and seek to establish more sustainable funding arrangements for these services | The PCC made £840k available to support the delivery of the new Sexual Violence Service, starting in April 2016 and running for a period of 3 years. This service is being delivered by the Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres (EPRCC). |
| 2c | The gap in provision of services to victims of sexual violence in West Essex to be addressed as a matter of urgency through the victims commissioning strategy | The PCC made grant funding available in 2014/15 as a short term measure to address the gap in provision in West Essex (Harlow, Epping and Uttlesford). SERICC and CARA extended their coverage to introduce basic support in these areas. Provision has since grown in these areas and forms part of the new contract with EPRCC. |
| 3a | The role of the IDVA to be more clearly defined, including arrangements for referrals to their services and when it is appropriate to refer on and who to – this will help determine the levels of outreach services needed. This can be addressed through the new IDVA commissioning specification. | The IDVA contract, let by the PCC in April 2015, includes an expectation that the service will be available for all high risk victims of domestic abuse. The IDVA service provides a standard service across the county, with clearer referral arrangements. |
| 3b | The OPCC to convene discussions with other organisations with a responsibility for commissioning services to victims of domestic abuse in Essex to review levels of Refuge and outreach provision, including for children and young people and adults with additional vulnerabilities | Community based provision is commissioned by Essex County Council, and Thurrock and Southend Unitary Authorities, with contracts due to run until March 2019. The OPCC is currently involved in early discussions with commissioners and providers about options for future commissioning arrangements (July 2017). |

| Ref | Recommendation | Actions taken/evidence of implementation |
|-----|--|--|
| 3c | Further work should be done to raise awareness of the nature of domestic abuse with partners and streamline the process for victims being supported through the Criminal Justice System | The Essex Domestic Abuse Strategy includes an outcome stating 'communities have a greater awareness of what an abusive relationship is and how to report it ...', which enables improved communications on this issue. The Victim and Witness Action Team (VWAT) monitors and seeks to improve the effectiveness of the court process, including the impact on victims of domestic abuse. |
| 4 | The OPCC to work with other commissioners and service providers to consider how best to provide services for male victims of sexual violence, domestic abuse and other serious crime | Providing appropriate support for men is an integral part of all services commissioned by the PCC. There is evidence of provision for men from contract monitoring reports. However, male victims of crime are proportionately less likely to proceed to receiving support and this needs further review. |
| 5a | Continue to work with the Strategic Hate Crime Prevention Partnership (SHCP) to identify opportunities for improving services to victims of hate crime | The PCC funded and specified the role of a Hate Crime Champion to develop the SHCP work programme. Victim Support successfully bid for this work and are hosting the post. A review of the HIRCs (Hate Incident Reporting Centres) has been undertaken, as reporting numbers are low, as has a review of victims' experience of reporting to the police. |
| 5b | Consider opportunities for links to Restorative Justice responses | Further work could be done to make links between Victim Support's help for hate crime victims and the PCC funded Restorative Justice and Mediation service. |
| 5c | Confirm and promote preferred routes for reporting hate crime and accessing support services in Essex; ensure able to draw on data about local needs | Stop Hate UK has been funded by the PCC to enable reporting of all hate crime in Essex (previously this only covered learning disability). HIRCs are in place. Details of victims of hate crime reporting to Essex Police are referred to the VARC/LSS (Victim Support) via the ADT (Automatic Data Transfer). Stop Hate UK and the HIRCs make onward referrals to Victim Support. Detailed data is available from Victim Support on the profile of those victims they support, their needs and services provided. |
| 6 | The perspectives and needs of young people of all ages to be taken into account in designing services to support victims of crime, using learning from the 'Young Victim of Crime Perspectives' project, for example the 'Essex Victim Portal' to include specific section(s) for young people | The Young Victim of Crime research led to further work being commissioned from Catch 22 to provide a Young People's Service in Colchester and Tending, running from early 2016 to March 2018. It is not clear how this service will be rolled out more widely. The Essex Victims' Gateway includes a section for young victims of crime. |

| Ref | Recommendation | Actions taken/evidence of implementation |
|-----|---|---|
| 7 | A more secure basis for funding specialist victims' services should be established, agreed with relevant partners and co-commissioners in terms of who funds what, to what level and for what period, with service providers allowed flexibility within the overall funding for its effective use and with one agreed form of monitoring and feedback where possible. This will be a core 'Commissioning Intentions' principle for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. | Commissioning of community based services for victims of domestic abuse remains fragmented, with some local based services continuing on a non-commissioned basis. More needs to be done to understand the whole picture of need and provision across the county, and to ensure that a clear referral pathway exists for victims and that their needs are met reasonably consistently across the county. |
| 8a | Criminal Justice agencies' responses to the Code will be reviewed through the Essex Criminal Justice Board. In addition, the PCC will hold Essex Police to account in terms of their progress in responding to the Victim Code | The Victim and Witness Action Team (V&WAT) formed as a sub Group of the Essex Criminal Justice Board, with an action plan and active monitoring; Essex Police introduced a new Victim Focus and Public Confidence Board in November 2016, which oversees a programme of work designed to ensure compliance with the Victims' Code; the PCC considers reports on Supporting Victims of Crime as part of Performance and Resource Scrutiny Programme 2016/17. |
| 8b | Essex Police to continue to promote the use of Victim Personal Statements (and Business Impact Statements) and monitor their take up, and further work done to assure that all victims have the opportunity to read these in Court or to have them considered in line with their preferences. This right to be promoted via the new Essex Victim Portal. | Essex Police continue to promote the use of VPSs and monitor through audit compliance. However it is not clear that Business Impact Statements are promoted. There are challenges with giving victims the chance to have their statement read in Court, which the V&WAT are aiming to address. The right to have the opportunity make a VPS or BIS is included on the Essex Victims' Gateway as a FAQ. |
| 8c | The PCC, working with partner agencies, to ensure that appropriate Restorative Justice provision is available in Essex for victims to access | The PCC hosts the Restorative Justice and Mediation Service, which has achieved the Restorative Service Quality Mark. |
| 9 | The PCC to ensure that data recording standards to be agreed as part of future commissioning of victims' services, for example in the case of IDVA activity recording should include referral sources and destinations, the profile of domestic abuse victims supported, level of risk, whether they are going through the CJS, age and gender | More could be done to ensure that data of the type used in this document is collected , at least annually. The current focus is on contract compliance only. |

Strategic issues/opportunities log

| Ref | Description of issue/opportunity and evidence | Recommended actions |
|-----|---|---|
| 1 | <p>The daily Automatic Data Transfer (ADT) from Essex Police to Victim Support (the VARC/LSS) should exclude:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those who have said that they do not want their details passed on • high risk victims of domestic abuse • victims of serious sexual offences (defined by Essex Police as victims of rape and young victims) <p>Exclusions are made manually, but these cases are still being referred to Victim Support.</p> | <p>ADT arrangements to be reviewed to confirm which records should be excluded and, in the case of victims of domestic abuse and serious sexual offences, what the alternative referral routes to support should be.</p> |
| 2 | <p>The ADT should also be able to identify persistently targeted, and vulnerable or intimidated victims, which ensures an enhanced service under the Victims' Code. This data is recorded on Athena in a way which makes it difficult for the reporting software to extract.</p> <p>Without this information the VARC/LSS cannot readily identify who may be in most need of support.</p> | <p>This appears to be an issue for other Forces, and it remains unclear how it will be resolved and by when.</p> <p>The PCC should seek a technical response on the issue, and assurance on how and when it can be resolved.</p> <p>The option of promoting subsequent referral by investigating officers may be appropriate.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Victims of crime have the right to make a Victim Personal Statement (VPS) and have it read out in Court. Nationally only 20% of victims are offered this right. In Essex compliance is being monitored through audit but there is evidence that take up is low. Athena captures information about VPS in free text so it is difficult to monitor through this route.</p> <p>The right to have it read in Court is problematic due to the need to manually track the progress of a VPS through the system and where there is an anticipated guilty plea at first hearing.</p> <p>Commercial victims do not appear to be routinely offered the chance to make a Business Impact Statement (where a named contact is provided), and take up is not monitored.</p> | <p>There should be continued focus on take up of VPSs within the Force, and a renewed emphasis on commercial victims where appropriate.</p> <p>The PCC to continue to oversee progress.</p> |

| Ref | Description of issue/opportunity and evidence | Recommended actions |
|------------|---|---|
| 4 | The VARC/LSS is providing support to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence which may be more appropriately referred to specialist service providers, and in specific cases referred direct. | The PCC should review the boundaries of generic/specialist provision with Victim Support and other providers, and agree clear onward referral criteria. Agreed specialist referral routes should be shared with Essex Police (with revisions to the ADT as required), specialist police teams, all agencies and providers. |
| 5 | Commissioning of community based services for victims of domestic abuse remains fragmented, and some local based services continue on a non-commissioned basis. More needs to be done to understand the whole picture of need and provision across the county, and to ensure that a clear referral pathway exists for victims and that their needs are met reasonably consistently across the county. | Urgent work needs to be done to map the overall commissioned provision in Essex and clarify referral pathways and criteria for support from a victims' perspective. This to be shared with referring agencies. |
| 6 | The number of victims of domestic abuse assessed as high risk is reducing as Essex Police standardise the assessment. This is thought to bring Essex closer to the risk profile of other Forces, and there is a renewed focus on those at the higher end of medium risk. This is of concern to Safer Places, who would like more access to those assessed as medium risk. Under current arrangements those at medium risk are referred to the VARC, who conduct a further assessment of risk. | Commissioners should consider and confirm the preferred routes to support for those assessed as medium risk, and if possible for those at the 'higher end of medium risk', with referral practices updated accordingly (ADT included). |
| 7 | There are a number of issues relating to young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The profile of young victims of sexual offences (namely girls aged 15) is not borne out by demand for and access to support • The VARC/LSS report that they find there is less need for support for young people referred to them • Support appears to be patchy, geographically and for targeted cohorts | This warrants further investigation of the nature of harms experienced by young people becoming known to the police, and the appropriateness of support available to them. |
| 8 | Victims of hate crime appear to well supported through the ADT referral arrangements with the VARC/LSS, with 10.5% going on to receive support. Hate Crime Officers, the HIRCs and Stop Hate UK all refer. | This seems to be a good model, with a clear focus for who provides support in Essex and a good understanding from specialist officers and 3 rd parties. An HMIC Inspection is due. |
| 9 | Victims of modern slavery have access to support under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for a recovery period of 45 days. Support post-45 days (depending on immigration status) and support for those not going through the NRM (21% in Essex) is not clear. | Consideration should be given to how local support can appropriately be accessed. For example 28% of victims of sexual exploitation did not report to the NRM. |
| 10 | A national arrangement is in place with Action Fraud and Victim Support for support to victims of fraud, and Victim Support in Essex provided help for 82 victims. In addition, 970 referrals for investigation were made to Essex Police, and 721 'calls for service'. | Subsequent referrals for support could be made to the VARC/LSS by officers investigating fraud, especially where victims are considered to be vulnerable and persistently targeted. This should be explored further. |

Selected Policy and Practice References (Literature Review)

- Are some people more at risk of crime than others, and if so who and why? What makes a person vulnerable?
- Do some crimes have more serious impacts on their 'victims', and if so which and why? What types of crimes have most impact?
- What do victims say they need to help them 'cope and recover'? What works, who for and how do we know? What do we do about it?

| Topic | Reference | Main findings |
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| Q. Are some people more at risk of crime than others, and if so who and why? What makes a person vulnerable? | | |
| Violent crime | Focus on violent crime and sexual offences: year ending Mar 2016 (ONS) February 2017 <i>Characteristics associated with being a victim</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men were more likely to be a victim of violent crime than women (2.2% of males compared with 1.4% of females), with stranger violence showing the largest difference in victimisation between men and women (1.2% compared with 0.4%). • Adults aged 16 to 24 were more likely to be a victim of violent crime (3.7%), particularly acquaintance or stranger violence (1.8%) than any other age group. • Widows/widowers (0.5%) or those who were married or civil partnered (1.1%) were less likely to be a victim of violent crime than adults with any other marital status. • Adults living in the 20% most deprived output areas were more likely to be a victim of violent crime (2.5%) than those living in other output areas (1.7%) – particularly those living in the 20% least deprived areas (1.2%). • Renters (2.8% social and 2.4% private) were more likely to be a victim of violent crime than home owners (1.3%) |
| Intimate violence | Focus on violent crime and sexual offences: year ending Mar 2016 (ONS) February 2017 <i>Characteristics associated with being a victim of intimate violence</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women were more likely than men to have experienced intimate violence in the last 12 months • The prevalence of intimate violence was highest amongst younger age groups. This is true for all domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking, for men as well as women • Women aged 16-19 (10.0%) and 20-24 (8.6%) were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse than older age groups. Younger men were also more likely to have experienced domestic abuse. • Young women aged 16-19 (11%) and 20-24 (7.6%) were much more likely to be victims of any sexual assault in the last 12 months than older age groups. The pattern was similar, but less pronounced for men. • Stalking showed a similar trend with women aged 16-19 (9.7%) and 20-24 (6.6%) more likely to be victims of stalking than women in older age groups. This was also the case for men. • Adults who were separated and divorced were the most likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last 12 months. This is true for both men and women. |

| Topic | Reference | Main findings |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single women were more likely to be victims of sexual assault (6.7%), than those who were married or civil partnered (1.2%), cohabiting (2.6%) or divorced (3.7%). • Single women (8.1%) and women who were divorced (7.9%) were more likely to be victims of stalking than women who were cohabiting (3.6%) and women who were married or civil partnered (2.2%). Single and separated men were more likely to experience stalking (both 4%) than men with other marital statuses • Just under 1 in 4 women (23.4%) living in lone parent households were victims of domestic abuse in the last 12 months compared with 6.7% living in a household with no children and 6.3% living in a household with other adults and children. An estimated 13.9% of men from lone parent households experienced domestic abuse compared with 4.4% in a household with no children and 4.1% in a household with other adults/children. • Those with a long-term illness or disability were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last 12 months than those without a long-term illness or disability. This was true for both men (7.3% compared with 3.9%) and women (15.7% compared with 6.2%). • For women, the prevalence of domestic abuse in the last 12 months tends to decline as income increases. Nearly 4 times as many women in the lowest income bracket had experienced domestic abuse in the last 12 months (17.0%), compared with those in the highest household income bracket (4.3%). Men in the £40,000 to £50,000 income bracket are least likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last 12 months (2.7%) and men in the £10,000 to £20,000 income bracket the most likely (7.1%). |
| Young people | <p>Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2016 (ONS) November 2016</p> <p>Additional tables: Aged 10-15 violence Aged 10-15 theft</p> | <p>For violent incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71% happened in or around school, including 46% outside the school building • 94% happened in daylight, 90% during the week • 94% were able to say something about the offender(s); the offender was more likely to be a male individual, aged 10-15, a pupil at the same school and known well • 79% reported to a teacher or other member of staff, 57% to a friend. Police knew about the incident in 14% of cases. • 78% sustained physical injury, with the most common injury (67%) minor bruising/black eye. Some form of medical attention was needed in 21% of cases. • 28% involved a form of hitting implement, 16% stones and 11% a stabbing implement <p>For personal theft incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% happened in or around school, with 58% inside the school building • 89% were in daylight, with 90% happening during the week • 50% were able to say something about the offender(s); the profile was similar to violent incidents, but in 36% of cases the offender was a female • 83% told a teacher/member of staff, 50% told a friend. The police knew about 8% cases. • Clothing was most likely to be stolen (21%), followed by cash/foreign currency (16%). |

| Topic | Reference | Main findings |
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| Mental health | At Risk yet dismissed (MIND/Victim Support) 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with mental health problems experienced high rates of crime, and were considerably more likely to be victims of crime than the general population. • 45% of people with severe mental illness (SMI) were victims of crime in the past year: one in five people had experienced a violent assault; a third were victims of personal crime and a quarter were victims of a household crime • People with SMI were five times more likely to be a victim of assault, and three times more likely to be a victim of household crime, than people in the general population, after taking into account socio-demographic differences • Women were 10 times more likely to be assaulted, reporting high rates of sexual and domestic violence, with 40% of women being a victim of rape or attempted rape in adulthood, and 10% a victim of sexual assault in the past year • Victims with SMI were up to four times more likely to be victimised by their relatives or acquaintances • 9% of the victims described crimes in psychiatric inpatient settings. • There were three key risk factors: less engagement with services, drug misuse and a history of being violent. Compared to those with good service engagement, people with medium and poor engagement had a five-fold and seven-fold higher risk of victimisation respectively. Drug misuse and violence perpetration were associated with a two to three-fold higher victimisation risk. • Participants gave examples of being targeted because of their mental health, with perpetrators picking on visible signs of vulnerability and distress, and thinking they were more easily discredited and commonly disbelieved when they report |
| Homophobic hate crime | Homophobic hate crime, the Gay British Crime Survey (Stonewall) 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One in six lesbian, gay and bisexual people experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident over the last three years • Hate crimes and incidents affect gay people of all ages living in all regions of the country • Harassment, insults and intimidation are most common, reported by more than eight in ten lesbian, gay and bisexual people who have suffered a hate crime or incident. • One in ten experiencing a homophobic hate crime or incident were physically assaulted • Almost one in five victims were threatened with violence or the use of force. • One in eight victims experienced unwanted sexual contact • One in eight victims have had their home, vehicle or property vandalised • A large proportion of those committing homophobic hate crimes and incidents are young • Half of those who experienced a hate crime or incident said that the perpetrator was a stranger under 25 • Three in ten victims said they knew the perpetrator or one of the perpetrators |

| Topic | Reference | Main findings |
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| Disability/ hate crime | Crime and disabled people: measures of disability-related harassment (Equality and Human Rights Commission) 2016 Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More disabled than non-disabled people in every age group had experienced any crime in the previous 12 months. Experience of any crime was higher overall for disabled adults in younger age groups. 22% of disabled young people aged 10-15 had been the victim of crime in the previous 12 months compared to 12% of non-disabled young people. • Experience of any crime was higher for disabled people with certain impairments, in particular people with mental health conditions such as depression, or social or behavioural impairments such as autism, attention deficit disorder or Asperger's syndrome. • Worry about being the victim of crime has declined for both disabled and nondisabled people, but worry about being a victim of crime was more common for disabled people than for non-disabled people in every age group |
| Disability/ hate crime | Insight Report: An Easy Target? (Victim Support) April 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certain groups, in particular those aged 20–24, people of mixed ethnicity, lone parents, and those living in cosmopolitan areas experience the highest rates of both violent crime and theft. • Limiting disability or illness is the single risk factor common across all four crime categories analysed (violence with injury, violence without injury, personal theft, and household theft). • People with limiting disabilities are almost three and half times more likely to suffer serious violence (violence with injury), twice as likely to suffer violence without injury, 1.6 times more likely be a victim of personal theft, and 1.4 times more likely to be a victim of household theft than adults without a limiting disability. |
| Racial/ hate crime | Race report: healing a divided Britain (Equality and Human Rights Commission) August 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black people are much more likely to be victims of crime and be treated more harshly in the criminal justice system. You are more than twice as likely to be murdered if you are Black in England and Wales and three times more likely to be prosecuted and sentenced than if you are White. • Race remains the most commonly recorded motivation of hate crime in England and Wales • White women are more likely to report being a victim of domestic abuse than ethnic minority women (7.4% compared with 4.4%). However, Black and ethnic minority women exclusively suffer from FGM, honour killing and forced marriage. |
| Missing people | Missing and crime information sheet (Missing People) December 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime can be a key factor in the reasons adults, children and young people go missing either in response to a crime threatened or committed, or as a result of crimes which influence a person to go missing from home or care. • Up to 12% of children and young people run away because of 'maltreatment' including physical or sexual violence and emotional abuse or neglect (Rees and Lee, 2005). |

| Topic | Reference | Main findings |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58% of evidence to the Office of the Children’s Commissioner (OCC) Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Gangs and Groups stated that children had gone missing from home or care as a result of CSE (Berelowitz et al, 2012). • UK police forces record 500 offences of child abduction each year and an additional 1,000 offences of kidnapping children and adults (Newiss, 2014). • In 2013, the UK Human Trafficking Centre identified 2,744 potential victims of trafficking, just under a quarter of whom were children (NCA, 2014). 60% of child victims of trafficking placed in care subsequently go missing (CSJ, 2013); most are never found and are highly likely to be returning to exploitation (CSJ, 2014 and ECPAT UK 2007). • Some young people and adults become victims or perpetrators of crime as a consequence of being missing: • 11% of children and young people had been hurt or harmed while away from home on the most recent occasion. 12% had stolen in order to survive whilst away from home (Still Running 3, 2011). • Over one third of adults had felt themselves to be in danger at some point whilst they were missing (Biehal et al, 2003) |
| Homelessness | About homelessness (Streets of London) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On average, homeless people die at just 47 years old, compared to 81 years for the average UK citizen. A homeless rough sleeper is 35 times more likely to commit suicide than the average person. • Two thirds of rough sleepers said they had been insulted by a member of the public, and one in ten said that they had been urinated on. • Homeless people are 13 times more likely to be a victim of violent crime than the general public, and 47 times more likely to be a victim of theft. |
| Fraud | Overview of fraud statistics: year ending March 2016 (ONS) July 2016 <i>Which groups in society are more likely to be victims of fraud?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults aged 45-54 were more likely to be a victim of fraud (7.9%) than 16-24 year olds (5.0%) or those aged 75+ (4.0%) • Victimization from fraud was greater in higher income households of £50,000 or more (9.1%) than lower income households of less than £10,000 (5.6%) • Individuals in managerial and professional occupations were more likely to be a victim of fraud (8.0%) than individuals in routine or manual occupations (5.3%), full-time students (4.4%) and those who have never worked or are in long term unemployment (3.8%) • Individuals living in rural areas were shown to be more likely to be a victim of fraud than those living in urban areas, as were those living in the least deprived areas compared to the most deprived areas |

| Topic | Reference | Main findings |
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| Property | Focus on property crime: year ending March 2016 (ONS) November 2016 <i>Characteristics associated with being a victim of property crime</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of victimisation were similar for men and women for most crime types; with the exception of robbery where men had higher rates of victimisation than women (0.4% and 0.2%, respectively). Those aged 16-24 were more likely to be victims of crime than those in older age groups Those living in areas with the highest unemployment, in urban areas and areas of high incivility (i.e., interviewer's view of how 'run down' the area is) are more likely to be victims than those who lived elsewhere Those who were unemployed and those who were private or social renters were more likely to be victims Lower income households (£10,000 or less) were more likely to have been victims. For victims of criminal damage, those with a household income of £40,000 were more likely to be victims. For vehicle-related theft, those with a household income of £50,000 were more likely to have been victims. |
| Q. Do some crimes have more serious impacts on their 'victims', and if so which and why? What types of crimes have most impact? | | |
| General | Understanding victims of crime; the impact of the crime and support needs (Victim Support) April 2017 <i>The impact of the crime</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two negative effects were shared by the majority of victims across all crime types – emotional or psychological wellbeing (83.7%) and sense of safety and security (80.7%) Around 60% reported a negative effect on their health Almost 60% reported a negative effect on finances, with victims of fraud reporting a high degree of financial impact The crime had a negative effect on confidence in the CJS of nearly half of the participants, and a negative impact on confidence in the police of 41% of participants Victims reported being treated unsympathetically and without respect, or not being believed when they gave evidence 40% of victims reported a negative influence on their relationships with family and friends Victims of violent crimes were significantly more affected: 92.6% of victims of violence were negatively affected emotionally compared with 76.8% of all other victims, they were much more likely to suffer from a negative effect on their health, their housing situation was much more likely to be negatively affected, as well as relationships with family and friends, and confidence in the CJS and police. They were less likely to be negatively affected financially. |
| Violent crime | Focus on violent crime and sexual offences: year ending Mar 2016 (ONS) February 2017 <i>The impact on victims</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 75% of violent incidents the respondent was emotionally affected, including 18% who were affected very much The proportion of violent incidents where the victim was emotionally affected very much was lower than for incidents of burglary (24%), but higher than for other types of crime (for example, criminal damage, at 12%) The respondent was not emotionally affected in 25% of violent incidents. |

| Topic | Reference | Main findings |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incidents of wounding emotionally affected a higher proportion of victims (90%) than other types of violence (violence without injury 72%, and assault with minor injury 68%). Wounding was the type of violence where victims were most severely affected, with the majority (68%) reporting that they were very emotionally affected or affected quite a lot. Around a third of victims of assault with minor injury (36%) and around a quarter of victims of violence without injury (27%) reported being very emotionally affected or affected quite a lot. The most common forms of emotional reaction to violent crimes were annoyance (41%), anger (37%) and shock (36%). The emotional reaction was broadly similar across different types of injury. |
| Terrorism | Meeting the needs of survivors and families bereaved through terrorism (Victim Support) November 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consequences on the lives of those affected, in most cases, are severe, causing significant psychological harm, including difficulties falling or staying asleep and a feeling of intense distress when reminded of the incident This applies to those who had been bereaved and witnesses (survivors) The most common reported requirement was for emotional and psychological support (79%) There was a financial impact for 22% for those affected, with almost a third of those bereaved suffering financial difficulties, and a physical impact for 13% Needs change over time, with the need for relationship support increasing 167% by the second month after referral |
| Young people | Focus on violent crime and sexual offences: year ending Mar 2016 (ONS) February 2017 <i>The impact on victims</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21% of victims aged 10 to 15 thought the violent incident was “a crime”, 42% perceived it to be “wrong, but not a crime”, and 37% thought it “was just something that happens”. 52% of incidents were perceived by the victim to be part of a series of bullying incidents. 32% of theft victims aged 10 to 15 perceived the incident to be “a crime”. |
| Mental health | At Risk yet dismissed (MIND/Victim Support) 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared to victims who did not have mental health problems, victims with SMI were more likely to suffer social, psychological and physical adverse effects, and were more likely to perceive the crime as serious The impact of domestic or sexual violence was particularly serious with 40% of women and a quarter of men who experienced this having attempted suicide as a result. Being a victim of crime affected many aspects of their lives including: their financial and material situation; personal relationships and behaviour; physical health; housing situation; emotional well-being; and mental health. The most common negative effect of crime was on their emotional well-being. Many described their mental health deteriorating as a result, with some individuals going into crisis and being admitted into hospital. |

| Topic | Reference | Main findings |
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| Q. What do victims say they need to help them 'cope and recover'? What works, who for and how do we know? | | |
| General | What works in supporting victims of crime: a rapid evidence assessment (Victims' Commissioner) March 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely and accurate information and effective methods of communication with victims, both in delivering information and listening to their needs • The quality of service that victims get from criminal justice professionals and associated agencies is often a more important factor in victim satisfaction than the final outcome of their case • Co-located multi-agency partnership working across statutory and voluntary sectors can provide effective support for victims in terms of information sharing, making the (CJ) process less confusing and contribute to effective prevention strategies. • A single point of contact or advocate to provide victims with the combination of information and support. Early identification of a victim's needs means that services can be targeted at those who most want and need them. |
| General | Understanding victims of crime; the impact of the crime and support needs (Victim Support) April 2017 <i>The needs of victims to cope with the effects of the crime</i> | <p>Victims expressed a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong, trusting relationship with a caseworker • Support and assistance during legal proceedings • Sharing with people who had gone through similar experiences • Support during weekends and evenings • Long-term support • Support for other members of the family • Being informed about the CJS and kept updated on the progress of the case |
| Young people | Are we getting it right for young victims of crime? A review of children's entitlements under the Victims' Code (Victims' Commissioner) February 2017 | <p>Recommendations to help improve the experience of young victims in the criminal justice system include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal justice agencies to review their policies and procedures to ensure that they are fit for purpose in delivering enhanced entitlements to children as set out in the Victims' Code • Criminal justice agencies to review their literature, materials and communication methods to ensure that they are appropriate for children and families • Access to registered intermediaries to support children during police questioning and when giving evidence at court • Regular and constant monitoring of compliance with the Victims' Code • Nationally representative measurement of victim satisfaction for childhood victims of crime and their families • A victims' advocate to provide children, young people and their families with a seamless and dedicated single point of contact throughout their criminal justice experience. |