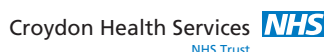


# Croydon Congress

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## Domestic abuse and sexual violence background information booklet

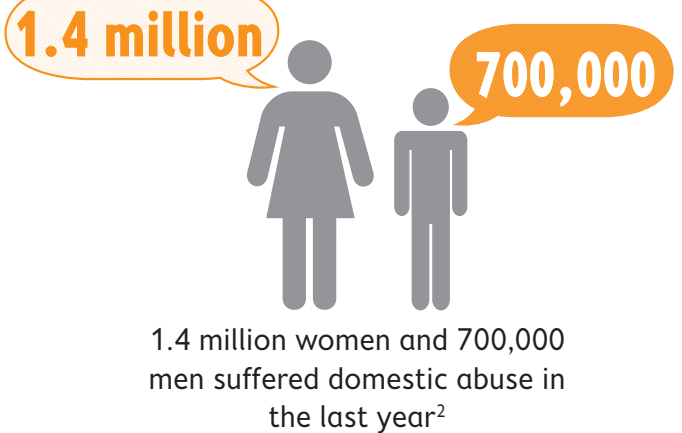


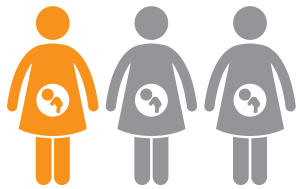
# Introduction

Domestic abuse and sexual violence can have a devastating effect on the health and wellbeing of the people involved, as well as their families and friends and wider society. This is everyone's business: anyone can be at risk, whatever their social background, age, gender, religion, sexuality or ethnicity. We need to work together to change attitudes and behaviours towards domestic abuse and sexual violence.

This briefing outlines the current picture, both nationally and locally. Some of the facts and stories, both within this briefing and that you will hear at Croydon Congress, may be hard-hitting, but we have done this deliberately. This is an important topic that we all need to tackle. As someone attending Croydon Congress the next step is down to you. Domestic abuse and sexual violence should not be hidden behind closed doors. It is not a cultural issue; it is a crime. The whole community needs to come together and take action. That might involve your role as a community member, a faith member, a neighbour, a family member, a friend, an employer or a colleague. If you, or someone you know, would like support to take action there is a useful list of organisations on page 13.

## Key Facts Nationally

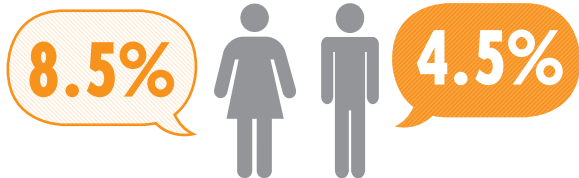




Over a third of domestic violence starts or gets worse when a woman is pregnant<sup>5</sup>



Domestic violence is a factor in 60% of child protection serious case reviews<sup>6</sup>



Although violent crime nationally is going down, domestic abuse remains a widespread problem, affecting 8.5% of women and 4.5% of men every year<sup>7</sup>



In the UK, in any one year, more than 20% of employed women take time off because of domestic violence and 2% lose their jobs as a direct result of the abuse<sup>8</sup>



23,000 girls under 15 could be at risk of female genital mutilation in England and Wales and nearly 60,000 women could be living with the consequences<sup>9</sup>



There are 12 reported 'honour' based killings in the UK each year<sup>10</sup>



In 2014, the Government's Forced Marriage Unit gave advice related to a possible forced marriage in 1,267 cases<sup>11</sup>

## Key Facts for Croydon



Using 2011 Census data we estimate that 13,666 women and 8,810 men experienced domestic violence and abuse in Croydon during 2011/12



Domestic violence in Croydon costs at least £101.9 million in terms of costs incurred by local service providers and employers and human/emotional costs<sup>12</sup>



Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 domestic violence offences in Croydon increased by 28.2%



Three victims of domestic abuse have been murdered in the borough in recent years

## Introduction to domestic abuse and sexual violence

The government defines domestic abuse as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can include but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse<sup>13</sup>. It also covers so-called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence can be carried out by women against men and occurs in same-sex relationships. However, research, including police statistics, shows that it is mostly committed by men against women. Domestic abuse and sexual violence is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality that is reinforced the longer it continues.

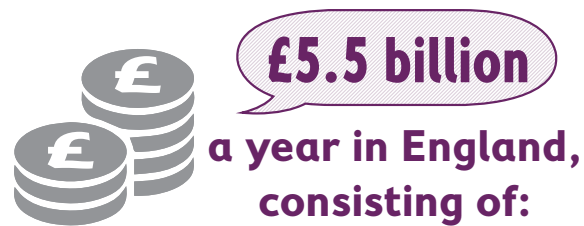
Children and young people can experience domestic abuse and sexual violence when they are exposed to it within their families and within their own intimate relationships. Older people can also be at risk, particularly those who are dependent on someone else, such as those with a chronic illness or disability or where there is an expectation of trust<sup>14</sup>. We are also concerned about children being abusive towards their parents. This can be in the form of physical and/or psychological abuse.

Following the launch of the Government Strategy to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in 2010, the issue became a government priority. It became a priority issue in Croydon due to an increase in the number of allegations and offences in the borough, and the deaths of three victims of domestic violence locally. Everyone in Croydon, both organisations and individuals, must make it their business to work together to change attitudes to domestic abuse and sexual violence in order to stop it.

## The economic impact

Domestic abuse and sexual violence was, until recently, considered a 'private matter'. This perception is slowly being broken down and it is clear to see that the impacts are far-reaching.

**In 2011, the Trust for London and the Henry Smith Charity estimated that domestic violence costs the public:**



**£1.6 billion**



physical and mental  
health costs

**£1.2 billion**



criminal justice  
costs

**£268 million**



social services  
costs

**£185.7 million**



housing and  
refuge costs

**£366.7 million**



civil legal  
costs

**£1.8 billion**



lost economic  
output<sup>15</sup>

The Trust for London and the Henry Smith Charity broke this down further and estimated that each year in Croydon £37.4 million is incurred in terms of costs to health and social care services, criminal justice services, local government and employers and a further £64.5 million in human and emotional costs.

It is likely that the costs listed above are a significant underestimate of the economic impact of domestic violence for a number of reasons:

- domestic violence is widely acknowledged to cause more mental trauma compared to the road traffic accidents on which the human cost is based, even for similar levels of physical injury;
- no account was taken of lost economic output due to the psychological effects of domestic violence;
- no account was taken of the likely significant long-term effect on children exposed to violence in the home;
- no economic impact resulting from support from family, friends and wider society was taken into account;
- only violence between intimate partners was included, whilst violence among other family members was excluded;
- the local figure is only based on people aged 16 – 59 years, whilst abuse of older people is excluded.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence is something that businesses, employers and employees need to be aware of.

In the UK, in any one year, more than 20% of employed women take time off because of domestic violence and 2% lose their jobs as a direct result of the abuse<sup>16</sup>.

Taking action and developing workplace initiatives makes good business sense because it enhances employee wellbeing and productivity, and reduces abuse-related costs.

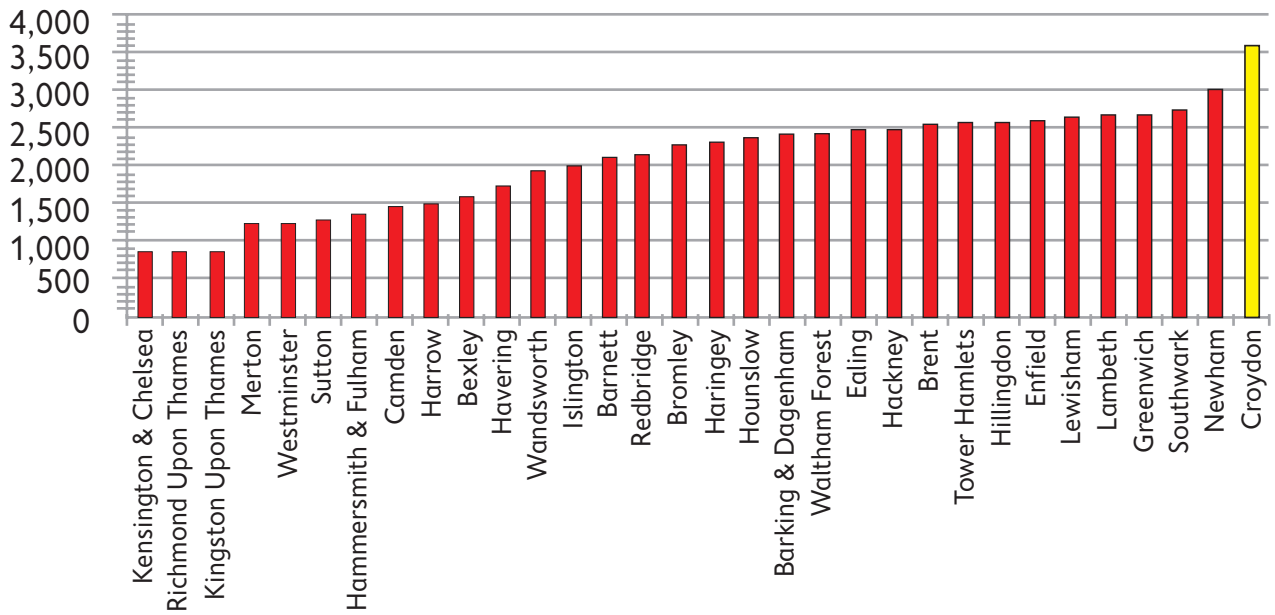
The experience of our Congress speaker, Fiona Bowman, shows the vital role that an employer can play. When Fiona's experience of domestic abuse came to the attention of her employers after a particularly violent incident where she ended up in hospital, her employers were able to support her. They helped Fiona to access the necessary resources to leave her partner and transferred her to a new post in a different city. She was able to start a new life of freedom and safety and remained a loyal and productive employee for many years.<sup>17</sup>

## **Domestic abuse and sexual violence in Croydon**

There is massive underreporting of domestic violence, both within Croydon and nationally and, as such, this should be considered when using existing data.

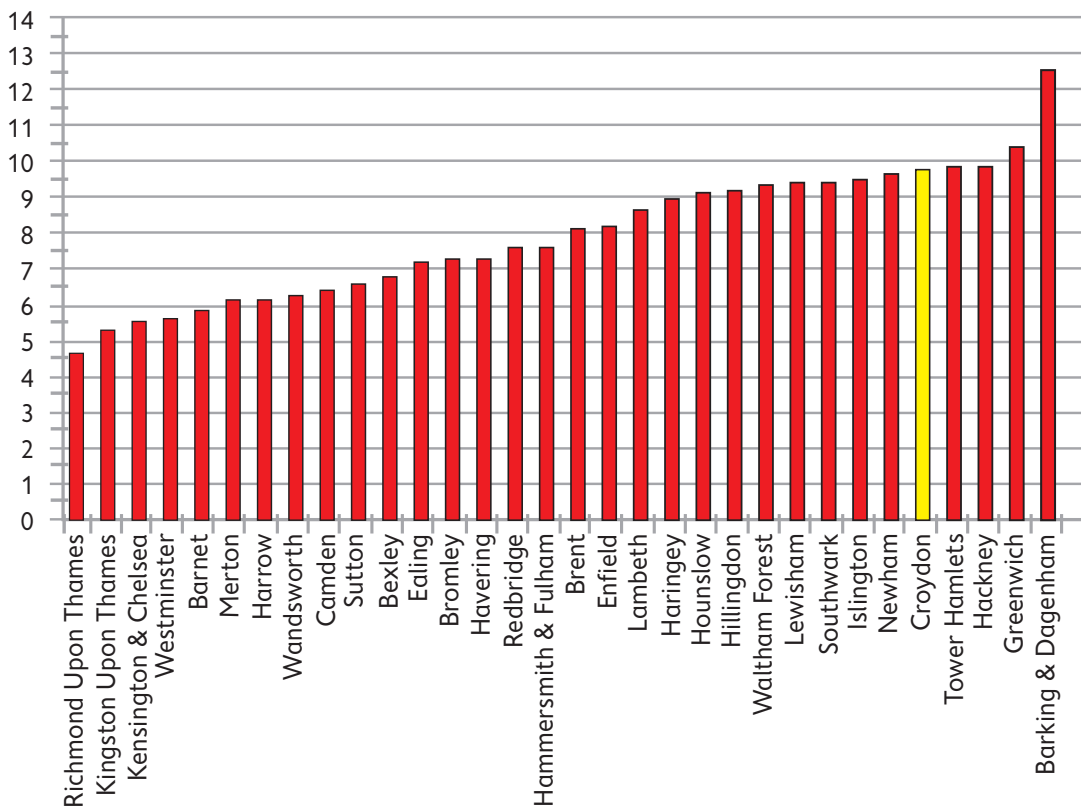
Metropolitan Police data shows that in 2014/15 Croydon saw the highest volume of domestic violence offences of any London borough, with a total of 3,613 offences, well above average (see Graph 1). Whilst this is very high, it is important to note that Croydon is the capital's most populous borough.

**Graph 1: Domestic violence offences by volume 2014 / 15**



When considering the rates of domestic violence by resident population, the rate in Croydon, whilst higher than the average across London, is the 5th highest out of the 32 London boroughs (see Graph 2). Barking and Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney and Tower Hamlets all have higher rates.

**Graph 2: Domestic offences by rate / 1,000 population 2014 / 15**



Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 domestic violence offences in Croydon increased by 28.2%. Whilst all London boroughs saw an increase over this time period, Croydon's increase was above the London average (21.3%).

Domestic violence incidents in Croydon recorded as crimes are usually common assaults and actual bodily harm. Whilst the volume of domestic violence offences has increased, the total number of victims has decreased. This indicates an increase in the number of victims experiencing repeated incidents of domestic violence. There has also been an increase in the number of people being accused.

Within Croydon over 2013/14 and 2014/15, Fieldway, Selhurst, New Addington, Woodside, Fairfield and Thornton Heath have the highest rate per 1,000 population for allegations of domestic violence and special investigation call outs (where police are called out to attend an alleged domestic violence incident but find no evidence of a crime) (see Table 1). These wards are also amongst the most deprived in the borough.

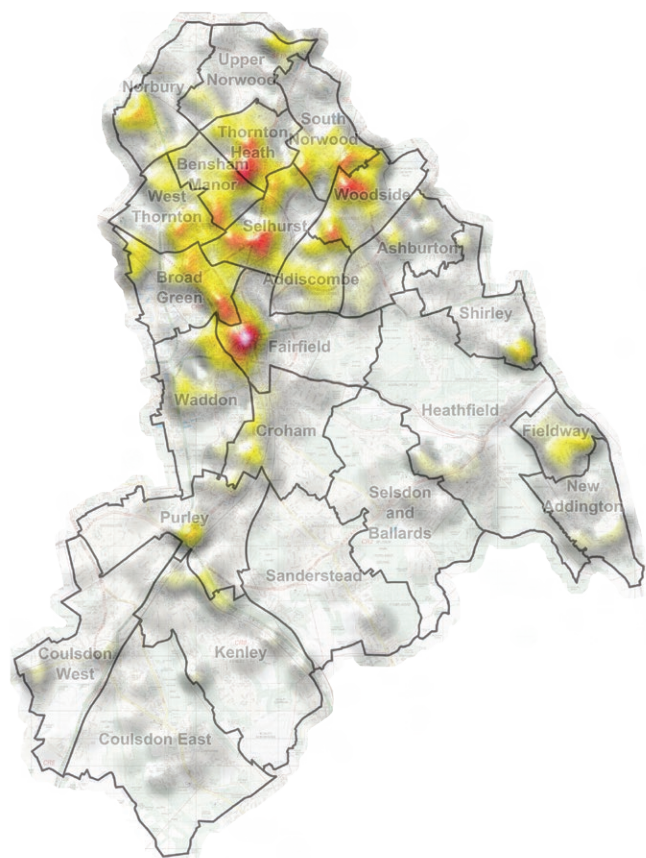
**Table 1: Rate of allegations of domestic violence and special investigations per 1,000 population**

Rate / 1,000 population	Domestic violence		Special investigations	
	13/14	14/15	13/14	14/15
Addiscombe	6.99	8.96	16.61	17.41
Ashburton	5.13	7.64	14.85	16.77
Bensham Manor	7.38	9.31	22.62	15.08
Broad Green	11.27	12.78	22.10	23.76
Coulsdon East	2.32	5.76	8.39	10.81
Coulsdon West	3.72	4.75	10.89	12.38
Croham	7.75	8.68	19.75	14.56
Fairfield	11.35	13.33	25.41	21.46
Fieldway	13.15	14.92	33.38	26.30
Heathfield	5.14	6.92	11.50	14.58
Kenley	5.57	6.83	13.91	11.89
New Addington	10.36	13.85	26.45	28.95
Norbury	6.22	8.76	13.60	14.75
Purley	4.42	7.06	12.33	11.65
Sanderstead	2.53	3.11	5.84	5.35
Selhurst	11.65	14.58	32.61	27.63
Selsdon & Ballards	1.83	2.85	7.02	5.69
Shirley	5.29	7.23	13.57	13.22
South Norwood	8.31	10.85	20.46	19.38
Thornton Heath	11.05	12.82	23.95	25.56
Upper Norwood	7.48	10.23	18.81	20.70
Waddon	8.36	9.95	22.45	18.46
West Thornton	8.70	11.82	24.18	20.14
Woodside	12.09	13.59	28.75	23.78

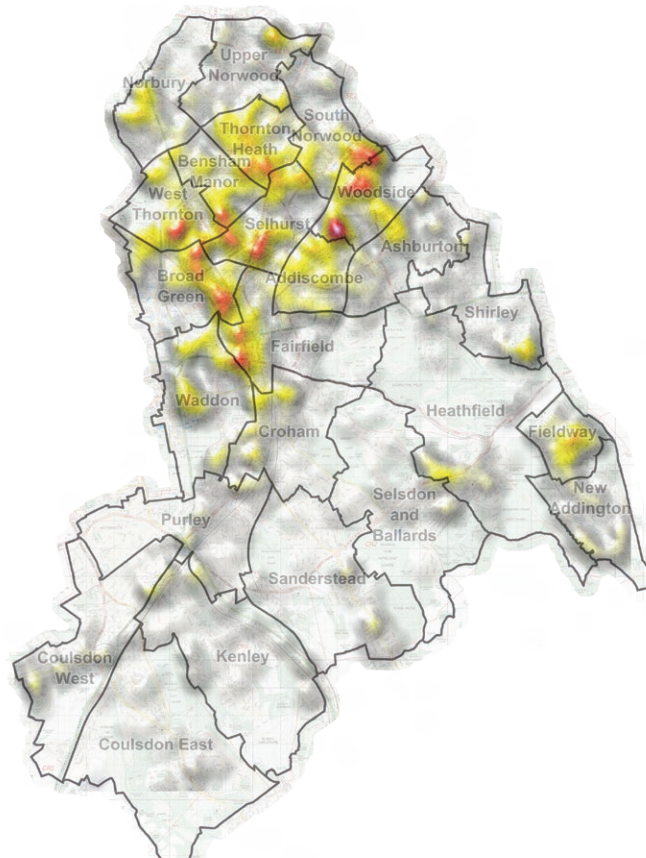


Map 1 and Map 2 give a visual indication of where allegations of domestic violence and special investigations and non-violent allegations of domestic violence occurred within the borough in 2014/15:

**Map 1: Heat map showing hotspots for allegations of domestic violence in 2014/15**



**Map 2: Heat map showing hotspots for special investigations and non-violent allegations of domestic violence in 2014/15**



As the maps and Table 1 show, there is a higher rate of reporting in the north and east of the borough. When considering the geographical location of incidents of domestic violence it is important to be aware that there is massive underreporting of this type of crime. Victims of domestic violence are less likely than victims of other forms of violence to report their experiences to the authorities because they believe that it is not a matter for the police or because of fear of reprisal. Just because the maps show low or no allegations of domestic violence in certain areas does not mean that it is not a problem in those areas.

Data on ‘honour’ based violence, FGM and forced marriage are not currently being systematically collected in Croydon, although these may be common within a number of communities. In England and Wales it is estimated that 23,000 girls under 15 could be at risk of FGM and nearly 60,000 women could be living with the consequences<sup>18</sup>. In 2014, the Government’s Forced Marriage Unit gave advice related to a possible forced marriage in 1,267 cases<sup>19</sup>. There are 12 reported ‘honour’ based killings in the UK each year<sup>20</sup>.

## The role of the council and local partners

There are a number of services and agencies in place locally to address the issue of domestic abuse and sexual violence and to support those at risk.

Changing attitudes and behaviours towards domestic abuse and sexual violence in Croydon is one of the council's top three priorities. This has full endorsement of the Local Strategic Partnership and all Chief Executives within it have signed up to a declaration to put an end to it by acting together.

In 2013/14 Croydon's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment devoted a chapter to domestic abuse and sexual violence, and a Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice took charge of strategic developments to reduce domestic abuse and sexual violence in the borough. This informed the Domestic Violence Strategy 2013-16 which was launched a few years ago and updated to cover 2015-18.

A staff policy covering everyone employed by the council was launched in March 2015; it sets out the support that the council should give to any of its staff who are affected.

The Croydon Family Justice Centre and its associated services are key components of domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Croydon. The centre aims to provide a safe environment where victims and their children can get all their services in one place.



**Croydon Family Justice Centre staff and other local partners engaging with the public at a crime prevention event in April 2015.**

# Real Stories

All names have been changed to protect the individuals involved.

## Julie's story

Julie was a receptionist at a large accountancy firm. She would always wear trousers or thick tights and long sleeve tops, even in the height of summer. Sometimes Julie would have bruises that she couldn't hide, even by using heavy make-up.

Julie's line manager had suspected she was experiencing domestic violence at home. In confidential supervision he reminded Julie that the company had a domestic violence policy and would support her if she wished to seek help but that they respected this was her decision to make.

Julie and her boyfriend had a four year old son, Thomas, and she was concerned that she wouldn't be able to cope with trying to organise child care on her own if she left her partner. When Julie became pregnant again the bruises appeared more regularly. It was then she turned to her employer for help.

"When I became pregnant my partner started to hit me more and more. I left him because I was frightened that he would end up killing my unborn child and me. The company where I worked were fantastic; they gave me a new job in a different office that was not on reception so that I would not be on view if my ex-boyfriend came looking for me there. They changed the way they paid me so that the money would not go into our joint bank account anymore. I knew that they had done everything they could to protect my identity if my ex-boyfriend ever came looking for me at work."

Julie had been in touch with her local Women's Aid and, along with her employer, they helped her to arrange her child care. Julie's ex-boyfriend did come looking for her but due to the precautions the company had put in place, he did not know that she had been transferred and thought she had left the company.

"I feel safer at work now that I know my boyfriend can't easily find me. I am worried that he will come looking for me and my child. I know my company will continue to support me if this situation arises."<sup>21</sup>

## Sarah's story

The violence started pretty much straight away; he drank far too much and was drunk a lot of the time. I had grown up in a violent home, and had always said that if a man ever hit me, I'd hit straight back. The first time he hit me, I slapped him and it turned out to be the worst thing I could have done – he punched me repeatedly until he had to be dragged off me by two others who lived in the flat upstairs.

After that it became a regular occurrence; I didn't dare call the police for fear of what he might do afterwards. He was psychologically abusive and would tell me that if I ever left him he'd find me, wherever I was and kill me. I became pregnant and by that stage the abuse was mostly psychological but on one occasion, I wanted to go out but he wouldn't let me – he stood in my way, smashed a bottle against the wall and held the broken bottle to my seven months pregnant stomach.

I left on several occasions, but always went back because I was scared of what he'd do when he found me. My health visitor used to see me upset but I never told her what was happening, as I was too scared that I would lose my baby. She was a really good listener and I felt that she was the only person I could confide in, so eventually I dropped some hints to test the water. She was supportive without being interfering and because of this I made the decision to tell her. She was fantastic and told me about the Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline, who I called and who put me in contact with my local Women's Aid refuge.

I moved out with my son and into a refuge outside of the local area, so that my ex couldn't find me. It has taken some time to get over the psychological effects of the abuse, but I am rebuilding my life and am now studying for a sociology degree at university. My son is doing well at school and we are looking forward to a happy future<sup>22</sup>.

## Rachel's story

Rachel, a retired 71 year old lady of mixed heritage, approached Croydon's Family Justice Centre about abuse that she had been suffering from her husband. She had been married to him for six years and after three years he had become controlling and verbally abusive. He would also kick and hit her in the head when she was asleep and subjected her to degrading sexual abuse, raping her many times. At first she was ashamed to report the sexual abuse, especially as her own family were not aware of it. The husband had once signed a court order agreeing not to harm her in any way but the abuse started again once this had expired. Rachel was also being harassed and abused by her husband's two adult children from a previous relationship.

The couple lived alone in a house owned by her husband. Rachel found the courage to report her husband who was arrested and charged with common assault and released on bail conditions. At the time of reporting it, she had bruising to her shoulders and arms and a lump on her head where she had hit the door during the most recent incident. Whilst on bail, he travelled to Africa for 3 months. She was frightened and uncertain of what he would do next on his return. His children's ongoing harassment and his impending return from his travel provided the impetus to move out of their home.

Due to her age, history of abuse and vulnerabilities with her health, Rachel would have struggled in emergency accommodation and she might have returned to her partner. A Housing Officer at the Family Justice Centre explored the options available with her which resulted in a permanent tenancy in sheltered accommodation. She was also supported to overcome the shame of the sexual abuse and she was able to provide statements to the police and give evidence in court. Her husband was found guilty and he received a community order, a fine, a tag and an unlimited restraining order preventing him from making contact with her again.

## Geoff's story

I met Helen on an online dating site and at first our relationship appeared idyllic. She soon fell pregnant and we made plans to spend our future together. Soon afterwards I found out that she was an alcoholic in recovery and had four children who now lived with

their father (her ex husband). They had been removed from her care after a drunken suicide attempt a year prior to our relationship starting.

Helen's behaviour became ever more controlling and manipulative as the months went by. She would check my emails, text messages and Facebook account. She also hacked into these accounts and sent text messages to my female friends from my phone pretending to be me.

Helen became violent towards me. She threw a laptop, threatened me repeatedly, destroyed another computer and would soak my son's (from a previous relationship) ironing once I had completed it. She singled my son out at meal times and often refused to allow him to eat dessert. She would also serve him last and slam his plate down in front of him. He witnessed her shouting, slamming doors at me and indulging in long periods of ignoring / isolating behaviour. Helen also prevented me from maintaining relationships with friends by constant questioning, checking behaviours - it was easier for me to not go out than face a barrage of questions.

Helen threw me out of the house we shared, started drinking and took an overdose - all within two months of our baby daughter being born, I later found out she had been drinking throughout this period. Despite all of this I decided to try again with the relationship but it only lasted another 5 months before I had to leave.

When I left, Helen told a social worker that I had been violent and abusive towards her. The social worker advised her that I was to have no unsupervised contact - I was never invited to the meeting or allowed to put forward my side of things. I never received minutes of this meeting. Helen also lied to the Police that I had stolen some of her possessions - this prevented me from being able to recover my things before she moved out of the house we rented. I lost virtually all of my things and an £800 deposit on the house. She telephoned the police the day before they were going to arrest me that she had found the items.

For the past 14 months I have had sporadic contact with my daughter and Helen still spreads lies and abuses me through the phone, text and email. She has threatened to lose me my job and contact with my son if I put in an application for a court order. My life is getting better slowly but it has been a living hell for almost three years now.<sup>23</sup>

## Further information and support

If you or someone you know is at risk of domestic abuse or sexual violence there are a number of services available to provide you with support and advice, including the following:

- **The 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline**

The helpline can give support, help and information over the telephone, whatever the time or wherever the caller might be in the country. As well as offering advice and support, the organisation can refer women (with or without children) to emergency safe accommodation and can help with crisis and safety planning.

Telephone: **0808 2000 247**

[www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk)

- **The Family Justice Centre**

The Centre is run by a skilled, experienced team that works to provide you and your family access to support services. Our aim is to listen and respond to your needs in a safe way. Women and men can access wrap-around support such as legal advice and advocacy support whilst attending court, as well as advice and guidance with housing, welfare and alcohol/substance abuse issues.

Telephone: **0208 688 0100**

[www.croydon.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/domesticabuse)

- **The Corporate Alliance**

The nationally recognised membership charity works with employers to lessen the impact of domestic violence in the workplace.

[www.caadv.org.uk](http://www.caadv.org.uk)

- **RASASC**

Support and advice for victims of rape and sexual abuse.

Telephone: **0808 802 9999**

[www.rasasc.org.uk](http://www.rasasc.org.uk)

- **Samaritans**

Support for individuals in time of need.

Telephone: **08457 90 90 90**

[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

- **Broken Rainbow**

A National Helpline for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people who experience domestic violence.

Telephone: **0300 999 5428**

[www.brokenrainbow.org.uk](http://www.brokenrainbow.org.uk)

- **Crime Stoppers**

For members of the public to pass on anonymous information on perpetrators of crime.

Telephone: **0800 555 111**

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

- **Respect Phonenumber**

A confidential and anonymous helpline for anyone concerned about their own or someone else's violence and/or abuse towards a partner or ex-partner (male or female and heterosexual and same-sex relationships)

Telephone: **0808 802 4040**

[www.respectphonenumber.org.uk](http://www.respectphonenumber.org.uk)

## Further reading

Croydon's 2013/14 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment dedicated a chapter to domestic violence and abuse: [http://www.croydonobservatory.org/2013-2014\\_JSNA](http://www.croydonobservatory.org/2013-2014_JSNA)

In December 2014 a paper and draft Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategy went to Croydon's Cabinet: <https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=31&cmte=CAB&grpId=public&arc=1>

## Footnotes

- 1 [www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm](http://www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm)
- 2 [www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime-and-sexual-offences--2013-14/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime-and-sexual-offences--2013-14/index.html)
- 3 [www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm](http://www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm)
- 4 Ibid
- 5 [www.refuge.org.uk/get-help-now/what-is-domestic-violence/domestic-violence-and-pregnancy/](http://www.refuge.org.uk/get-help-now/what-is-domestic-violence/domestic-violence-and-pregnancy/)
- 6 [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-facts-statistics/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-facts-statistics/)
- 7 [www.theguardian.com/society/2015/feb/12/14-million-women-suffered-domestic-abuse-last-year-ons-figures-show](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/feb/12/14-million-women-suffered-domestic-abuse-last-year-ons-figures-show)
- 8 [www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic\\_violence\\_topic.asp?section=0001000100220029](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic_violence_topic.asp?section=0001000100220029)
- 9 [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/fgm-facts-statistics](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/fgm-facts-statistics)
- 10 [www.haloproject.org.uk](http://www.haloproject.org.uk)
- 11 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/412667/FMU\\_Stats\\_2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/412667/FMU_Stats_2014.pdf)
- 12 [www.trustforlondon.org.uk/media/press-release/domestic-violence-costs-5-5bn-a-year-in-england](http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/media/press-release/domestic-violence-costs-5-5bn-a-year-in-england)
- 13 [www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse-domestic-violence-and-abuse-new-definition](http://www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse-domestic-violence-and-abuse-new-definition)
- 14 [www.domesticviolencelondon.nhs.uk/1-what-is-domestic-violence-/20-elder-abuse.html](http://www.domesticviolencelondon.nhs.uk/1-what-is-domestic-violence-/20-elder-abuse.html)
- 15 [www.trustforlondon.org.uk/media/press-release/domestic-violence-costs-5-5bn-a-year-in-england](http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/media/press-release/domestic-violence-costs-5-5bn-a-year-in-england)
- 16 [www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic\\_violence\\_topic.asp?section=0001000100220029](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic_violence_topic.asp?section=0001000100220029)
- 17 [www.caadv.org.uk/case\\_study\\_fiona.php](http://www.caadv.org.uk/case_study_fiona.php)
- 18 [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/fgm-facts-statistics](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/fgm-facts-statistics)
- 19 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/412667/FMU\\_Stats\\_2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/412667/FMU_Stats_2014.pdf)
- 20 [www.haloproject.org.uk](http://www.haloproject.org.uk)
- 21 [www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-articles.asp?section=00010001002200290002&itemid=1418](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-articles.asp?section=00010001002200290002&itemid=1418)
- 22 [www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=00010001000800140006&sectionTitle=Survivor+story%3A+Sarah](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=00010001000800140006&sectionTitle=Survivor+story%3A+Sarah)
- 23 [www.mankind.org.uk/pdfs/Geoff's%20story.pdf](http://www.mankind.org.uk/pdfs/Geoff's%20story.pdf)  
[00010001000800140006&sectionTitle=Survivor+story%3A+Sarah](http://www.mankind.org.uk/pdfs/00010001000800140006&sectionTitle=Survivor+story%3A+Sarah)

## Does your partner?

1. Check where you are going?
2. Stop you seeing friends?
3. Log in to your Facebook?
4. Tell you what to wear?
5. Read your text messages?

# COERCION AND CONTROL ARE FORMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

We're here to help, call  
National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline: 0808 2000 247  
Croydon Family Justice Centre: 020 8688 0100  
or visit the website: [www.croydon.gov.uk/fjc](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/fjc)

