



# Safety group

## Pankhurst-Fawcett Report

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# SAFETY GROUP

## Scorecard - 2025

This year, we have a question mark over the data.



### Indicator 1: no support for sexual violence survivors

There are question marks over the data for our first indicator. The very important indicator was based on research that has never been replicated. It is impossible to generate the data from the aggregation of existing data sets.

92%

### Indicator 2: denied support due to immigration status

For the second indicator, The Lotus Hub has provided us with data on the refuge provision for women with no recourse to public funds for 2024 and 2025. Prior to this, data was provided by Safety4Sisters.

The Safety group aims to draw on and extend the power of women's voices to shape action and improvements in responses to women who face and survive violence and harm in public and in their own homes.

## First Indicator

There are question marks over the data for our first indicator. The very important indicator was based on research that has never been replicated. It is impossible to generate the data from the aggregation of existing data sets.

The ONS released data on sexual offences reported to police in the year ending July 2025 in mid January 2026. This was based on a revised definition, now including sexual assault, rape and grooming, and showing an overall increase. Greater Manchester had the fourth highest rate at 4 per 1000 people. That is equivalent to approximately 8 per 1000 women. That is 1 in 125 women in Greater Manchester have reported a sexual offence. Most still go unreported.

If we look just at reporting to the police, according to the Crime survey, nationally only 16% of rape victims reported to the police. Of those, only 2.1% ended in convictions. We know that ten rapes were reported in a single Tameside ward between 22 September 2025 and 20 October 2025. There are 215 wards in Greater Manchester. A report dated June 2025 on the Gender Based Violence GMP Performance Update noted that in the year to March 2025, 9.1% of reported rape investigations resulted in charges being made. The target for 2025-26 is 11%. There is no data on convictions, and many cases may be waiting to be heard.

Those who choose not to report to the police may seek help from the many local grass roots organisations which offer support after rape and/or domestic abuse, and who can offer culturally specific services on a by and for basis.

### The picture around Greater Manchester 2024-2025:

- In Greater Manchester, 71,818 domestic abuse-related crimes were recorded in the year ending March 2025. This number is equivalent to 24 crimes for every 1,000 people in the population and represents 16% of all crime recorded in Greater Manchester.
- For March 2024-25, 4,135 prosecutions for domestic abuse related crimes were made (16% of all prosecutions in Greater Manchester) with 2,946 convictions (defendant found or pleaded guilty).
- 956 Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) were applied for and 804 were issued.
- 1,313 Right to Know or 'Clare's Law' applications were granted and 520 were given disclosure.
- 98 cases per 1,000 adult females in the population of Greater Manchester were discussed at MARACs (Multi Agency Risk Assessment), the highest in the UK; of these 39 per cent involved repeat offenders / victims.

Source: [Domestic abuse in England and Wales – Data tool - Office for National Statistics](#)

## How does this compare with previous years?

Total numbers of domestic abuse-related recorded crimes have fallen significantly between 2021-2022 and 2024-2025 with a drop of 16 per cent. The number of domestic-abuse related stalking and harassment crimes has fallen as a total number but still represents approximately a third of all offences. While the number of prosecutions brought for domestic abuse related offences has increased, the conviction rate has dropped.

## Data in more detail

Year	2021-22	2022-2023	2023-24	2024-25	Nat average / total 2024-25
<b>No. Domestic abuse related recorded crimes</b>	85,459 30 incidents/ crimes per 1000 population	87,066 30 incidents/ crimes per 1000 population	79,532 27 incidents / crimes per 100 population	71,818 24 incidents / crimes per 100 population	
<b>Proportion of all crime in GM</b>	18%	18%	18%	16%	15%
<b>No. DA related stalking &amp; harassment Crimes &amp; percentage of total</b>	16,057 32% of all stalking & harassment crimes	18,604 33% of all stalking & harassment crimes	15,468 29% of all stalking & harassment crimes	13,700 32% of all stalking & harassment crimes	
<b>Prosecutions for DA-related crimes</b>	3,223 19% of all prosecutions	3,479 19% of all prosecutions	4,012 17% of all prosecutions	4,143 16% of all prosecutions	54,960 across England & Wales
<b>Convictions for DA-related crimes</b>	2,496 Conviction rate of 77%	2,647 Conviction rate of 76%	2,942 Conviction rate of 79%	2,946 Conviction rate of 71%	

## The effects of domestic abuse

Domestic abuse remains a key factor in worsening long term health, wellbeing and economic outcomes for women, and is strongly represented in women's routes into the criminal justice system.

Data gathered by three women's centres in Greater Manchester taking part in the Effective Women's Centres Partnership [Salford Foundation, The Women's Centre Stockport and POPs Oldham] using the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA) tool to assess and support more than 240 women following conviction or police contact shows:

**61% of women** had experienced abuse as a child and 56% abuse as an adult - showing the majority of women entering the criminal justice system are already victims of crime **before** they offend.

**Only a fifth (22%)** of women said they had a stable and loving relationship with somebody in their lives - showing high levels of social isolation and lack of positive relationships.

**One in four women** said a partner or family member had coerced them into committing an offence - showing the ongoing need to support women to identify and leave abusive relationships.

In Stockport, for the year March 2024 – March 2025, 950 women accessed support from The Women's Centre Stockport and of these, 70 per cent had or were experiencing domestic violence. For women accessing the Together Women Project at Salford Foundation during 2025, more than half (56%) had experienced physical abuse as an adult and a quarter (27%) had experienced sexual abuse in adulthood.

## Second Indicator

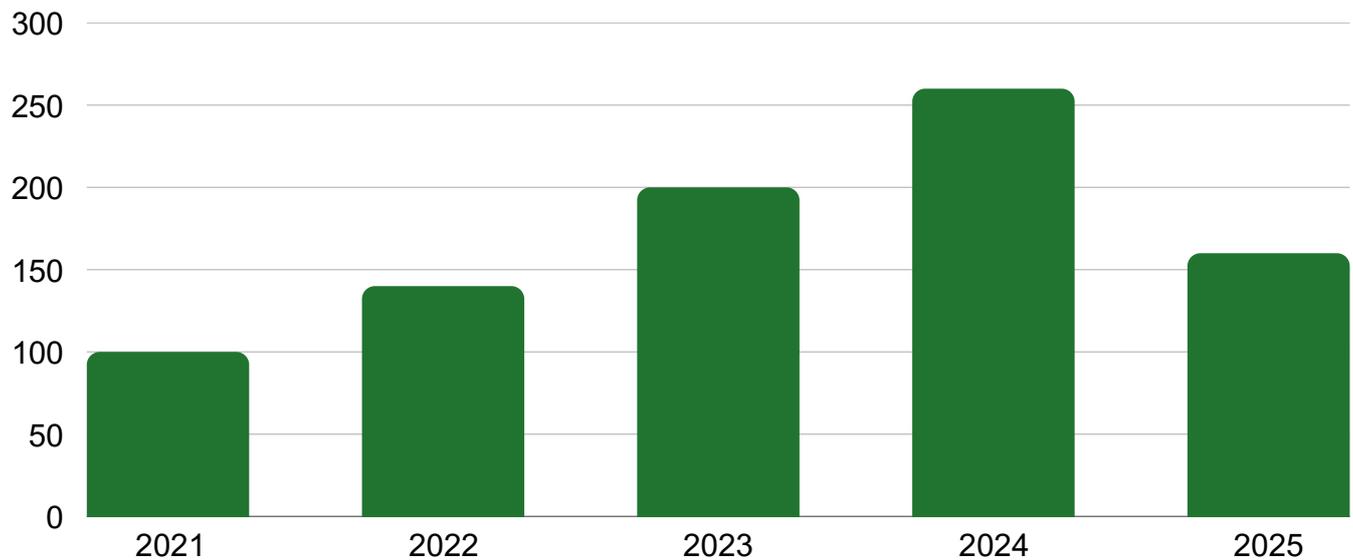
The Lotus Hub was established in 2023 as a coalition of five local front line, specialist by and for organisations, and funded by the Home Office for an initial two years. Despite the overall success of the Hub, no ongoing funding was awarded. The Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit has since taken over some of the work of the Lotus Hub. The Lotus Hub has provided us with data on the refuge provision for women with no recourse to public funds for 2024 and 2025. Prior to this data was provided by Safety4Sisters.

Two factors impacted the capacity of the Lotus Hub to provide the expected level of emergency accommodation. Firstly, the hike in the cost of living, which made the provision more expensive. Secondly, it was anticipated that the maximum stay would be 14 days. However, delays in accessing advice on immigration and again in the application process extended the length of stay to up to 60 days. Therefore, fewer women could be provided emergency accommodation within the budget set. In the latter stages of the project, the budget had been spent, and any accommodation was provided by the partner organisations from their own funding.

## Trafford Domestic Abuse Services (TDAS)

TDAS have provided an indicative data set for the past five years showing trends in reported sexual abuse and their service use by those with insecure immigration status. TDAS offer support and services to individuals and families living or working in Trafford. They also work in partnership with other domestic abuse organisations across Greater Manchester, work in schools and offer training to professionals and employers.

**Figure 1. % Women reporting sexual violence to TDAS**



TDAS experienced a slightly reduced level of demand in 2025 compared to 2024, and there were 5% fewer women reporting sexual violence over the past year.

**Figure 2. Survivors with NRPF supported by TDAS**

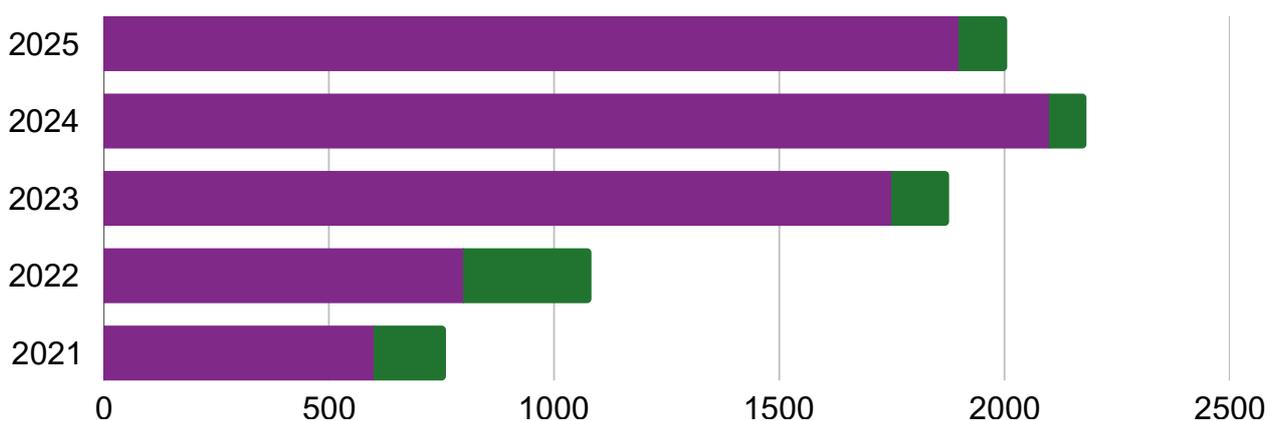


Figure 2 illustrates that the TDAS data relating to survivors with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) shows an increase in numbers (shown in green) compared to last year, when demand had fallen. This may reflect an impact of the funding for the Lotus Hub ending.

## Criminal justice and combined authority responses to VAWG

Funding for GMP to continue with Operation Soteria has been agreed until October 2026. This is a more perpetrator focussed approach, with more efficient examination of digital data. This scheme has seen an increase in number of rapes reported, and an increase from **7% to 9.1%** of resolved rape crimes resulting in charges, and a target of 11% in 2026.

Last year, we pushed to resolve the need to harmonise data collection and analysis across Greater Manchester. Through the **Women & Girls Equality Panel Violence Against Women and Girls subgroup** there is now an initiative to hold a census week for all front line domestic abuse service providers in Greater Manchester, planned to start in 2026. As well as providing data by all the protected characteristics, this census will help identify the gap between incidents of domestic abuse known to the services, and those reported to the police. We would hope to see a decline in this gap over time as police practice improves and confidence in the police increases.

One data point that we can report on is the Home Office Pilot of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) by GMP. During the first six months of the pilot from November 2024, over 200 DAPOs were secured in Bury, Wigan and Manchester boroughs. Tameside has been added to the pilot and over 500 DAPOs have now been secured, including the first police-led indefinite order. The pilot will be rolled out to all boroughs during 2026.

Plans between GMCA and GMP to introduce a local firewall - protecting against referral to the Home Office when women with insecure immigration status report their abuse to police - are coming to fruition. A formal meeting about implementation has taken place, and the policy should be finalised and implemented early in 2026.

### **Additional indicators to evaluate and monitor direction of progress, in terms of events, commitments, and outputs.**

In March 2025, GM4Women2028 hosted an engagement event between the Deputy Mayor, Kate Green, GMP's Domestic Abuse lead, Jen Tattersall, GMCA policy lead for the VAWG Strategy, Kate Smith, and 55 workers and survivors from grassroots, front line domestic abuse organisations. There was a useful and frank exchange about how policing and policy impacts in practice, and what might be done to improve this. It is important that we work to embed this level of dialogue into the policy development in GMCA to counter violence against women and girls.

The GMCA Gender Based Violence and Abuse Strategy delivery plan for 2024-2026 is being implemented, with the input of the Lived Experience Panel ensuring a victim/survivor-led approach. A hard hitting campaign to raise awareness of young men about coercive and controlling behaviour, entitled #IsThisOK: It's Not a Game Boy, was released in August 2025. The Travel Safe Live Talk digital reporting tool was launched at the end of October 2025, allowing people to report discretely and directly to police call handlers via either the Bee Network App or QR codes on buses and trams. Early use has led to the apprehension of one man who had been sexually harassing women on several bus routes.

The government published a national VAWG Strategy in December 2025, which grants funding to the GMCA to be allocated locally. This provides an opportunity to boost funding for the various grassroots organisations in Greater Manchester. The national strategy recognises the need for firewalls such as that being implemented shortly by GMP. However greater detail on how funding will be allocated locally and the role by-and-for frontline VCSE organisations will play in reaching the target to halve VAWG in a decade have yet to be announced.

In August 2025, GMCA launched their scoping report into so-called honour-based abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation in Greater Manchester. The report aimed to understand the scale of these issues, the support currently available and identify recommendations to make the region a leader in tackling these forms of VAWG and community-based offences.

Dr Maz Idris of Manchester Metropolitan University is working with others nationally to achieve a legal definition of so called Honour Based Abuse (HBA). He is also campaigning for legal remedy when coroners can identify the contribution of coercion to an individual's decision to take their own life. This could be related to HBA, stalking or domestic abuse. It is currently estimated by Professor Jane Monkton-Smith and other academics, that the number of female suicides may be up to triple that of femicides, which is one every three days.

The focus of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in November and December 2025 was on digital violence. On each of the 16 days, GM4Women2028's safety group posted on our social media about one aspect of digital violence. We also spotlighted a different front line support service each day, ensuring organisations from across the ten GMCA boroughs were represented.

On 6 December, we presented an eye catching piece of performance art at the Emmeline Pankhurst statue in central Manchester. Wearing orange ponchos and carrying A-boards, we raised awareness of different types of digital violence. We linked these to the real life abuse they might supplement or lead on to, and which could culminate in death by suicide or femicide. By sounding a bell, we noted the actual killing of a woman, by a man or family member, somewhere in the world every ten minutes. We handed out leaflets with additional information on digital violence and sources of support.



## Safety Group calls to action 2025

- 1 GM policy makers, planners and police to recognise the essential role grassroots, by-and-for and specialist organisations play in supporting survivors of VAWG** and working to rehabilitate perpetrators, and in meeting the ambitions of both regional and national strategies on reducing VAWG, and the urgent need for long term, sustainable funding faced by these organisations.
- 2 GMCA policy makers and GMP to continue engagement through direct dialogue with grassroots, front line domestic abuse support services**, particularly as they look to implement the national VAWG Strategy and to develop and implement recommendations made in the region's HBV, FM & FGM scoping report, ensuring existing expertise and 'open doors' from communities across GM feeds into policy development and implementation, and that services are funded and located where need is greatest.
- 3 GMCA to prioritise and implement policy actions focused on supporting sexual violence victims and women with no recourse to public funds experiencing domestic abuse**, and to expedite the implementation of a firewall, and to publicly and strongly push back on attempts by the Conservatives, Reform and others on the Right to link VAWG specifically to immigration and asylum policy. Policy and funding decisions must be made on the basis of the significant data showing women are most at risk from those in the home or known to them, rather than in response to populist narrative.
- 4 GMCA to ensure that a significant proportion of the funding allocated from the government's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy is distributed to GM's grassroots, front line services**, and continue to press government for a commitment to ring fenced, multi-year funding which recognises increased costs to the sector and provides full cost recovery to deliver services.