

Equality Impact Assessment

Directorate: Policy, Performance, Partnership and Communication
Date: July 2008

Business Unit: Equalities and Diversity

Title (of the policy/practice/strategy):
Haringey Domestic Violence and Gender Abuse Strategy

The main aim of this EIA is to assess the likely impact of the strategy and to help establish if there is any significant disproportionality in terms of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or belief or age.

This EIA mainly relies on data provided by Hearthstone, Haringey's domestic violence advice and support centre. Efforts have been made to employ other data such as the use of Haringey's website domestic violence pages and statistics provided by the Poppy Project and the Metropolitan Police Service's Violent Crime Directorate. The data does not provide information on: Religion or Belief; Sexuality. This has been noted as an inadequacy in monitoring systems. ***In addition the information in tables below that has been extracted from the Police's data using CRIS (Crime Recording Information System) employs different categories than those used by other agencies.***

1. The aims of the policy/practice/strategy:

Overall aim is to reduce Domestic Violence and Gender Abuse in Haringey
The 4 key strategic priorities are:

- Improve the support and safety of those who experience or who are threatened by Domestic Violence and Gender Based violence
- Hold abusers accountable
- Reduce the tolerance of Domestic Violence and Gender Based violence in our communities
- Increase children and young people's safety

2. List any other policy/practice/strategies that are likely to have an impact or are relevant to this impact assessment.

- Haringey Council Plan
- Haringey Community Strategy
- Haringey Safer Communities Strategy
- Changing Lives; The Haringey Children and Young

- People's Plan
- Haringey Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
- The Haringey Housing Strategy
- Haringey Homelessness Strategy
- The Supporting People Strategy
- Crime Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour Information Sharing Protocol
- Haringey Alcohol Strategy, 2008 – 2011

3. Evidence of consultation with staff, community groups or stakeholders.

Consultation workshops at Domestic Violence Stakeholders Conference June 2007, November 2007,

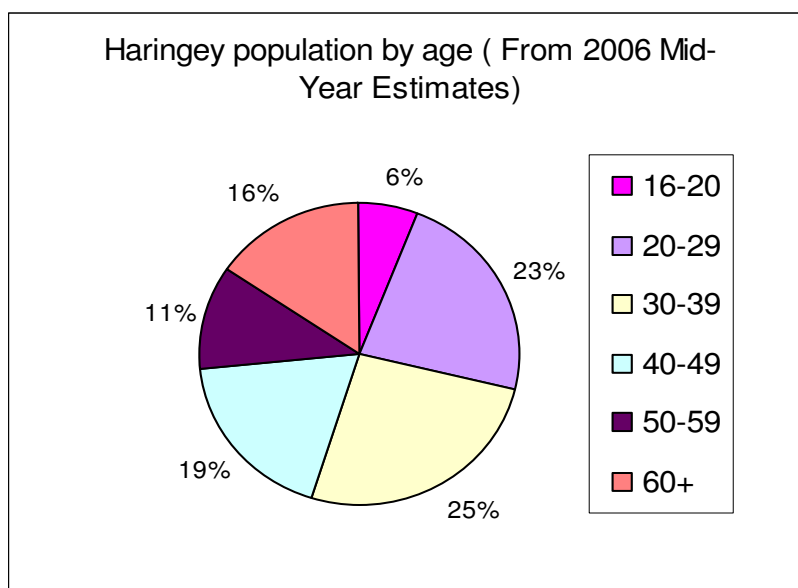
Expert Users Group minutes

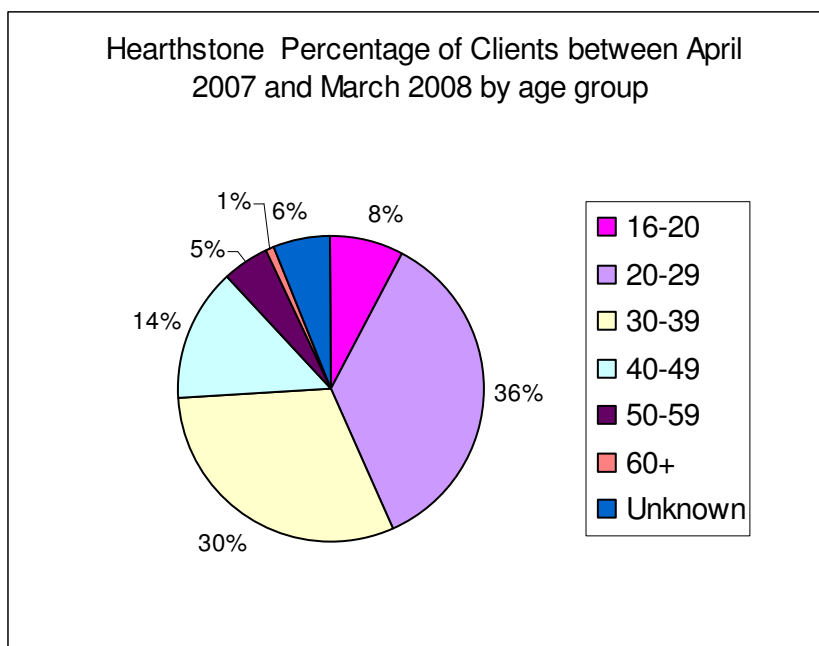
Domestic Violence Forum Meeting February 2008, May 2008

Domestic Violence Partnership Board Meeting, January 2008, April 2008 July 2008

4. Assessment of likely positive or negative impact on:

AGE





(N.B. Hearthstone is Haringey's Domestic Violence advice and support centre.)

The age group most affected by domestic violence in Haringey is 20 – 29 years, representing 41.5% of Hearthstone's clients between 2004 and 2007. Hearthstone statistics for women show that in 2007-2008 of the 1263 clients, 452 were aged 20 – 29, representing 35.8 % of the total.

Domestic violence does affect women of all ages with 2% of clients being 60+ years. In 2007 – 8, 13 women over 60 years visited Hearthstone; 452 were between 20 and 29 years

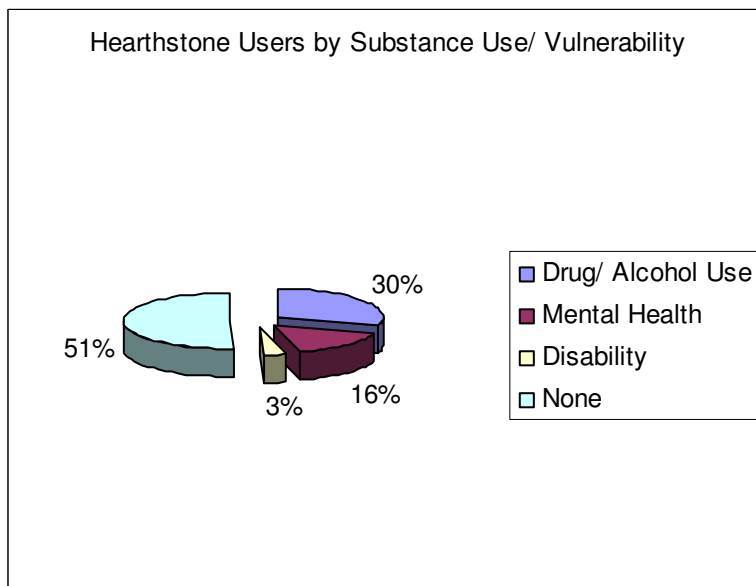
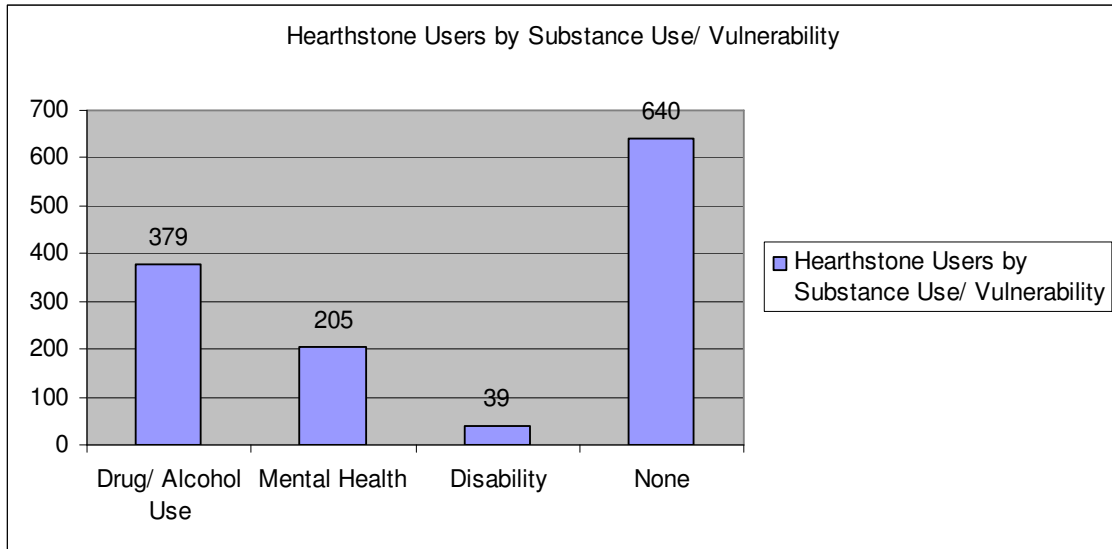
The 2006 Mid Year Estimates for Haringey's population of women aged 20 – 29 are 20,492 which represents 18.19% of the total female population of Haringey. (Produced by the Office of National Statistics)

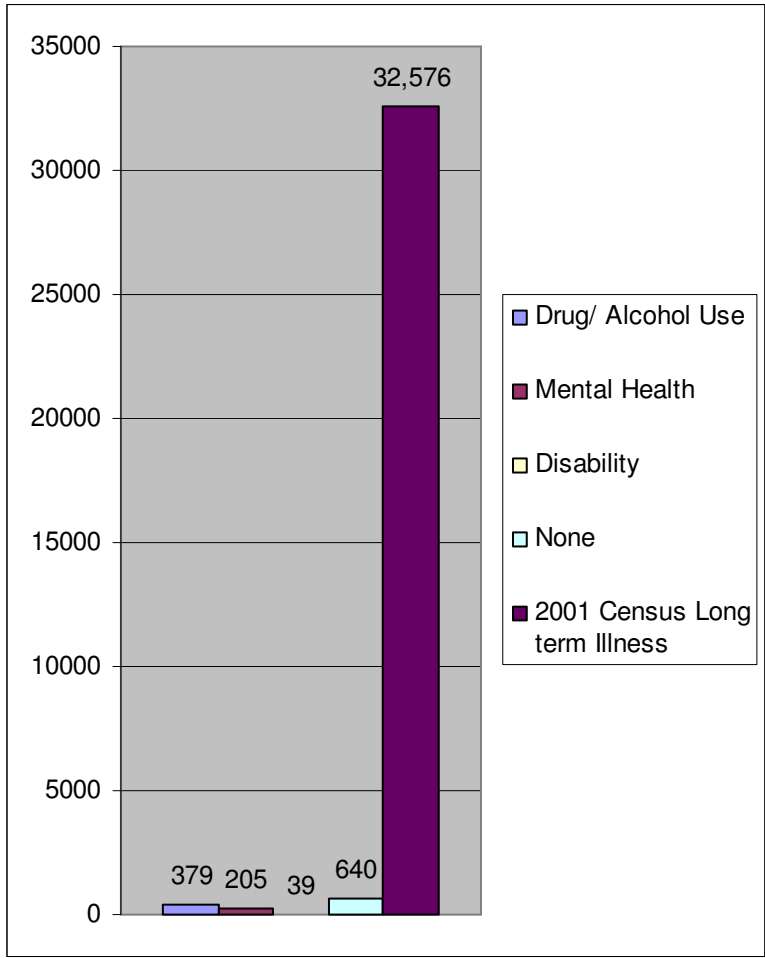
Hearthstone Service User Age Group

YTD April 2007-Mar 2008	0-20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Unknown
No 1263	97	452	383	181	61	13	76
%	7.7	35.8	30.3	14.3	4.8	1	6

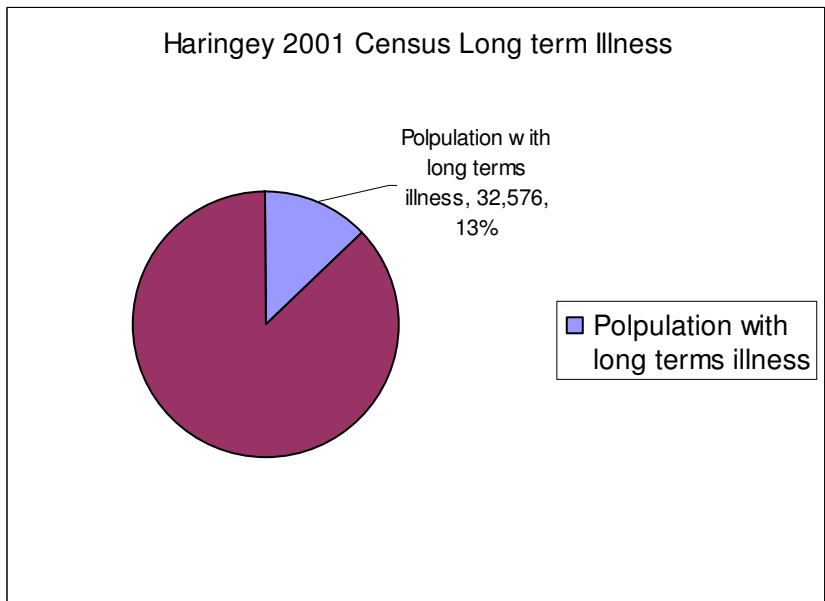
DISABILITY

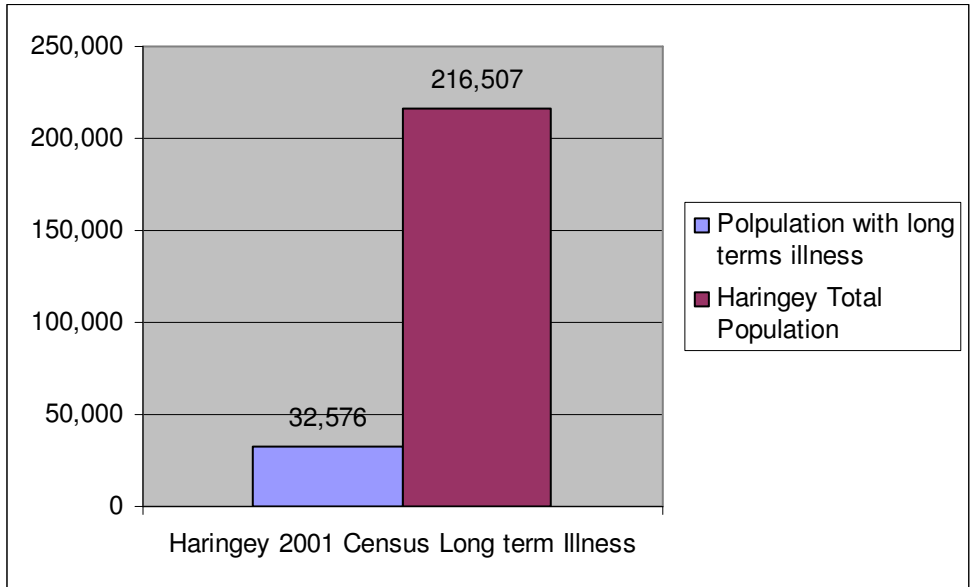
The following tables demonstrate that disabled people are currently under-represented at Hearthstone.





2001 Haringey Census data for people who have a long-term illness





The available data for the Haringey population only allow limited comparisons to be made with those for Heathstone because the nearest comparable Census category to 'Disability' is 'a limiting long-term illness.

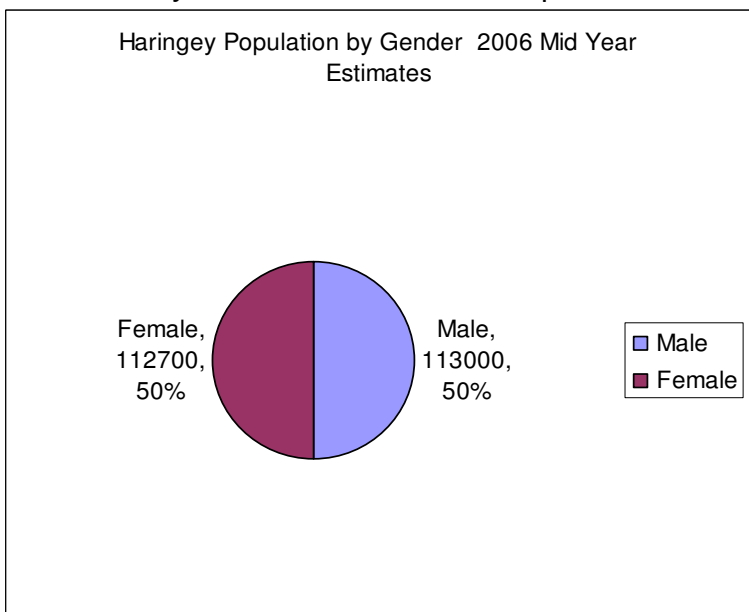
However, Haringey residents who have a long term illness represent a considerable portion of the population and this is clearly not reflected in the Heathstone service-user group.

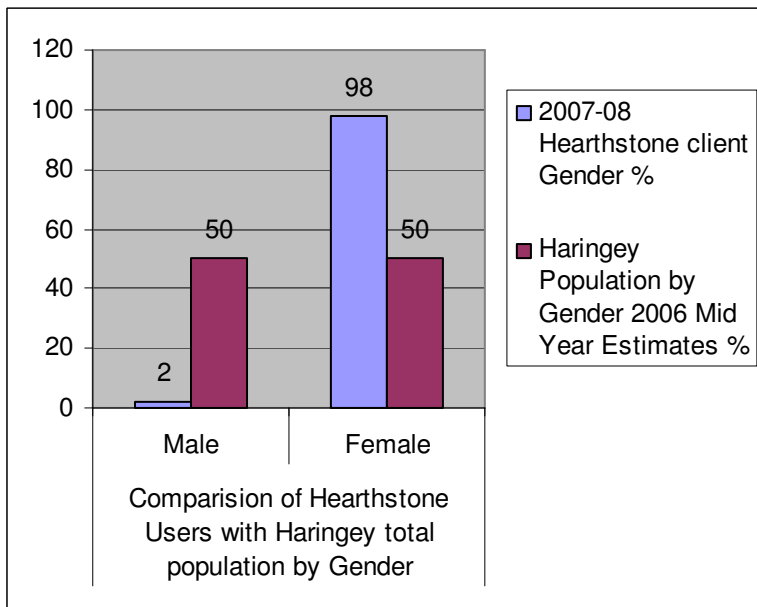
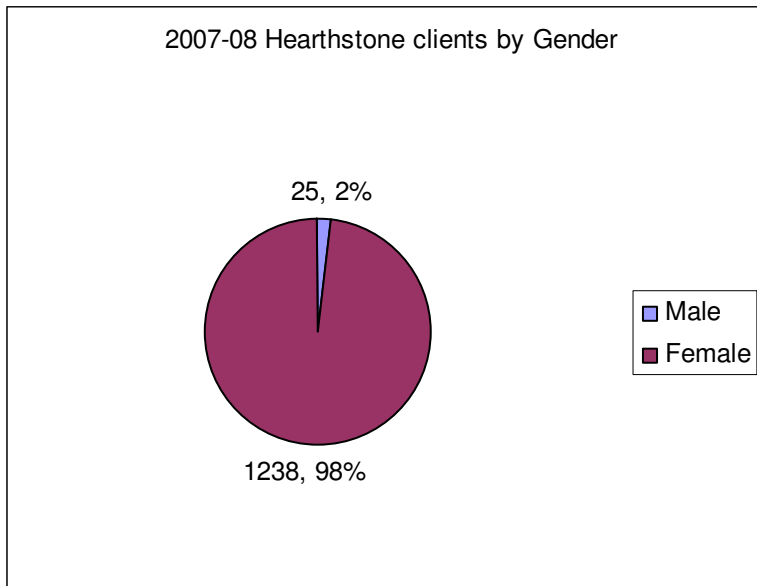
However, Mental Health problems are considered and defined as a Disability, therefore they may well come under the 'long-term illness' counted within the census.

GENDER

This strategy should have a positive impact on women in the borough because they are most likely to experience Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence.

There may be a negative impact on women who have no recourse to public funds because they have no access to most public services.



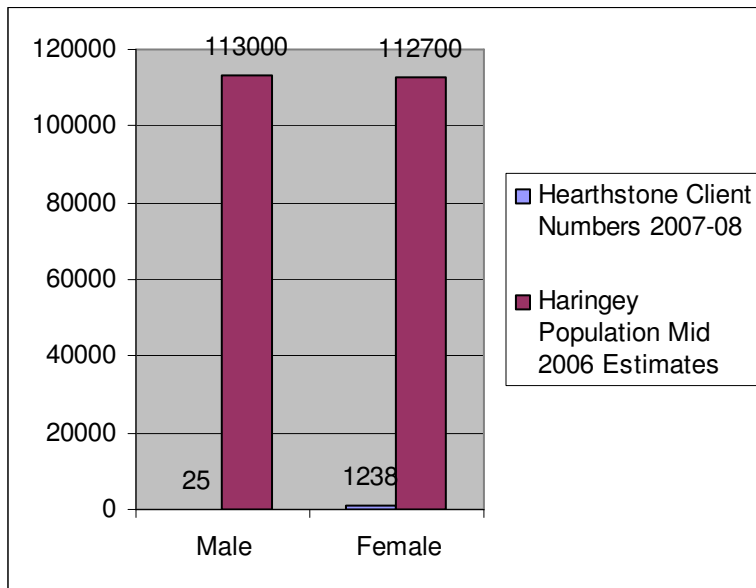


Hearthstone statistics show that 98% per cent of Domestic Violence survivors are women. Haringey Metropolitan Police Service Community Safety Unit statistics show that 99% of the 3028 reported incidents survivors reporting Domestic Violence to the police are women. Of these, the age group 20- 29 is the most heavily represented.

This figure reveals a clear disproportionality in the representation of women aged 20 -29 as survivors of Domestic Violence.

It may show that:

- women of this age are more inclined to report Domestic Violence
- women of this age are more likely to be at risk of Domestic Violence because a high percentage of Domestic Violence begins in pregnancy
- there is a greater acceptability and tolerance of violence among young people



The Census 2001 show that the female population of Haringey is 112,841, representing 52.12% percent of the total population (216,507)
 The 2006 Mid Year Estimates for Haringey's total population is 225,700, with a population of 91,003 females over 15 years.

For example, the most recent British Crime Survey (BCS) found that in the year prior to interview, there were an estimated 12.9 million incidents of domestic violence acts (nonsexual threats or force) against women and 2.5 million against men in England and Wales. Moreover, while the commonly cited figures of domestic violence affecting one in four women and one in six men might suggest a degree of parity, this conceals that 47 per cent of male survivors experienced a single incident with a mean average of seven incidents per victim compared with only 28 per cent of female survivors experiencing a single incident with a mean average of 20 incidents per victim.

Domestic Violence was the only category of violence for which the risks for women (0.6%) were higher than for men (0.3%) ('Crime in England and Wales 2006/7', Ed. Chris Kershaw and Alison Walker).

Gender *does* play a role in domestic violence. This does not mean all survivors are female and all abusers male. What it does mean is that the gender of both victim and offender influences the behaviours of both.

For example, women survivors are more likely to be injured, more likely to be frightened, more likely to be repeatedly abused and more likely to be murdered. Male survivors may be less likely to access existing services, often fearing ridicule should they disclose abuse at the hands of a woman.

Gender also influences the type of abuse. Male perpetrators are far more likely than female abusers to abuse post-separation. Indeed this is the most common high-risk situation for female survivors.

'Every year, since 1991, on average of 97 women have been killed by a current or former partner (a total of 42 per cent of all women killed). On average 28 men have been killed annually by a current or former partner which amounts to 7 per cent of all men murdered. In an analysis of homicide data from 1985 to 1994 in Scotland, England and Wales it was concluded that one in five of male partner homicides were by gay partners but it was 'quite rare; for homicides of partners in lesbian relationships'⁴⁰.

It is sometimes claimed that male domestic violence survivors have no services. This is untrue. Although refuge projects generally provide services only to women and their children, almost all other services are available to both genders. Additionally, it should be noted that capacity limitations mean that only approximately 15 per cent of those homeless due to domestic violence are accommodated in refuges. All other housing options are available irrespective of gender. Since, with this one exception, very few domestic violence services are gender or sexuality specific, the proposals to improve service provision will, in the main, result in service improvements for genders, all sexualities and all familial relationships.

The Dyn Report states the low numbers of men reporting domestic violence "is likely to reflect the difficulty of engaging men in any social care activity (largely due to the impact of socialization on help-seeking activities); the limited avenues through which to access men; and the differences in the type and severity of abuse that heterosexual men appear to experience from their female perpetrators".

(The Dyn Project: Supporting Men Experiencing Domestic Abuse .Final Evaluation Report. Amanda L Robinson and James Rowlands, Cardiff, 2006)

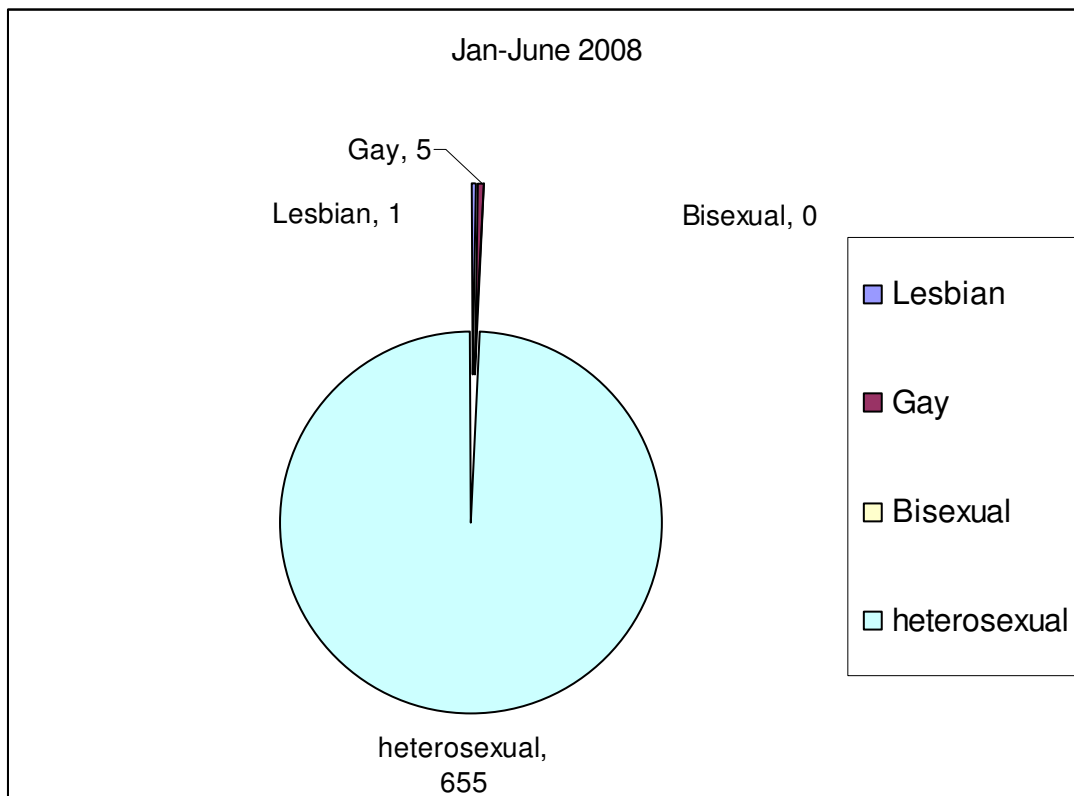
SEXUALITY

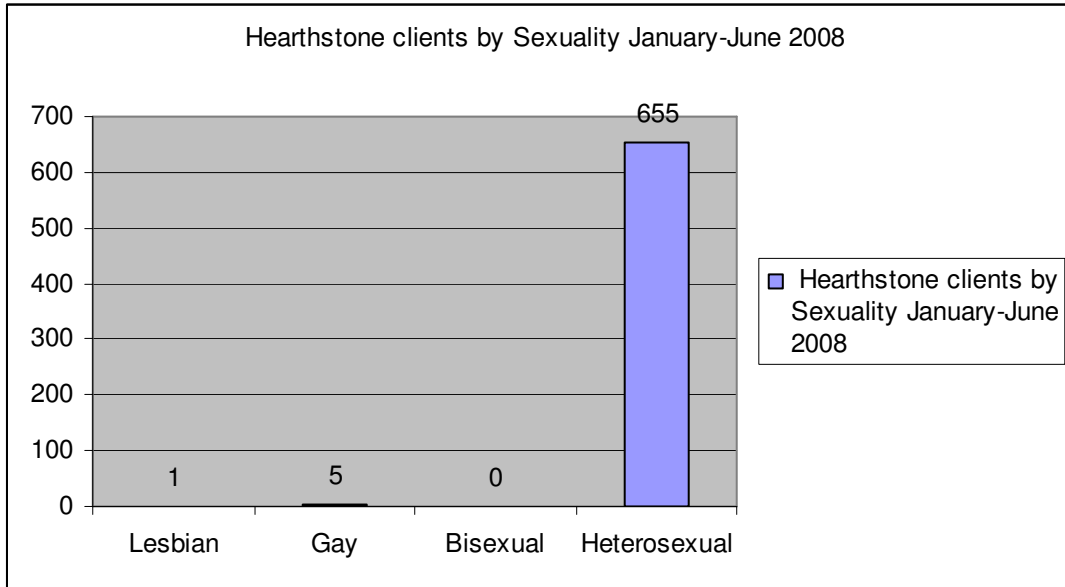
The following tables clearly demonstrate disproportionality between Haringey population statistics for lesbian, gay and bisexual people and those using Hearthstone.

However, it must be emphasised that:

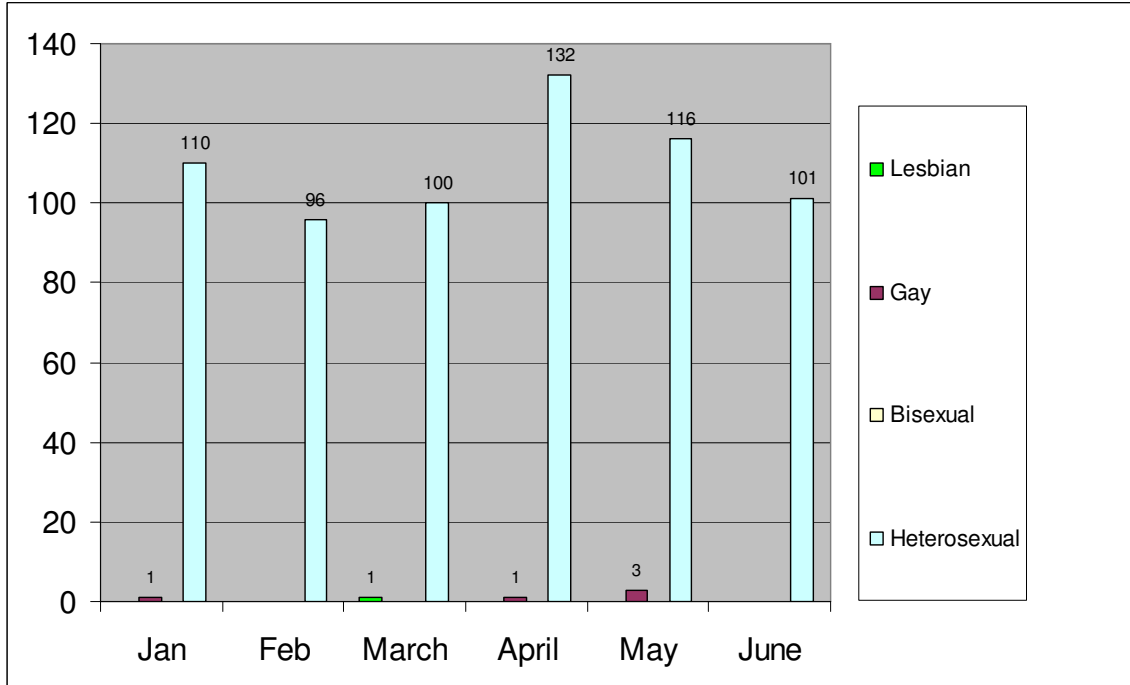
- Domestic Violence also occurs in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and bi-sexual communities
- Heterosexual men can also be abused by heterosexual females
- Public bodies must give proper consideration to all individuals' human rights and investigate any complaint accordingly .

Actions to address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors of Domestic Violence are outlined in Section 7



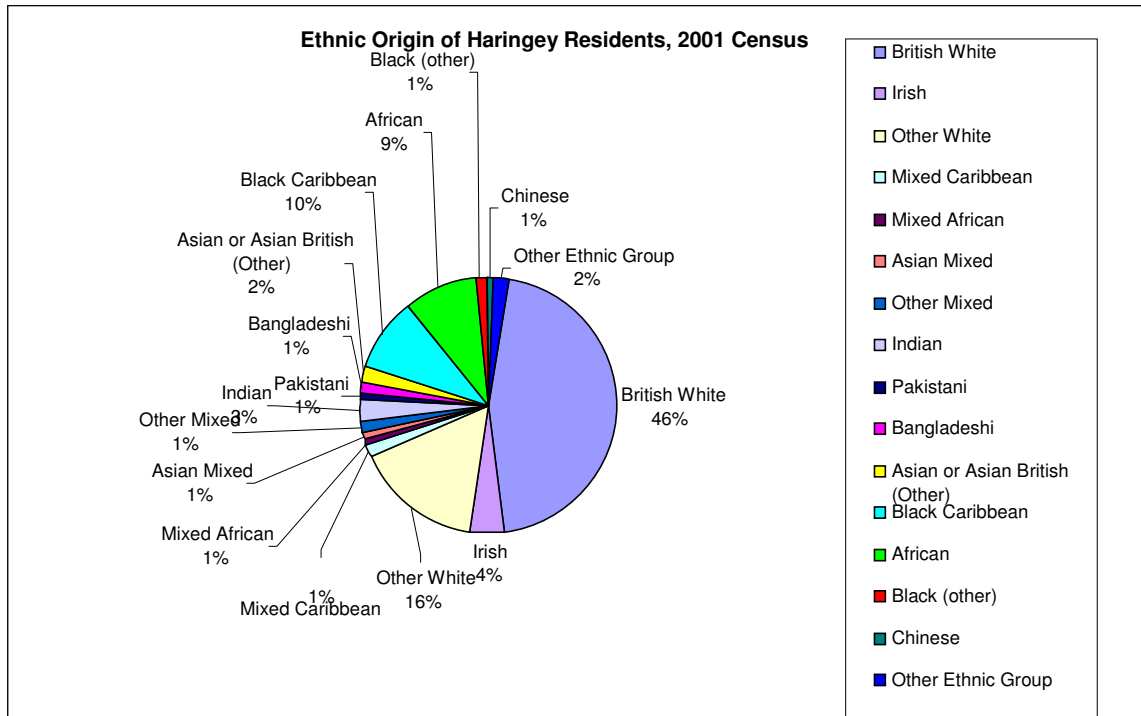


Year 2008	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual	Heterosexual
Jan	0	1	0	110
Feb	0	0	0	96
March	1	0	0	100
April	0	1	0	132
May	0	3	0	116
June	0	0	0	101

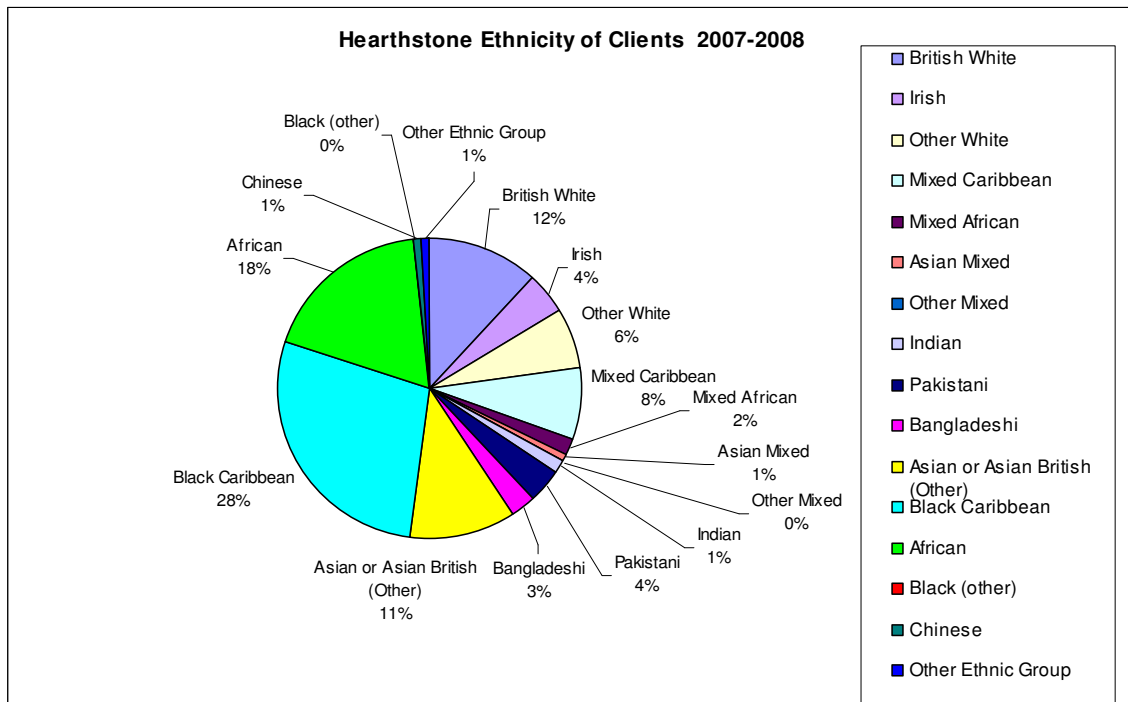


RACE

Ethnic origin of Haringey residents, 2001 Census



Ethnic origin of Heathstone Clients, 2007-2008



In 2005/06 the police recorded 3662 Domestic Violence incidents in Haringey which resulted in 2139 Domestic Violence offences. Domestic Violence (DV) constitutes 30 per cent of all violent crime in Haringey, compared to the national Domestic Violence statistic of 15 per cent of violent crime. The levels indicate that it is a serious issue that Haringey must

play its part in addressing. On average there are 81 cases of rape reported in Haringey each year, in nearly all rape cases the victim knows the perpetrator. Communities such as the Turkish community and the Somali community provide anecdotal evidence for concerning levels of domestic violence but this is not reflected in official crime data. However, as mentioned above analysis of Haringey Council's domestic violence web pages demonstrates that domestic violence information is being accessed by people from these communities. For example the Turkish translation of I Shall Survive, our domestic violence handbook was downloaded 4,338 in 2007. Some of the measures to address this in the strategy are outreach initiatives and looking at how more information, advice and support can be provided electronically. The use of translations and the provision of interpreters should continue to be promoted as an incentive for people to come forward and report domestic violence and gender abuse. Under-reporting or conversely, a disproportionately high number of incidents in a particular group could be linked to a tolerance of domestic violence and gender abuse. The proposed attitudinal survey should assist in gauging community's sense of responsibility for addressing domestic violence.

In addition to traditional sources for statistical information on Domestic Violence crimes we have looked at other ways of identifying trends and equality-related issues of under/over representation by certain groups.

For example, the Domestic Violence Partnership Board commissioned the translation of Domestic Violence in the top community languages. The Council determines these languages on the basis of the number of requests for translations and interpreters for each language to the Council's Translation and Interpreting Services unit. This unit provided the following information on the language versions of Domestic Violence pages on Haringey's website.

Haringey website domestic violence pages
Number of visits 2007/8

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/domestic_violence.htm
1,820 visits - 2,060 views

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/domestic_violence/hearthstone.htm
1,756 visits - 1,947 views

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/domestic_violence/domesticviolencestrategy.htm
1,356 visits - 1,538 views

What's Love got to do with it?
1381 hits.

www.haringey.gov.uk/i_shall_survive_-_turkish_version.pdf
4,338

www.haringey.gov.uk/i_shall_survive_-_english_version.pdf
2,220

www.haringey.gov.uk/i_shall_survive_-_albanian_version.pdf
1,926

www.haringey.gov.uk/i_shall_survive_-_somal_i_version.pdf
918

www.haringey.gov.uk/i_shall_survive_-_kurdish_version.pdf
648

www.haringey.gov.uk/i_shall_survive_-_french_version.pdf
618

www.haringey.gov.uk/i_shall_survive_-_bengali_version.pdf
420

If we take one group as an example, the **Somali** community, it is useful to compare the reported incidents of crime (57 reported incidents of Domestic Violence) with the population figures for that group (2194 - according to the 2001 Census there are 2194 residents of Haringey born in Somalia) and with the statistics above for the number of downloads of the Somali version of I Shall Survive (918), there is evidence of disproportionality.

Actions need to be taken to improve the reporting of Domestic Violence by Somali people, to increase their confidence in the Criminal Justice System and to ensure equality of access to services. Community awareness days will be held to increase awareness of services, rights and to highlight particular issues/obstacles effecting Somali people who experience Domestic and Gender Based Violence.

Turkish, Somali, and Somali Domestic Violence survivors in Haringey

Crime analysis report

The following crime analysis report was commissioned by the Domestic Violence Partnership Board to provide information about 3 particular communities as part of an initiative to target hard to reach groups experiencing Domestic Violence in Haringey. This report was compiled by a Haringey Council crime analyst.

Please note, the information below is taken from Police CRIS (Police Crime Recording Information System) data and employs different categories than those used by other agencies.

There were 1,144 Domestic Violence survivors, recorded by the Police, the vast majority (882 or 77%) of which had no nationality recorded (blank entry). *This major gap seriously compromises analysis as it is unknown how many Somalian/Turkish/Cypriot survivors might be in this unknown group as well as considerably reducing the number of Domestic Violence survivors available for analysis.*

Of the remaining 262 Domestic Violence survivors where a nationality was recorded, there were 16 survivors or 6.1% of the total, three from Cyprus 3 (1.1%) and one Somalian (0.4%). Looking at the ratio for each nationality i.e. the percentage of all survivors who suffer domestic violence, Turkish victim's rank highest at 5.6%. Cypriot

and Somalian Domestic Violence survivors showed smaller ratios of 3.4% and 1.8% respectively despite having significantly less survivors than Turkish nationals (see table below). Overall no disproportionality within the Somalian/Turkish/Cypriot survivors was apparent; that is Domestic Violence survivors as a percentage of all Violence against the Person¹ was 28% compared to 26% for all survivors

		Domestic Violence Survivors			
Nationality	Total	% Total	All survivors	Ratio	
TURKEY	16	6.11%	286	5.6%	
CYPRUS	3	1.15%	87	3.4%	
SOMALIA	1	0.38%	57	1.8%	

Half of the 20 Domestic Violence offences suffered by Somalian/Turkish/Cypriot survivors were for ABH (8 of which were Turkish survivors) similar to the percentage for all women. *It should be noted that comparisons of this type are hindered considerably by the small actual numbers of Somalian/Turkish/Cypriot Domestic Violence survivors and the incomplete data quality which affects the validity of any findings based on victim's data.* All but one of the 20 Somalian/Turkish/Cypriot Domestic Violence survivors were female and 11 were aged between 18-33 years of age

5. Can the negative impact be justified, if yes please detail.

The negative impact on survivors of Domestic Violence who have no recourse to public funds is caused by national policy beyond the remit of this strategy.

In 2002 the government introduced the 'domestic violence rule' in immigration law, which states that if a person married or living with a settled partner can provide specific evidence to demonstrate that she/he is a victim of domestic violence and meet other conditions, she/he can remain in the UK indefinitely. But for a significant number of women, the existence of the 'no recourse to public funds' requirement in immigration and welfare law, prevents them from making use of the domestic violence rule because they cannot access safe housing or benefits to escape domestic violence. The result is that they are faced with a stark choice, leave and face destitution or stay and risk their lives.

The 'no recourse' requirement bars anyone entering the UK on the basis of marriage from relying on public housing or benefits until their immigration position is regularised.

6. Consideration of alternative measures to reduce any adverse impact.

Targeting central government on the inequitable treatment of women who have no recourse to public funds and are therefore excluded from most domestic violence support services.

The Domestic Violence Partnership Board will produce a leaflet and web based information for professionals on supporting survivors of Domestic and Gender Based Violence who have no recourse to public funds. This will include information on where to sign-post people to for support and advice.

7. Identify any further action that needs to be taken.

Ensure that the key elements are incorporated into your Business Plans and any training needs in your People Plan.

Actions we are going to undertake to address imbalances and inequalities in access to services:

- More awareness raising among potential survivors who are aged 60 years and over.
- Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence initiatives targeting disabled people such as more training to agencies who support disabled people and awareness raising events at locations such as day centres.
- Equalities monitoring training to all Domestic Violence service providers
- Specialist training on Domestic Violence in same sex relationships
- More outreach to hard to reach communities. For example, Irish Travellers; Somali people; Turkish people; male victims of Domestic Violence.
- Increase access to Domestic Violence services and encourage reporting by Lesbians, Gay men, Bi-sexual and Transgender people
- Increase reporting of Domestic and Gender Based Violence by disabled people
- Continue to provide web-based Domestic and Gender based Violence information in community languages. In addition to the languages already available (i.e. Albanian, Bengali, Chinese Cantonese, Chinese Mandarin, French, Greek, Gujarati, Kurdish-Kurmanci, Kurdish-Sorani, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Somali, Turkish and Urdu) we will work with the Council's Translations & Interpretation provide translations based on the requests received for a particular language.
- Work with young perpetrators of Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence.
- Information on supporting survivors who have no recourse to public funds to be published and circulated to all agencies
- Lobby Central Government on the difficulties faced by Domestic Violence survivors who have no recourse to public funds
- Implement improved monitoring systems to enable effective Equalities monitoring of the needs and requirements of these underrepresented groups: disabled people; people who profess a specific Religion or Belief; Transgender people

8. Set out the monitoring and reviewing arrangements.

The strategy will be monitored by the Domestic Violence Partnership Board through quarterly reports and feedback from appropriate agencies and groups who have responsibility for implementing aspects of the Action Plan.

The strategy will be reviewed annually by the Domestic Violence Partnership Board

9. Where is this Impact assessment to be published?

It will be included in the text of the strategy which will be published in hard copies and on Haringey's website.

This Equality Impact Assessment was carried out by:

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Approved by:

Designation:
