

GM4WOMEN2028

SAFETY BRIEFING NOTE 2023

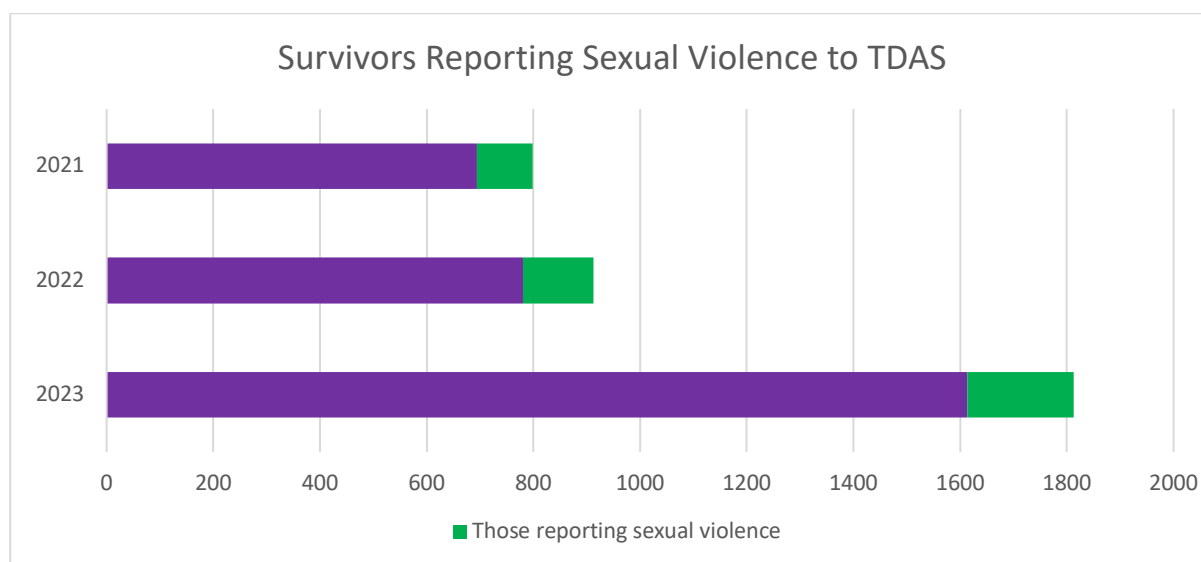
2023 Pankhurst-Fawcett GM Scorecard Safety Indicators:

- 56% of female survivors of gender-based violence and abuse in GM did not access support in relations to what happened to them.
- 99% of women survivors with no recourse to public funds have been refused access to a refuge because of their immigration status.

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.

Data for 2023

Quantitative data related to our measures is collected piecemeal by each authority and organisation and is not coherent across GM. Trafford Domestic Abuse Services (TDAS) have provided an indicative data set for the past three years showing trends in reported sexual abuse and service use by those with insecure immigration status.



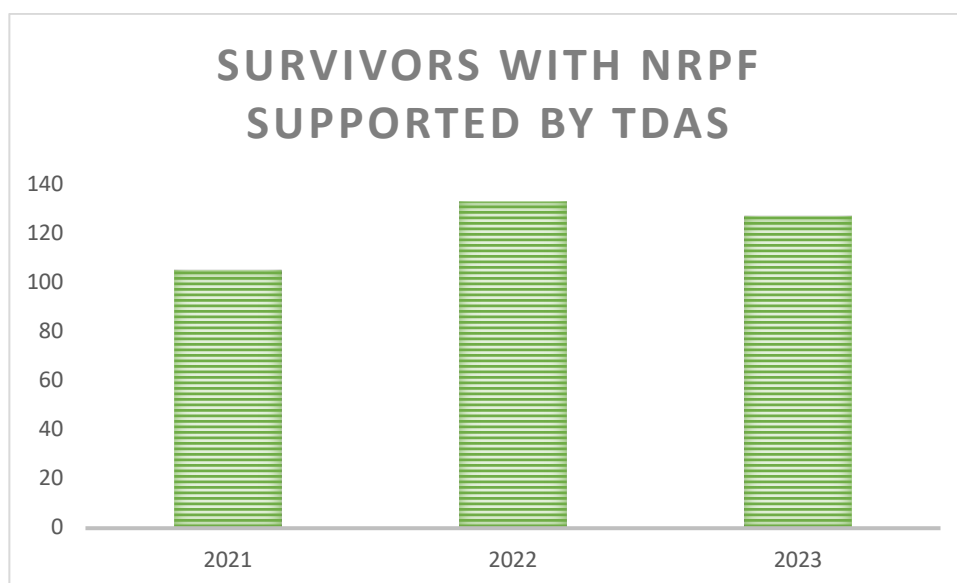
TDAS shows an overall doubling in demand for their services, with a consequent drop in the percentage of survivors reporting sexual violence from 15% in 2022 to 11% in 2023. In real



terms there has been a continued increase, with 66 additional survivors reporting sexual violence in 2023 compared with 2022.

GMP has been taking part in Operation Soteria Bluestone since June 2022, a scheme which aims to transform the policing response to rape and serious sexual offences. In the year to June 2023, GMP report increases of 4.2% in recording and 51% in summons/charges (to approximately 1 in 16). They also report a faster return of electronic devices to alleged victims².

Due to the difficulty in obtaining a fuller data set for this indicator, we have decided to swap it out. A new indicator relating to criminal justice will be introduced for 2024.



The TDAS data shows a slight downturn in women with insecure immigration status seeking support. This may be in part due to the introduction of the Lotus Hub (see below) which provides specialist support for this cohort. While the number of women with insecure immigration status declined refuge support through public funding remains at 99%, anecdotal evidence suggests that some women with no recourse to public funds are accessing refuge spaces within GM. In addition to the four beds at the hostel run by Safety 4 Sisters, they, and other local charities fund placements in other refuges. These charities supporting women with insecure immigration status do not themselves have secure, guaranteed, continuous funding.

Additional indicators we can use to evaluate and monitor direction of progress, in terms of events, commitments, and outputs.

Key in the improvement in safety for women and girls in Greater Manchester are the GMCA Gender Based Violence and Abuse strategy (GBVA), the GMP improvement plan, the Vera Baird Inquiry findings, and the upcoming Victims and Prisoners Act. The lifespans of these align sufficiently with ours to demonstrate what impact they have for safety. The progress on



these provides indicators for us to evaluate in future alongside service provision, including that for women with no recourse to public funds.

The Rights to the Streets project has held various events including bystander training and women's self-defence as well as sessions to disseminate their findings. Policy development has been influenced by their interactive legislative theatre event. A comprehensive look at safety in GM was provided in the mini conference and exhibition showcasing three projects.

GMCA has gained White Ribbon Status and has produced more social media content under the #IsThisOK banner. The enquiry into the Rochdale child sexual abuse scandal has been completed and reported in January. The Mayor commissioned an inquiry by Dame Vera Baird in response to media coverage of allegations of mistreatment in police custody by three women. The inquiry in fact covers the experiences of twelve individuals and will be published in February 2024. The GBVA delivery plan is due to be published in April 2024.

Safety4Sisters have developed training for GMP around the experience of women with no recourse to public funds and domestic abuse. This has yet to be delivered. Early uptake of this training is essential. Neither the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 nor the upcoming Victims and Prisoners Act contains a firewall protecting reporting to the Home Office when these women report their abuse to police. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has reported that 'there is not a single police force where migrant victims are treated as victims first and foremost' and every force, including GMP, had shared data with the Home Office³. Thus, the most marginalised of women dare not report their abuse to the police.

The Lotus Hub, a specialist service for ethnically minoritized women experiencing gender-based violence within the Greater Manchester area, was launched in November 2023 with a grant of £680,000 from the Home Office. The Hub is a coalition of five local organisations offering specialist support⁴.

The Violence Against Women and Girls subgroup of the GMCA Women and Girls' Equality Panel is keen to see an increase the promotion of education to support better attitudes and behaviour towards women and girls in primary schools. This could potentially build on the foundation provided by the early years Think Equal programme⁵, and other local education initiatives in GM.

- 1 [Scorecard – GM4Women 2028](#)
- 2 [GMP showcases ongoing transformation of response to rape and other sexual offences | Greater Manchester Police](#)
- 3 [Police report victims of domestic abuse to Immigration Enforcement, 'empowering abusers' - Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#)
- 4 [The Launch of the new DVA service – The Lotus Hub - End The Fear](#)
- 5 [Think Equal - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

Safety Group calls to action



www.gm4women2028.org
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1. GM policy makers, planners, and police to continue ensuring that the safety of women and girls is designed into the planning and operation of our streets, public spaces, parks and public transport. In particular, develop a focus on countering the misogynist messaging from social media influencers and pornography to reduce their adverse impact on sexual violence and young women's health.
2. 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 implement the training for GMP agreed with and commissioned from Safety4Sisters.

Author

Dee Sherman

To contact the authors or to join the safety group contact: gm4women2028@gmail.com



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