



Southend, Essex
& Thurrock Domestic
Abuse Board

Annual Report 2021–2022



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Foreword from the SETDAB Chair



Jane Gardner
SETDAB Chair and
Deputy Police, Fire
and Crime Commissioner
for Essex

I have been proud this year, to once again Chair the Southend Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board, and it is a pleasure to be able to reflect on the continued hard work being undertaken by the Board to tackle this significant and terrible form of abuse.

In Essex we know that domestic abuse accounts for 33% of all violent crime and in 2021-2022 there were 24,284 cases of domestic abuse related violence against the person recorded. This is a 5.4% increase on the previous year.

However, domestic abuse takes many more forms than just violence and physical assault. This was recognised in statute this year through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Act placed into legislation a definition of domestic abuse which includes physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse and psychological, emotional or other abuse.

The recognition of the complex ways domestic abuse impacts victims provides important clarity at a national level and is a change that we have been pushing for in Essex for many years.

The Act has also granted stronger protections for victims including:

- ◆ Priority access to social housing and an obligation on councils to provide refuges and other safe housing.
- ◆ Strengthened powers for law enforcement with the introduction of Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and orders, stronger legislation around coercive and controlling behaviour, the disclosure of private images and non-fatal strangulation.
- ◆ Stronger protections for victims through the court process with the presumption that they will be eligible for special measures and a range of measures to reduce the risk that victims will be retraumatised through the court process. Tackling the root causes of domestic abuse requires changes throughout society. It is only through broad partnership work, undertaken by groups such as the Southend Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board, that we can make these system wide changes that will drive a reduction in offending and improvements in the support provided to victims.

Earlier in the year, the Board undertook a full review of our strategy to ensure that we were making the most of these new powers and obligations. This refresh has fed into our delivery this year and our plans for the coming year, including helping us to shape the commissioning discovery work which will provide a strong base to inform the re-commissioning of both victim support and perpetrator behaviour change programmes next year. This is a significant piece of work which will have a long-term impact on victims and perpetrators across Essex.

Foreword from the SETDAB Chair Continued

“... However, domestic abuse takes many more forms than just violence and physical assault. This was recognised in the statute this year through the DA Act 2021.”

The review has also focused our attention on the provision of appropriate housing across Essex. This has been a difficult, complex but important area where real progress has been made with a range of local agreements being established throughout the year to give victims the confidence that they can leave abusive relationships with a degree of safety around their and their children’s accommodation.

The Board has also continued with our well-established programmes to build awareness of domestic abuse and encourage victims to come forward and seek help. Our successful Domestic Abuse Conference brought partners together from across Essex to share ideas, challenge, and drive improvements in how we are delivering for victims.

Partners also came together around White Ribbon Day on 25th of November 2021. Sixteen days of action were co-ordinated across the county where partners showed their support for eradicating violence against women. This gained significant positive publicity, building awareness of the support available and promoting reporting.

In January, the Essex Chambers of Commerce led a Business Crime Strategic Board together with Alpha Vesta and hosted a conference for businesses on improving awareness of domestic abuse and what they can do to help support members of their staff who are affected. More than 100 businesses were represented and further events to follow up on the theme have been planned in the coming 12 months.

The Board worked closely with Commissioned Services who are offering services such as Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates, counselling and therapeutic support provided by Next Chapter, Safe Steps and Changing Pathways, in an arrangement jointly commissioned with our local authority partners. These co-commissioned services include the delivery of a seven-day-a-week, single point of access, the Compass helpline, which delivers advice and support for victims and professionals.

Together, the Board has continued to provide clarity and strategic direction in our efforts to cut domestic abuse, support victims and help professionals and the community spot the signs of domestic abuse and take action. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all of those involved in this vital work.



Who is SETDAB?

Our Vision:

“Working together to enable everyone to live a life free from all forms of domestic abuse.”

The Southend, Essex, and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) is made up of representatives from agencies and organisations working to join up and better facilitate Southend, Essex, and Thurrock’s vision to work together to enable everyone to live a life free from all forms of domestic abuse (DA). The Board is responsible for designing and implementing the Domestic Abuse Strategy across Southend, Essex, and Thurrock.

SETDAB provides strategic leadership to address domestic abuse by providing a multi-agency framework, common ethos, and co-ordinated approach to innovate, drive change, and address domestic abuse.

2020-2025 Strategy and Our 5 outcomes:

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Strategy was launched in May 2020 and the five outcomes identified within the Strategy are the focus of our work. All our outcomes have delivery plans in place which are monitored by SETDAB.

Outcome 1:

Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships.

Outcome 2:

People experiencing and at risk of experiencing domestic abuse are supported to be and feel safe.

Outcome 3:

Everyone can rebuild their lives and live free from domestic abuse.

Outcome 4:

Supporting and disrupting perpetrators to change their behaviour and break the cycle of domestic abuse.

Outcome 5:

Communities, professionals and employers are able to recognise domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity and have the confidence to take action.

Our Achievements of 2021-2022:

Jointly commissioned Domestic Abuse (DA) Services

In the third year of our jointly commissioned Domestic Abuse (DA) Services, they have reached the following people:

Single Point of Access:



Service Delivery:



SETDAB Annual Conference 2021:

SETDAB ran two conferences in November 2021 to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The first event was the DHR Learning Event with keynote speakers from Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) and family members who have been bereaved through fatal domestic abuse. The second event was on Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse and Mental Ill Health with keynote speakers from Against Violence & Abuse (AVA), The Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and a Consultant Psychiatrist from Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT).

In total 223 people attended the conferences from a variety of agencies including, housing, health, police, voluntary/community, social care, probation, education etc.

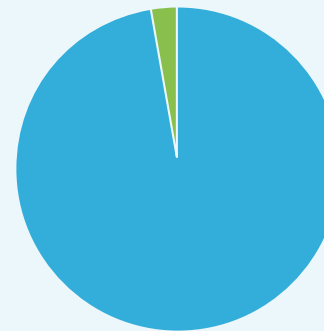
Overall, the feedback was positive with confidence levels increasing across all learning outcomes for both events and 97% and 91% of participants advising the event would influence their practice.

“Thank you all so much, this has been informative and probably the most impactful session I have attended.”

“Thank you for such a thought provoking and engaging morning, which has the potential to make a real and positive difference for survivors.”

DHR Seminar

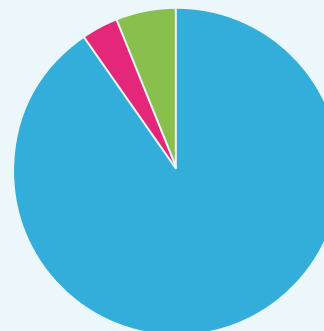
Do you think the seminar will influence your practice?



Yes	35
No	0
Don't know	1

SETDAB Annual Conference

Do you think the conference will influence your practice?



Yes	76
No	3
Don't know	5

SETDAB DA Awareness Campaign 2021

Our 2021 Campaign was launched in line with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and encouraged SET DA Partners and members of community groups to share social media postings with a giant white ribbon making a commitment to end violence against women.



Jane Gardner, Deputy Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

The campaign highlighted the pathways to specialist DA services via the SETDAB website. During the campaign we **increased traffic to our website by 27%**. Postings were shared across social media during the 16 days of action and these **reached over 136,335 people**.



Roger Hirst, Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Training Resources



SETDAB launched an additional set of e-learning resources during this year covering the following topics:

- ◆ LGBTQ+ Community & Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness;
- ◆ MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) Basic Awareness; and
- ◆ Domestic Abuse and Older People.

Since their launch, our suite of e-Learning packages has reached the following total number of users:



Domestic Abuse and Older People
173 users



The Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Boards have noticed a common theme appearing in multiple reviews (Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews) across both the children and adult sectors, and that is the concept of 'Think Family.' To better understand this concept, the Boards worked together to create a podcast and a video to enhance the work that our partners do and improve outcomes for the people we work with.



MARAC Basic Awareness
235 users



LGBTQ+ Community & Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness
209 users



Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness
1254 users



Drug and Alcohol Basic Awareness
1061 users

What steps can landlords take to support their tenants?

We have designed a specific landing page on our SETDAB website for private rented landlords to help them to support those effected by domestic abuse. As part of this we have created a podcast and animation to help to raise awareness of domestic abuse in that sector.

Training and Seminars:

In line with Stalking Awareness Week in April 2021 we hosted two Unmasking Stalking: Stalking Awareness Training sessions delivered by Solace. The focus was to highlight the typologies, prevalence, and impact of stalking on victims and to increase professional understanding of the risks associated with stalking behaviours.

Following the Stalking session:

95% of attendees answered that they now have awareness and understanding around stalking.

90% of attendees answered that they were confident in identifying and responding effectively to stalking at the earliest opportunity.

90% of attendees answered they now have knowledge of services available to support those affected by stalking.

95% of attendees answered that training will influence their practice.

90% of attendees answered that the training would make a difference to how they work with colleagues from other agencies.

Following feedback from our 2021 Annual Conference we have developed a series of seminars and lectures focusing on specific issues surrounding domestic abuse that will be delivered during 2022. The first of these seminars was Mind your Language delivered in March 2022. The focus of this seminar was theories of victim blaming language and how professionals can accurately record victim experiences. **Post seminar, 90% of attendees stated that they had good or very good understanding of victim blaming language and 100% said that the seminar had a positive impact on their working practice.**

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) has implemented new requirements for substance misuse practitioners to accurately record details about victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and to signpost them to local support services. To support the roll out of this requirement, in partnership with The Change Hub, we delivered two workshops focused on working with domestic abuse perpetrators. The workshops aimed to increase understanding and confidence to identify and support perpetrators into behaviour change work. **Post workshop, 97% of attendees stated that the workshop would positively affect their working practice.**

We have also supported our partners in delivering domestic abuse and MARAC insights to the Essex social work induction programme and to the South Essex Landlord Forum.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

The DHR process in Southend, Essex and Thurrock was centralised in 2017/18 so that this work is now undertaken by the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board on behalf of all our CSPs (Community Safety Partnerships). The SET DA Team have received 32 notifications of domestic homicides under the new arrangements, 10 of which were received during 2021/22. Of these 10:

- ◆ 7 DHRs have been commissioned.
- ◆ 1 case was not taken forward (endorsed by the Home Office).
- ◆ In 1 case further information was received and this case was not classified as a homicide and was not taken forward.
- ◆ 1 case awaiting further information on cause of death.

SETDAB also produce thematic reviews to identify and cascade learning from domestic homicide reviews and use this to inform other SETDAB workstreams. SETDAB regularly hold learning events for professionals and share findings from this work with other partnership boards to consider shared themes and learning that can be addressed together.



Children and Young People Can Recognise and Form Healthy Relationships

Responding to COVID-19 – Our school and community-based services for children and young people continued to run using a hybrid model as appropriate to individual circumstances. Our most vulnerable children continued to be supported directly by schools and other social care partners.

What have we done?

A bespoke Outcome 1 Steering Group has been established to lead on this work:

- ◆ In line with the new definition within the DA Act, we have recognised children as victims of DA rather than witnesses and continue to work with partners to address children’s needs.
- ◆ Continued to promote a consistent approach to delivering a healthy relationships curriculum in schools to support children and young people to understand healthy relationships. There was a 26% increase in the number of Secondary Schools attending or booking Risk Avert Training during the year. Additionally, 28 Primary Schools also received inputs.
- ◆ Continued to promote existing resources and programmes for parents to manage inter-parental conflict and prevent the negative impacts on children and young people by utilising trauma perceptive practice.
- ◆ 225 practitioners have been trained in Non- Violence Resistance (NVR) to work directly with children and young people and their parents.
- ◆ Trauma informed group work programme was piloted by Family Solutions and Essex Children’s Social Care (CSC) and will be evaluated and shared across the partnership in the coming year.

What we will do:

- ◆ Work to consider how Risk Avert can be used in targeted areas and develop enhanced training for professions.
- ◆ Develop short film clips with young people around healthy relationship messages.
- ◆ The Training Effect plan a review of Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (RSHE) resources with a specific focus on internet safety.
- ◆ Maximise opportunities made available through national funding awards to develop and enhance services.
- ◆ Continue to support The Goodman Project and Sisters in Strength in the work they do with children and young people at risk of entering abusive relationships.

Why is this important?

We need to educate and support our children and young people to make informed choices.





People Experiencing and at Risk of Experiencing Domestic Abuse are Supported to be and Feel Safe

Responding to COVID-19 – Our Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) continued to operate throughout 2021-2022 using remote platforms. Our DA service partners also continued to offer a combination of online and in person services.

What have we done?

- ◆ Local services have introduced specialist roles such as Children and Young people’s IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor), Older Person’s IDVA, DA Housing Navigators and Housing IDVAs.
- ◆ In discharging their new duties under the DA Act, our Local Authority Partners have worked with DA victims and survivors from marginalised communities to capture their experiences and voices to inform service provision.
- ◆ Continued to promote safe spaces where people can access information and support from services by attending Pride events and local community events.
- ◆ We have established a specific Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) with North Essex GPs who are now engaging in the MARAC process.
- ◆ We have set up regular communications between safeguarding processes such as MARAC and the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).
- ◆ We secured additional central government funding to support IDVAs, counselling, advocacy, and other support services.
- ◆ Our partners supported the roll out of work based domestic abuse awareness in conjunction with the Essex Chambers of Commerce.
- ◆ Essex MARAC have completed a review into future ways of working which has been agreed by the partnership.

What will we do?

- ◆ Using our experience with North Essex GPs we will expand GP involvement in MARAC across Southend, Essex & Thurrock (SET).
- ◆ Complete reviews across Southend and Thurrock to determine how MARAC will operate in the future.
- ◆ Continue to promote the availability of our service offer across SET by attending local community events and promoting safe spaces.
- ◆ Maximise opportunities made available through national funding awards to develop and enhance services.
- ◆ Complete a domestic abuse discovery project to inform future commissioning.

Why is this important?

It is everyone’s responsibility to safeguard victims and children living with domestic abuse.





Everyone Can Rebuild Their Lives and Live Free from Domestic Abuse

Responding to COVID-19 – Housing, domestic abuse services and other specialist community providers such as drug and alcohol services continued to offer their services.

What have we done?

- ◆ We established task groups on sanctuary schemes, managed reciprocal arrangements and private sector housing to take forward the whole housing approach to domestic abuse.
- ◆ Our partners have implemented their new accommodation-based duties within the DA Act by establishing specialist posts and pots of funding for housing solutions.
- ◆ Continued to facilitate the housing steering group to drive forward the whole housing approach to domestic abuse.
- ◆ We have established a data tool to capture whole housing approach developments.
- ◆ We have designed and launched a specific resource page for private rented landlords on the SETDAB website.

What will we do?

- ◆ Continue to develop the whole housing approach to domestic abuse with a focus in the coming year on addressing the housing needs and issues related to domestic abuse perpetrators to support work to keep families safe.
- ◆ Continue to promote best practice such as the SET Sanctuary Scheme Protocol, managed reciprocal arrangements and the private rented sector response to DA.
- ◆ To support and promote the Changing Futures Programme across Essex which provides support to individuals with complex and additional needs.

- ◆ To utilise the domestic abuse data captured by substance misuse agencies in Essex to inform service provision.
- ◆ Cascade good practice from the recovery refuge in respect of their work with victims of domestic abuse with coinciding substance misuse issues.
- ◆ Maximise opportunities made available through national funding awards to develop and enhance services.
- ◆ Complete a domestic abuse discovery project to inform future commissioning.

Why is this important?

Enables people affected by domestic abuse to recover and live free from abuse.





Supporting and Disrupting Perpetrators to Change Their Behaviour and Break the Cycle of Domestic Abuse

Responding to COVID-19 – Criminal Justice Services and Community based perpetrator interventions continued to offer online delivery and face to face services as appropriate to individual needs.

What have we done?

- ◆ We have refreshed and revised the Terms of Reference for the Perpetrator Delivery Group to focus on future service delivery options.
- ◆ Continued to support The Change Hub in the work they do regarding behaviour change interventions for perpetrators of domestic abuse across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.
- ◆ Supported the development of the Essex Police Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Teams by cascading the training available and sharing partnership links.
- ◆ We have utilised the insights and recommendations from the research conducted by Essex Centre for Data Analytics (ECDA) into domestic abuse perpetrators to inform future workstreams and priorities.
- ◆ We secured additional central government funding to support the services provided by Goodman and Sisters in Strength, The Change Hub, and the Change Project.
- ◆ We secured central government funding to develop a targeted perpetrator campaign.
- ◆ We have established a Regional DA Perpetrator Group to share good practice.

What will we do?

- ◆ Consider additional options available to tackle stalking.
- ◆ Support partners with the implementation of DA perpetrator specific activities set out within the DA Act.
- ◆ Maximise opportunities made available through national funding awards to develop and enhance services.
- ◆ Complete a domestic abuse discovery project to inform future commissioning.
- ◆ Utilise national research such as that by Durham University concerning perpetrators of domestic abuse against older people to inform service delivery.
- ◆ Continue to target perpetrator behaviour within MARAC action planning wherever possible.

Why is this important?

Perpetrators need to be held to account for their behaviour and offered opportunities to change to prevent future harm.





Communities, Professionals and Employers are able to Recognise Domestic Abuse at the Earliest Opportunity and Have the Confidence to Take Action

Responding to COVID-19 – We adapted our training and communication activities for online platforms. All our partners continued to promote a positive message about service availability throughout 2021-2022.

What have we done?

- ◆ Reissued our service availability campaign at key points during the year, specifically running a white ribbon campaign during November – December 2021.
- ◆ Developed a specific landing page for DA and older people on the SETDAB website.
- ◆ Continued to build our virtual learning and development offer, adding specific resources for LGBTQ+ victims, MARAC processes and DA and older people.
- ◆ Established a new partnership communications group and five-year communications strategy.
- ◆ Delivered our annual conference as a virtual event with a focus on Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse and Mental Health.
- ◆ Worked with the Home Office on the development of the national DHR repository.
- ◆ Developed a series of lectures and training events for 2022 commencing with our first lecture Mind your Language in March 2022.
- ◆ Continued to promote domestic abuse awareness within the business sector, encouraging healthy working environments.
- ◆ We developed a DHR Learning Summary Document and shared learning on Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) across two events in partnership with Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA).
- ◆ Continued to work with regional colleagues to share good practice.

What will we do?

- ◆ Complete our third Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) thematic review to share learning with partners.
- ◆ Develop and launch a specific domestic abuse perpetrator targeted campaign.
- ◆ Develop a specific landing page for DHRs on the SETDAB website.
- ◆ Deliver our SETDAB Annual Conference.
- ◆ Develop a range of regular online and face to face training events during 2022–2023.
- ◆ Continue to promote domestic abuse awareness within the community and business sector e.g., the work of J9 and Alpha Vesta.
- ◆ Complete a review of the centralised domestic homicide review process for SET.

Why is this important?

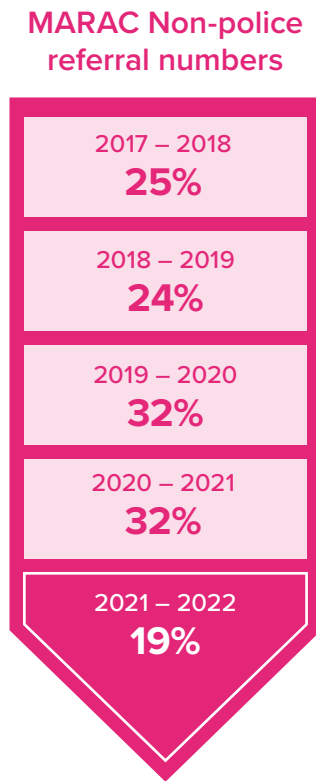
People affected by domestic abuse need to be able to access appropriate services to increase safety and reduce harm.



2021-2022 SETDAB Performance Data



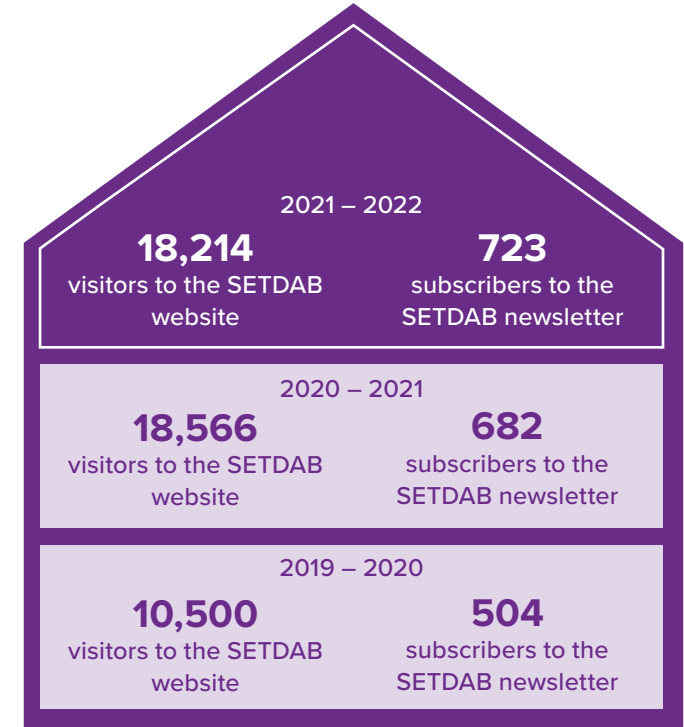
MARAC referral numbers



Number of 16-17yo high risk victims

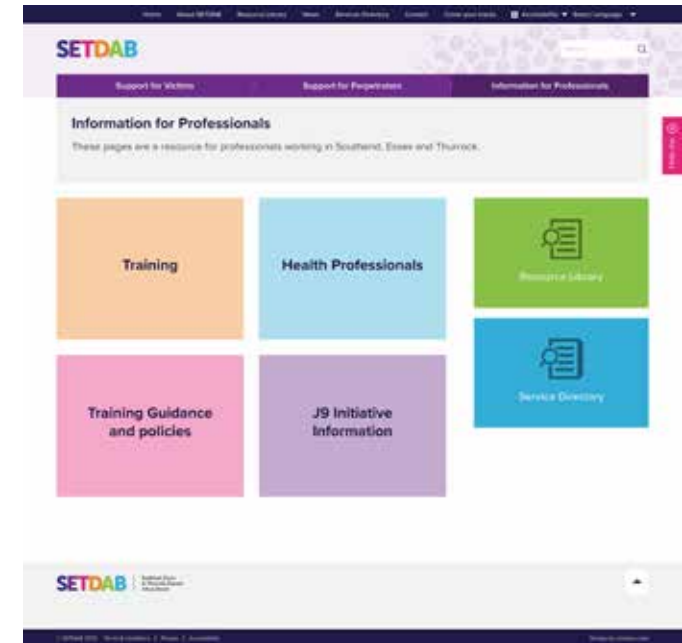
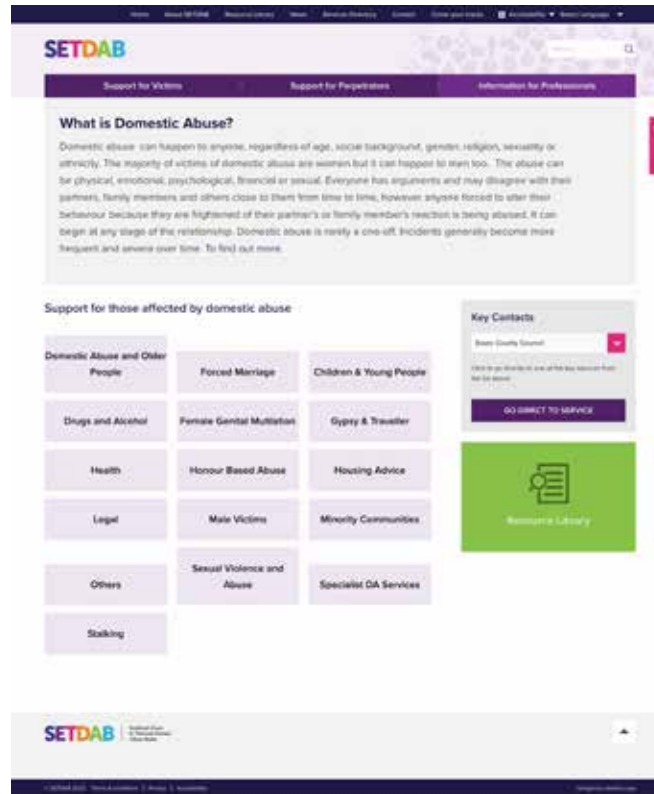


Number of Police DA incidents



In November 2021, the SETDAB Newsletter changed to a new platform which required the migration of all the newsletter subscribers. This caused an initial drop off of in subscribers due to the migration and removal of accounts that were no-longer active (i.e., bounce backs); however our subscriber numbers have started to increase again.

Details of Our Website



www.setdab.org

Glossary

AAFDA

Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse

AVA

Against Violence & Abuse

CSC

Children's Social Care

CSP

Community Safety Partnerships

DA

Domestic Abuse

DHR

Domestic Homicide Review

ECDA

Essex Centre for Data Analytics

EPUT

Essex Partnership University Trust

GP

General Practitioner

IDVA

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

ISA

Information Sharing Agreement

LGBTQ+

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning

MAPPA

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

MARAC

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

NDTMS

National Drug Treatment Monitoring System

NVR

Non-Violent Resistance

RSHE

Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education

SET

Southend, Essex, and Thurrock

SETDAB

Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board

COMPASS

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline

Contact us via the online forms at

www.essexcompass.org.uk

0330 333 7 444

