

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024

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North
Tyneside
Council

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1.0 Executive Summary

Introduction

This needs assessment aims to understand the nature and prevalence of domestic abuse in North Tyneside. It will be used to inform the development of North Tyneside's domestic abuse strategy and North Tyneside Council's provision and commissioning of domestic abuse services.

The Impact of Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse has a severe impact on individual victims and their families. This can be mental, emotional, physical, social and economic. The impact of domestic abuse can be exacerbated by pre-existing inequalities. There are also wider societal costs. The Home Office estimates that domestic abuse has an economic and social cost of around £81 billion in England and Wales each year.

Types of Abuse

Domestic abuse most commonly takes place in intimate partner relationships. It may also be perpetrated by family members, including Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA). Domestic abuse can involve sexual abuse and may lead to domestic abuse-related deaths.

National Context

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provided the first statutory definition of domestic abuse. The 2021 Act also imposed several statutory duties on North Tyneside Council. These relate to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within refuges and other safe accommodation.

In March 2022 the Home Office published its Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan. The Plan has four pillars: prioritising prevention, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators, and a stronger system.

Local Context

The North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) Board has primary responsibility for tackling domestic abuse in the borough. This includes developing and implementing North Tyneside's domestic abuse strategy.

North Tyneside Council commissions domestic abuse services from two main providers. Harbour Support Services supports adults and Acorns primarily supports children and young people.

There are currently 22 units of safe accommodation for domestic abuse victims in North Tyneside. This includes 14 units of refuge accommodation and eight units of dispersed accommodation. There are currently no by-and-for specialist or second-stage accommodation units for domestic

abuse victims in North Tyneside. There is also a limited amount of safe accommodation for male victims of domestic abuse as they can currently only access the eight dispersed units.

National and Local Prevalence of Domestic Abuse

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending March 2023 estimated that 2.1 million people aged 16 years and over (4.4%) experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Domestic abuse is a gendered issue. The CSEW estimated that 1.4 million women (5.7%) and 751,000 men (3.2%) experienced domestic abuse in the previous year.

Based on national prevalence rates, up to 7,613 North Tyneside residents may have experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023. This includes more than 5,000 women and over 2,500 men.

According to the CSEW, domestic abuse prevalence rates were higher among several groups:

- Those aged 16–19.
- Mixed and white ethnic groups.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) people.
- Separated, divorced and single individuals.
- Those with a long-term or temporary illness and those looking after their family and home.

- Individuals in households composed of a single person with one or more children.

The CSEW also reported that 9.8 million people aged 16 years and over had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 years. This equates to a prevalence rate of approximately one in five (20.5%). In North Tyneside, this could include up to 35,469 residents.

Domestic abuse is underreported to police. In the year ending March 2023, police in England and Wales recorded 1,453,867 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes. 889,918 of these were recorded as domestic abuse-related crimes.

Available Domestic Abuse Data

Northumbria Police recorded 5,522 domestic abuse incidents in North Tyneside in 2023/24. This was a 9.2% increase on the previous year. These domestic abuse incidents produced 3,179 victims. Around 2,314 (72.8%) were female and 862 (27.1%) were male. Between June 2021 and March 2024, few victims identified by Northumbria Police were aged over 55 or between 16 and 17.

Several data sources indicate significantly higher rates of domestic abuse incidents in North Tyneside's most deprived wards. These are the borough's

southernmost wards including Riverside, Chirton, Howdon and Wallsend.¹ Lower rates of domestic abuse are recorded in North Tyneside's least deprived wards. These are the easternmost coastal wards including St. Mary's and Monkseaton North. There may be underreporting of domestic abuse in these areas.

Between 2019/20 and 2023/24, the number of domestic abuse presentations to North Tyneside Council's Housing and Property Services increased by more than two-thirds (67.6%). An increasing number of households are now placed in emergency bed and breakfast accommodation as demand for safe accommodation outstrips supply.

Data sources also suggest a need to more effectively and proactively identify older victims of domestic abuse. Following outreach work by the Council's Housing Domestic Abuse Advisor, eight domestic abuse referrals came from North Tyneside Living (NTL) in quarter one of 2024/25. There had been zero NTL referrals in the whole of 2023/24.

The demand for many of North Tyneside's domestic abuse services is increasing. Generally, the demand for services is exceeding their capacity. In 2023/24, Harbour Support Services received 3,155 referrals in North Tyneside. This was an increase of 10.5% from 2022/23 and was 14.5% higher than the number of referrals received in 2021/22.

¹ Note that North Tyneside's ward boundaries were updated ahead of the May 2024 Council election. References are made throughout to previous ward names as available domestic abuse data corresponds to these.

Acorns received 73 referrals in quarter one of 2024/25. This was 40.4% more than in quarter one of the previous year. The high demand for domestic abuse services is evidenced by Acorns waiting lists which, as of 31 March 2024, were 3–5 months for children’s counselling and 6 months for outreach services.

Safe Accommodation Data

In 2022/23, the rate of referrals to domestic abuse safe accommodation was significantly higher in North Tyneside than in Tyne & Wear, the North East and England. The rate of bedspaces in North Tyneside was significantly lower than the national rate. However, additional bedspaces in dispersed properties have since been acquired.

Per 1,000 population, the borough’s safe accommodation supported around twice as many individuals as both Tyne and Wear and England.

In the same year, 397 individuals were supported at safe accommodation in North Tyneside. The majority were children. Slightly under half were female adults and very few were male adults. Zero trans or non-binary adults were supported at safe accommodation services in the borough.

In 2022/23, North Tyneside’s safe accommodation services supported 153 people from outside the area. This was more than in any other local authority in Tyne & Wear. Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide

accommodation-based support to all domestic abuse victims, including those who come from outside their area.

In 2022/23, 33.5% of all individuals supported at safe accommodation in North Tyneside had specialist characteristics. The largest single group had a history of mental health issues.

North Tyneside's services supported a smaller proportion of disabled individuals than the national average. The proportion of LGBTQ+ individuals supported in North Tyneside was less than half that in England. Zero ex-offenders were supported at safe accommodation in the borough compared to 1.6% nationally. Smaller proportions of individuals aged under 25 and 65 and over received support in North Tyneside than in England.

Greater proportions of individuals with drug support needs were supported in North Tyneside (6.6%) than in England (4%). This was also true of individuals with alcohol support needs (6.3% vs. 3.7%).

In 2022/23, 263 households were unable to be supported at safe accommodation services in North Tyneside. The vast majority (87.8%) of these households were unable to be supported due to capacity constraints. The borough's safe accommodation services were unable to meet the needs of a small percentage (4.2%) of the households which were unable to be supported.

In North Tyneside, domestic abuse safe accommodation services were unable to meet the needs of 11 (4.2%) households. Of these, most (72.7%) were not supported due to unmet drug support needs. Other reasons included family size and mental health support needs.

In 2024, North Tyneside Council commissioned consultants to conduct a Specialist and Supported Housing Needs Assessment. This included an estimation of the need for safe accommodation for people experiencing domestic abuse in the borough. There is an estimated need for an additional 15 units in 2024/25. This is projected to increase to 18 units by 2029/30 and 21 units by 2034/35.

Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR)

Nationally, most victims of domestic homicides are female and the vast majority of domestic homicide perpetrators are male. Most suspects are also known to the police for domestic abuse prior to the victim's death.

In North Tyneside, an analysis of DARDRs found professional curiosity to be key to the prevention of future domestic abuse-related deaths.

Feedback from Domestic Abuse Services

North Tyneside Council undertook qualitative research to further understand the need for domestic abuse services in the borough.

Feedback was sought from both service providers and service users. The following concerns were collated:

- Staff report that North Tyneside's domestic abuse services are unable to meet demand. Harbour staff remarked that they "could fill the refuge ten times over."
- Clients are increasingly presenting to domestic abuse services with multiple and enduring needs. These often relate to drugs, alcohol and mental health. It is difficult to provide these individuals with specialist support due to the complex nature of cases.
- Funding is considered an issue across the board. A funding "cliff-edge" is approaching in March 2025 and the recent change in government also created uncertainty.
- There is not enough work regarding domestic abuse in teenage relationships, older-aged victims, and the increasing number of male victims.
- Partners find it difficult to identify and engage with perpetrators in the borough. In 2023/24 there were 51 referrals directed to Harbour's perpetrator programme. This was 17.7% fewer than the previous year.

- If the domestic abuse system cannot successfully identify and respond to the number of incidents, cases and victims in North Tyneside, then more effective primary prevention is needed. Local schools have raised concerns regarding the impact of harmful online content on children and clients desire greater support for child victims in educational settings.
- While clients are generally positive regarding Harbour's services, they highlight their frustrations regarding the impact of the current housing crisis. Staff report that longer stays at the refuge are increasingly common.

Recommendations

On pages 123-124, nine recommendations are made to the DAP Board. These are based on the quantitative and qualitative research carried out as part of this needs assessment.

2.0 Glossary

BAME – Black and Minority Ethnic

CIPFA – Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

CPVA – Child to Parent Violence and Abuse

CSEW – Crime Survey for England and Wales

CSP – Community Safety Partnership

CSC – Children's Social Care

DAP – Domestic Abuse Partnership

DARDR – Domestic Abuse Related Death Review

DLUHC – Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities²

EH – Early Help

EHC – Early Help Coordination

IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

LGBTQ+ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Queer

MARAC – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

NFS – Non-fatal strangulation

² Known as the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) since July 2024.

NHS – National Health Service

NSPCC – National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

NTL – North Tyneside Living

NTRP – North Tyneside Recovery Partnership

PCC – Police and Crime Commissioner

PTSD – Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

SNTB – Safer North Tyneside Board

VAWG – Violence Against Women and Girls

VRU – Violence Reduction Unit

3.0 Introduction

This needs assessment aims to understand the nature and prevalence of domestic abuse in North Tyneside. It will be used to inform North Tyneside Council's provision and commissioning of domestic abuse services. The needs assessment will identify unmet need in the borough and allow the Council and its partners to target limited resources at certain groups and areas.

The needs assessment will:

- Review national policy regarding domestic abuse.
- Describe North Tyneside's approach to domestic abuse.
- Consider research and statistics related to national prevalence.
- Assess available data on domestic abuse in North Tyneside.
- Collate feedback from local service providers, stakeholders and experts.
- Provide a list of recommendations.

This builds on North Tyneside's 2021 Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and the Council's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024. The 2024 Needs Assessment will inform an updated and refreshed version of the Council's Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Progress Since 2021

The 2021 Needs Assessment made eleven recommendations for domestic abuse services in the borough. Seven of these recommendations focused on reviewing and improving data collection. It was also recommended that North Tyneside should:

- Use police data to target campaigns and interventions in particular geographical areas within the borough.
- Review alcohol and drugs services following the imposition of new duties by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Analyse housing demand through both a victim and perpetrator lens.
- Develop a workstream focused on understanding and supporting perpetrators.

Since 2021, progress was made towards each of these recommendations.

Data collection, monitoring and presentation has significantly improved. A process was developed by which domestic abuse-related data from North Tyneside Council and its partners is collated within a dashboard. The domestic abuse dashboard is presented to the North Tyneside DAP Board each quarter. This process is supported by a data sub-group which meets quarterly to review the data dashboard and provide accompanying narrative.

The Council works with its partners, including Northumbria Police, service providers and the National Health Service (NHS), to understand local need and identify gaps in provision. Intelligence is used to target communications and marketing at particular geographical areas and communities. The Council recently used this evidence-based approach in developing communications strategies for the DAP Board, White Ribbon accreditation, and a marketing toolkit for support services in North Tyneside.

The borough's alcohol and drugs services were reviewed following the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The North Tyneside Recovery Partnership (NTRP) worked with the Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust to ensure its practices aligned with Act's requirements. An aide-memoire was developed to support staff in responding to domestic abuse presentations. This tool helps staff adhere to local and national policies when supporting clients. Additionally, the NTRP works closely with the borough's domestic abuse services. The former submits data which are incorporated in the Council's domestic abuse dashboard.

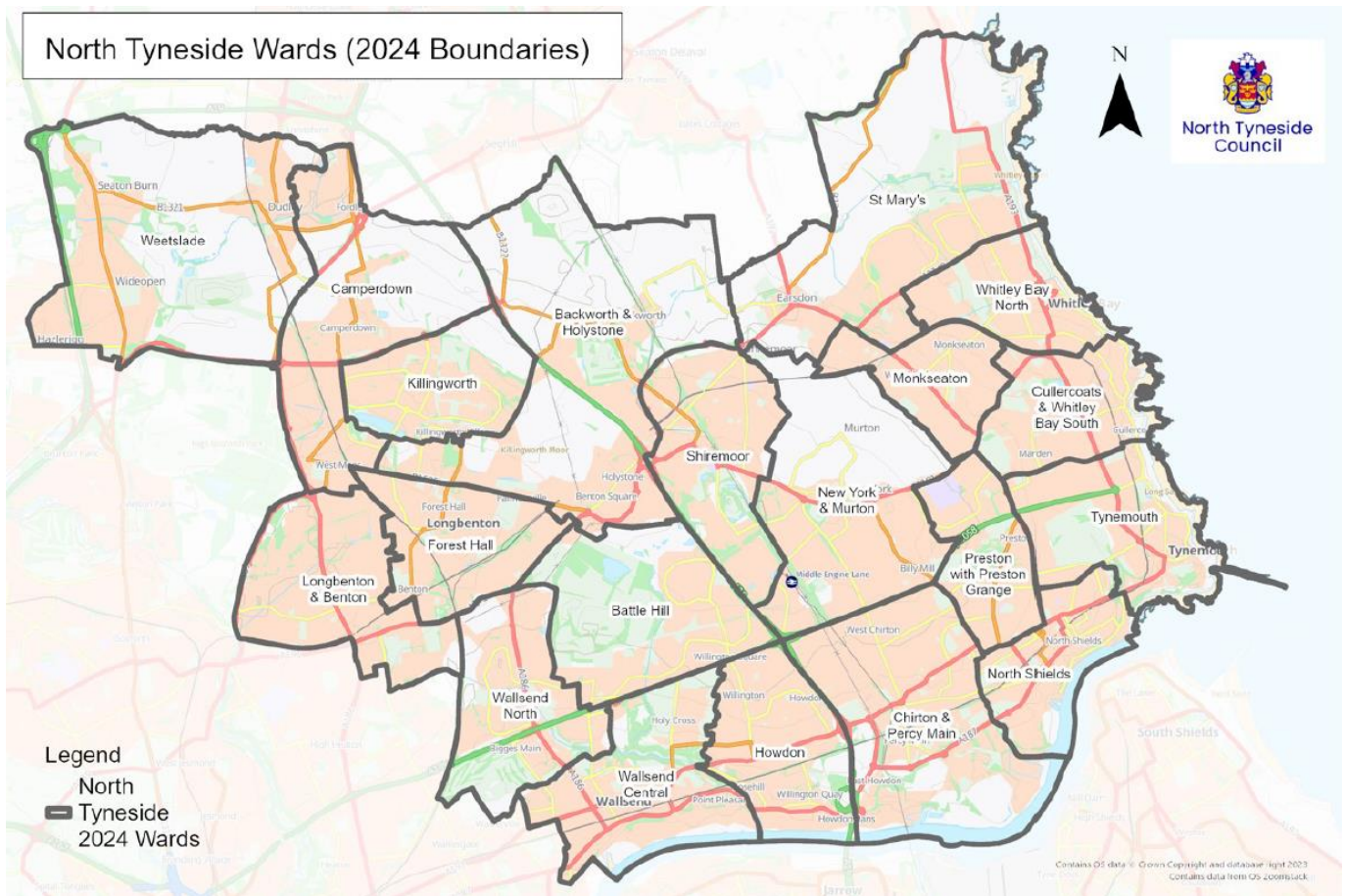
Housing demand in North Tyneside is considered through a domestic abuse lens. Improved data monitoring arrangements have been mainstreamed across the Council's Housing and Property Services. Recorded data is submitted to the domestic abuse dashboard and analysed to determine the demand for safe accommodation. In 2024, the Council commissioned consultants to complete a Specialist and

Supported Housing Needs Assessment. This included an estimation of the need for safe accommodation for people experiencing domestic abuse.

Progress has been made towards understanding and supporting perpetrators in North Tyneside. The Council now commissions Harbour Support Services to provide a Changing Behaviour service. Additional resources are provided by the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) through the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). This includes an offer to high-risk serial perpetrators involving mental health, alcohol and drugs services.

Work has recently increased awareness of domestic abuse. However, far too many victims remain hidden. Domestic abuse is an under-reported crime. Most victims are not easily identified by data sources such as police and crime statistics. This document attempts to identify those victims who are less likely to come forward or be identified by crime data. A fuller understanding of the scale and nature of domestic abuse is necessary to inform an appropriate response. Without this understanding, North Tyneside's services may only be aimed at those victims the police are aware of. This could widen existing health inequalities and leave many victims to suffer in silence.

Borough Profile



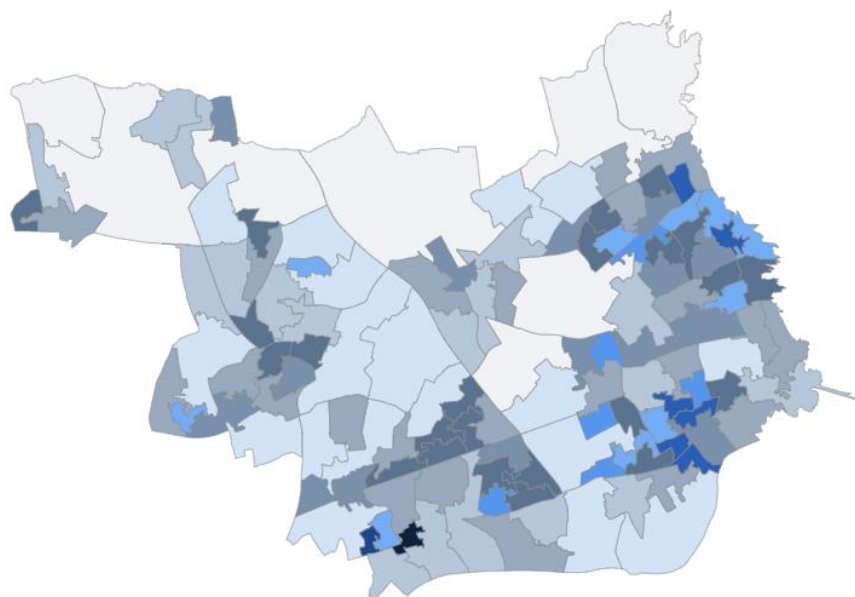
North Tyneside is one of five metropolitan boroughs within the metropolitan county of Tyne and Wear. It is bordered by Northumberland to the north and Newcastle-upon-Tyne to the west. The River Tyne forms North Tyneside's southern boundary and the North Sea coastline is on the eastern edge. North Tyneside. It covers an area of 32.7 square miles and has a population of around 210,487.

The borough is geographically and demographically diverse. There are large urban areas which are largely contiguous with the city of Newcastle-

upon-Tyne. There are also rural areas of sparsely populated farmland, particularly in the northwest of the borough.

Population density

People per Sq Km up to 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000 11000

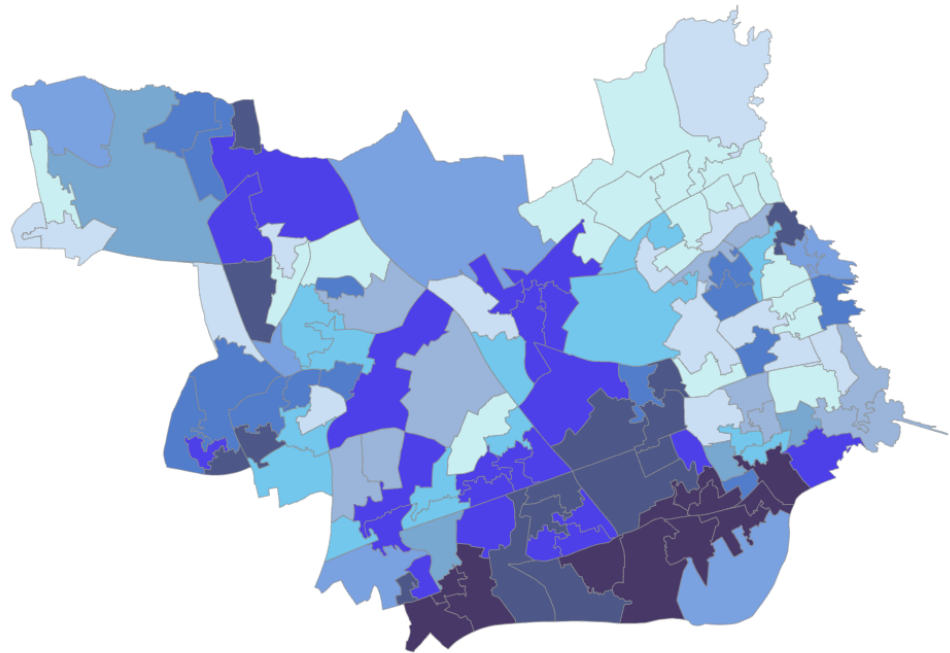


There are significant inequalities in North Tyneside. Overall, the borough ranks 85th of 316 local authorities based on income deprivation (14.4%). Based on the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, 9.3% of North Tyneside residents live in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. A further 11.8% live in the 10-20% most deprived neighbourhoods. In contrast, 13.3% of North Tyneside residents live in the 10% least deprived neighbourhoods in England. A further 10.9% live in the 10-20% least deprived neighbourhoods. The most deprived areas are located in Chirton, Riverside and Howdon where up to 34.3% of children belong to relative low-income families. Affluence is concentrated at the coast in areas like St. Mary's, Monkseaton North and Tynemouth.

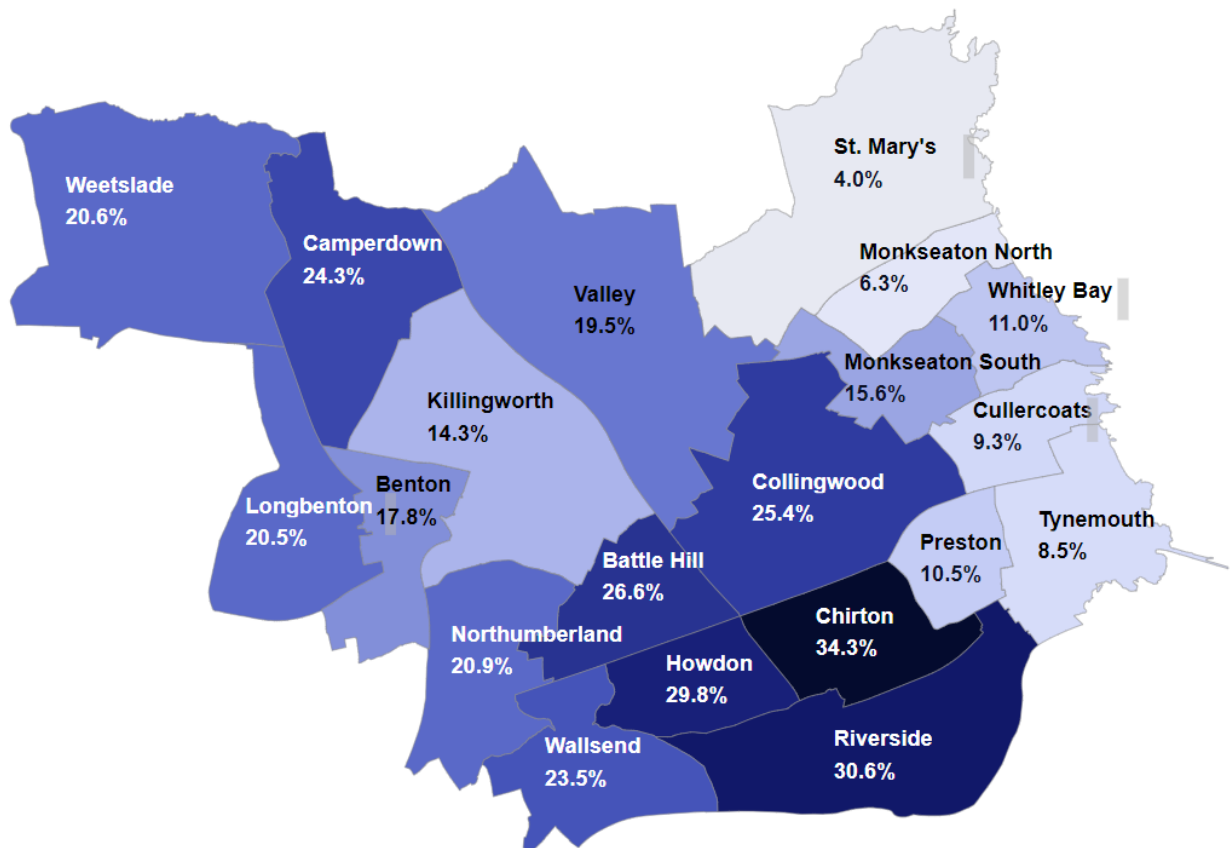
Index of Multiple Deprivation

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Decile (where 1 is in the most deprived 10% of lower super output areas in England)

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Decile ● 1 ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5 ● 6 ● 7 ● 8 ● 9 ● 10



Children in relative low income families

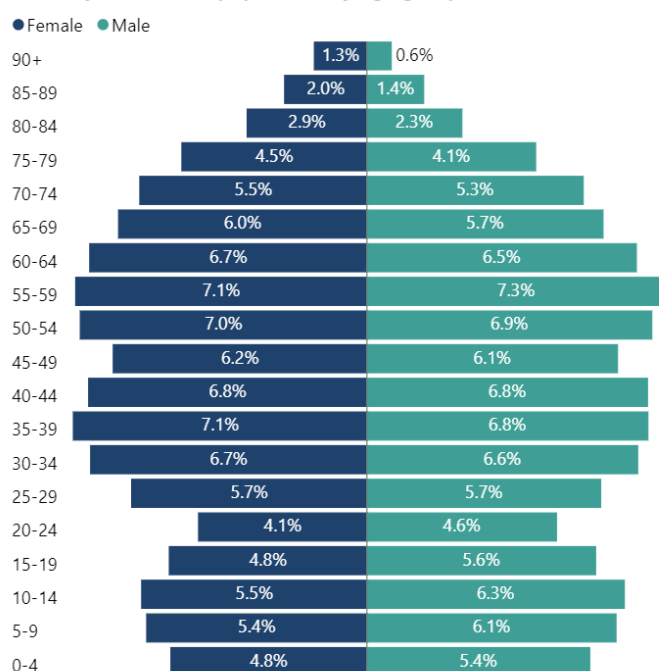


Life expectancy in North Tyneside is slightly lower than the national average for both men and women. Men in North Tyneside live for an average of 78.3 years compared to 79.4 years nationally. Women in North Tyneside live for an average of 82.2 years compared to 83.1 nationally. There are great inequalities in life expectancy within the borough. Residents in Tynemouth ward live on average eleven years longer than those in the neighbouring Riverside ward.

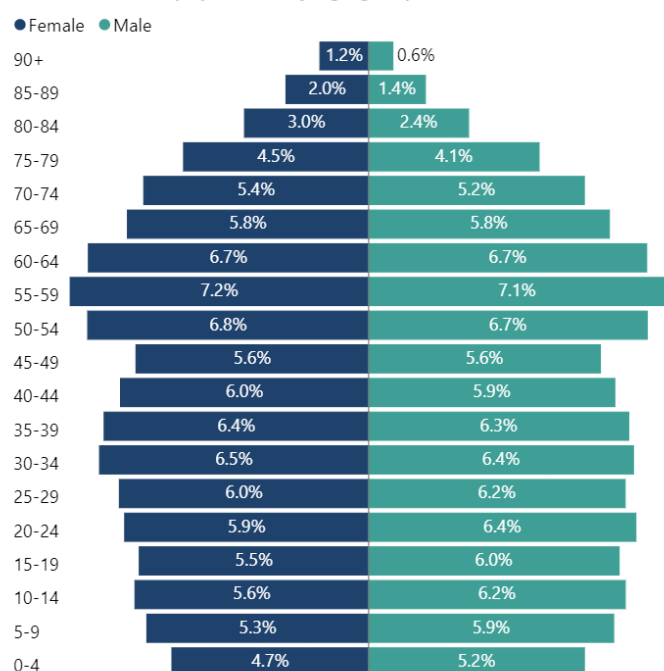
North Tyneside's unemployment rate (3.5%) is lower than the national average (3.8%). However, the borough has a higher rate of economic inactivity (22.5%) than the national average (21.1%).

North Tyneside's population is aging. The largest group is aged 55-59 (7.1% of females and 7.3% of males). North Tyneside's population pyramid is broadly similar to that of the whole North East but contains a smaller

North Tyneside total population by age group

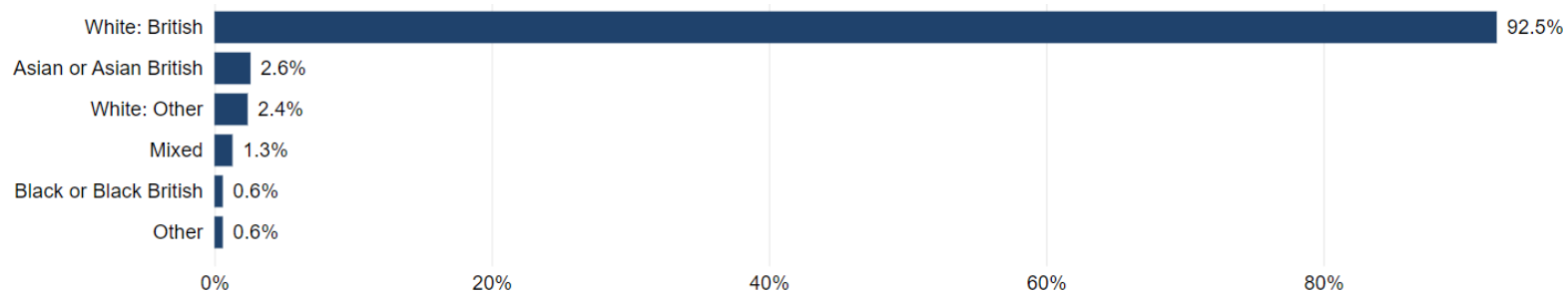


North East total population by age group



proportion of young people – particularly those aged 20–24 (4.1% female and 4.6% male vs. 5.9% female and 6.4% male). The borough's population is projected to increase by 3.8% by 2030.

North Tyneside's population is largely ethnically homogenous. 94.9% of the borough's population is white. 2.6% come from an Asian background. 0.6% are black and 1.4% are of mixed ethnic origins.



4.0 The Impact of Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse has a severe impact on individual victims and their families. This can be mental, emotional, physical, social and economic. There are also wider societal costs. The response of police, health and other service responses costs money and victims may have to take time off from paid employment and caring responsibilities. Additionally, the impact of domestic abuse can be exacerbated by pre-existing inequalities. Those with intersecting identities can face additional barriers when reporting abuse and receiving support.

The CSEW for the year ending March 2023 estimated that 2.1 million people aged 16 years and over (4.4%) experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Domestic abuse remains an underreported crime. In the same period, police recorded 1.5 million domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes. The National Centre for Domestic Violence estimates that less than a quarter of domestic abuse-related crime is reported to the police.

Domestic abuse is a gendered crime. The CSEW estimated that 1.4 million women (5.7%) and 751,000 men (3.2%) experienced domestic abuse in the previous year. In the year ending March 2023, police-recorded data show that the victim was female in 73.5% of domestic abuse-related crimes.

The impact of domestic abuse can be prolonged. Nationally, Women's Aid found in 2013 that 46.2% of women in refuges had spent between two and ten years in an abusive relationship and 17% had endured a violent

relationship for more than ten years. 40.9% of women using community-based domestic abuse services had spent between two and ten years in an abusive relationship and 24.1% had endured a violent relationship for more than ten years. Victims of domestic abuse face significant barriers when trying to escape abuse and attempting to leave an abuser is a risk factor in domestic homicides.

Inequalities

Women in poverty are more likely to experience domestic abuse. Research shows that 14% of women in poverty faced extensive violence and abuse, compared to 6% of women not in poverty.

Black and minority ethnic (BAME) victims may face additional barriers when trying to escape domestic abuse. One study found that 26% of BAME domestic abuse service users endured a violent relationship for 20 years or more. BAME victims may not report abuse to the police due to fears of the impact against their family or community, language barriers or distrust of the police. Individuals with insecure immigration status may fear that information will be shared with immigration enforcement.

Pregnant women may be more vulnerable to domestic abuse. In 2023, the NHS estimated that one in three pregnant women experience domestic abuse. Abuse often begins or escalates during pregnancy, putting both the adult victim and unborn child at risk.

Those with a long-term illness or disability are more than twice as likely (11.7%) to experience domestic abuse. Sign Health reported that deaf women are at twice the risk of being abused. The need for specialist services can also make accessing effective support more difficult.

There are many similarities between heterosexual and LGBTQ+ people's experiences of domestic abuse. However, LGBTQ+ victims may also experience abuse of power and control closely associated with having their sexuality, gender identity or gender reassignment used against them. LGBTQ+ victims can experience distinct personal and structural barriers in reporting abuse and accessing services. There may be a lack of specialist services and poor quality referral pathways to those services. Professionals can lack understanding and awareness of unique forms of coercive control targeted at sexual orientation, gender identity or gender reassignment.

Health

Domestic abuse has physical health impacts. Victims may suffer injuries such as bruises and fractures. Long-term abuse can lead to chronic pain, headaches, gastrointestinal disorders and poor overall health. Experience of abuse can also result in complications such as unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and complications during pregnancy.

Physical abuse may include non-fatal strangulation (NFS). Perpetrators of domestic abuse can control and intimidate victims with NFS. Despite the strong link between NFS and domestic homicide, it can be difficult to evidence due to a lack of visible injury. It is a standalone criminal offence

under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Around 20,000 women in the UK experience non-fatal strangulation every year. Roughly a third (32%) of Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) cases involve a client who has experienced NFS. In 2022/23 around 700 offenders were sentenced for such offences, with an increase in each quarter since the offence was introduced.

The mental health impacts of domestic abuse can also be significant. Victims are more likely to develop depression and anxiety disorders. Many experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Abusers often isolate victims from friends and family which can cause social withdrawal and loneliness. Experience of continuous abuse may also damage a victim's self-esteem and self-worth.

The Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey revealed that 75% of women in the 'extensive physical and sexual violence' group were not receiving either medication or counselling for a mental health problem. This is despite 'indications of very high levels of mental ill health.' 36% of women in the 'extensive physical and sexual violence' group had attempted suicide. In the same group women were more than twice as likely to misuse alcohol, often as a coping mechanism, and eight times more likely to be drug dependent than women with little experience of violence and abuse.

Victims of domestic abuse often face homelessness and economic instability as they attempt to escape their abuser. This may affect both physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Male Victims

It is estimated that there are roughly half as many male victims (751,000) of domestic abuse as there are female victims (1.4 million). However, only 4.8% of domestic abuse service users in England and Wales are male. Male victims face extra barriers to accessing services and also social stigma. In 2022/23, 21% of male victims failed to tell anyone they were a victim of partner abuse. This figure was 49% in 2017/18. The figures for female victims are 18.2% in 2022/23 and 19% in 2017/18.

Children

There is limited data regarding children's experience of domestic abuse. In 2019, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) estimated that one in five children in the UK have lived with an adult perpetrating domestic abuse. In 2022/23, police in England and Wales made 276,404 child protection referrals following domestic abuse incidents.

For the year ending March 2018, victims of partner abuse were asked whether any children in the house heard or saw what happened during the most recent victimisation. In 41% of cases where adults aged 16 to 59 reported having experienced partner abuse, there was at least one child under the age of 16 living in the household. Where children were living in the household, one in five were reported to have either seen or heard what had happened.

A review of 877 child abuse cases between February 2011 to September 2013 showed that the vast majority (97%) of children living with domestic abuse were exposed to that abuse. Of the children exposed to the abuse, two thirds were directly harmed, most often physically or emotionally abused, or neglected. Over half of children exposed to domestic abuse had behavioural problems or felt responsible or to blame for negative events. Difficulties adjusting at school were found in over a third of cases.

Witnessing domestic abuse can have several impacts on a child's behaviour and mental health. It may cause bed-wetting, increased sensitivity and crying, misbehaviour at school and low self-esteem. Long-term implications may include mental health problems such as anxiety and depression, use of alcohol and drugs as coping mechanisms, and repeating behaviours witnessed in the domestic abuse setting.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognised children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. However, mapping research carried out by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner found that only 29% of domestic abuse victims were able to access the specialist support they wanted for their children.

Economic Abuse

According to Surviving Economic Abuse, 95% of domestic abuse cases involve economic abuse. This is a form of coercive and controlling

behaviour through which perpetrators control a victim's income, spending, bank accounts, bills and borrowing. It can also include controlling access to and use of essentials like property, transport and technology. Economic abuse is intended to limit the freedom of victims by making them dependent on their abusers.

In 2019, a Women's Aid survey found that nearly a third (31.9%) of domestic abuse victims had their access to money limited by a perpetrator. A similar number had to give up their home as a result of the abuse and 12.5% found themselves homeless.

Online Abuse

Online domestic abuse, including cyberstalking and harassment, is now common. A 2015 Women's Aid survey found that 85% of respondents reported online abuse perpetrated as part of a pattern also experienced offline. In the year ending March 2018, 86% of convictions for 'revenge pornography' offences were domestic abuse-related.

The National Stalking Consortium, run by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, saw an increase in online abuse in stalking cases during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, 100% of cases reported to the Consortium involved some form of cyber abuse and there was a 7% rise in social media abuse.

Wider Economic Impact

The Home Office estimates that domestic abuse has an economic and social cost of around £81 billion in England and Wales each year. This includes costs in anticipation, physical and emotional harm, lost output, health services, victim services, police and legal costs.

5.0 Types of Abuse

According to the latest CSEW, more people aged 16 and over experienced domestic abuse by an intimate partner or ex-partner (3%) compared with a family member (1.8%) in the last year. Non-sexual domestic abuse was experienced by 4.1% of people. Domestic stalking was experienced by 0.7% of people and domestic sexual assault by 0.3%.

Since the age of 16 years, 16.5% of people had experienced partner abuse and 8.8% had experienced family abuse. Some may have experienced both types of abuse since the age of 16. 18.3% had experienced non-sexual abuse and 5.1% had experienced domestic sexual assault.

Intimate Partner Abuse

Domestic abuse most commonly takes place in intimate partner relationships. Partners do not need to be married or in a civil partnership and abuse can occur between non-cohabiting intimate partners. Abuse can continue or intensify when a relationship has ended or is in the process of ending. There may be an increased risk to the victim's physical safety during this period. Separation can raise the likelihood and consequences of abuse because of the perpetrator's perceived lack of control.

Young people can also experience abuse within their relationships.

Teenage relationship abuse may be more difficult to identify as teenagers

may not recognise themselves as victims. The 'casual' nature of many teenage relationships creates additional complexities.

Young people who experience domestic abuse do so at a particularly vulnerable point in their lives. Victims may experience a complex transition from childhood to adulthood which impacts on behaviour and decision making. It may impact on the way that they respond to abuse and if or how they engage with services.

Family Abuse

Domestic abuse may also be perpetrated by family members. Abuse within a family can encompass a number of different harmful behaviours. Abuse may be perpetrated as a perceived means to protect or defend the 'honour' of an individual, family or community against alleged or perceived breaches of the family or community's code of behaviour. It can include 'honour'-based abuse, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and other harmful practices such as reproductive coercion and forced abortion.

Young people may be at an increased risk of abuse perpetrated by family members. It can be harder for them to distinguish between normal and abusive behaviours, and this may especially be the case where the perpetrator is a trusted family member. A young person may find it more difficult to report or disclose abuse by an adult. There may be no safe channel for disclosure and young people may fear the repercussions of

disclosure. There may be an increased risk of abuse by family members for young LGBTQ+ people. Research by Galop suggests that young LGBTQ+ people (aged 13 to 24) disclose disproportionately higher levels of abuse from immediate family members compared to other age groups.

Abuse within families also includes CPVA. Across the Northumbria region CPVA is defined as “any harmful act or behaviour by a child aged 10–18 year, whether physical, psychological, emotional or financial towards a parent/guardian or carer.”

Behaviours can include humiliating and belittling language, violence and threats, jealous and controlling behaviours, damage to property, stealing, and heightened sexualised behaviours. This abuse may present as a single violent incident but is more likely to be a pattern of behaviour. CPVA appears gendered, with the majority of cases being perpetrated by sons against their mothers. National work is ongoing to understand this abuse. Risk factors appear to include exposure to domestic abuse, mental health problems and lone parenting.

Child-to-parent abuse is characterised by shame and stigma. Parents may be less likely to report the abuse to the police. They can fear being blamed, disbelieved, or conversely having their child taken away from them or criminalised leaving them reluctant to seek help. Recorded incidents likely represent only a small number of real cases.

Sexual Abuse

Domestic abuse can involve sexual abuse. According to the CSEW, in the year ending March 2023 there were 32,721 sexual offences flagged as domestic abuse-related. This was a 32% increase compared with the year ending March 2020.

5.1% of people in England and Wales are estimated to have experienced domestic sexual assault since the age of 16 years. The CSEW for the year ending March 2023 indicated that the majority (57%) of victims of rape or assault since the age of 16 were victimised by a partner or ex-partner.

In the same year, national police data shows that almost half (44.4%) of rapes of individuals aged 16+ were domestic abuse-related. Additionally, more than a third (34.3%) of stalking and harassment offences and more than a quarter (26.7%) of sexual offences were domestic abuse-related.

Domestic Abuse Related Deaths

A total of 242 domestic abuse related deaths were recorded between April 2022 to March 2023 in England and Wales, including:

- 93 suspected victim suicide following domestic abuse (SVSDA)
- 80 intimate partner homicides (IPH)
- 31 adult family homicides (AFH)
- 23 unexpected deaths

- 11 child deaths
- 4 'other' deaths (individuals living together who are not family members or intimate partners)

Victim and suspect demographics remained consistent with previous years. The majority of victims were female aged between 25-54 years old and the majority of perpetrators were male and of the same age bracket.

The number of victims and perpetrators of ethnic minority heritages remained slightly over-represented compared with the general population.

Four in five perpetrators were known to police before the homicide occurred, three in five for domestic abuse, and over a third were known to other agencies. Across the last three years, around 10% of suspects were recorded as either currently or previously having been managed by police or probation.

Key indicators of risk present in the perpetrator's history consistently include controlling and coercive behaviour, mental ill health, alcohol use, drug use, and separation/ending of the relationship.

6.0 National Context

Since North Tyneside's 2021 Needs Assessment the national domestic abuse picture has changed in several important ways.

Legislation

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provided the first statutory definition of domestic abuse. Section 1 of the Act states that behaviour must be "abusive," and the people involved (aged 16+) must be "personally connected" to each other. Abusive behaviour includes:

- Physical or sexual abuse.
- Violent or threatening behaviour.
- Controlling or coercive behaviour.
- Economic abuse.
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse.

The Act considers two people to be personally connected if they have been or are married, engaged, civil partners, in an intimate relationship, or if they are related.

The 2021 Act recognises the children of those who experience domestic abuse as victims in their own right. Children are considered victims if they see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse and are related to either of the parties involved.

The Act established the role of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, who is appointed by the Secretary of State. The Commissioner must “encourage good practice” in the provision of domestic abuse services and must also prepare and publish a strategic plan at least every three years.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 also placed a statutory duty on local authorities to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse. According to section 57 of the Act, local authorities must “assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based support in its area.” This assessment must inform a strategy for the provision of such support in its area. The effectiveness of this strategy must be evaluated and monitored. This process will inform the decision making of commissioners.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) issued statutory guidance under the 2021 Act requiring that a full local needs assessment is conducted at least every three years. Local authorities conduct the needs assessment with the support of the domestic abuse local partnership board. Many local authorities, including North Tyneside Council, conduct a holistic needs assessment which focuses on the wider provision of domestic abuse services.

The Serious Violence Duty requires local authorities and emergency services work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their communities. These partner organisations must achieve this by sharing information and targeting interventions.

The Duty comes from the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the PCSC Act places a duty on local authorities, emergency services and other partners to “collaborate with each other to prevent and reduce serious violence” in their area. These organisations must identify the kinds of serious violence that occur, identify the causes of that violence, and prepare and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce the violence. The Act defines “violence” as including domestic abuse within the meaning of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The PCSC Act also amended the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to require that Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) create and implement a strategy to reduce serious violence. The PCSC Act does not specify which local multi-agency partnership must be used to comply with the Duty. Home Office statutory guidance suggests several partnerships including CSPs, VRUs, Health and Wellbeing boards or a combination of these structures.

The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 introduced measures to ensure the public and victims are better protected and can have greater confidence in the criminal justice system. Several of the Act’s measures will apply to victims of domestic abuse.

The Act’s measures include placing the principles of the Victims’ Code into law. This outlines what victims can and should expect from the criminal justice system. The Act also improves the quality and consistency of

support services for victims by imposing a duty on local commissioners to collaborate when commissioning support services. Operation Encompass, through which police forces notify schools if a child is suffering domestic abuse, also became a legal requirement. Finally, guidance IDVAs will be introduced to increase awareness of this role.

Plans and Strategies

In March 2022 the Home Office published its Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan. The Plan has four pillars:

- Prioritising Prevention: “reduce the amount of domestic abuse, domestic homicide, and suicides linked to domestic abuse, by stopping people from becoming perpetrators and victims to begin with.”
- Supporting Victims: “help all victims and survivors who have escaped from domestic abuse feel that they can get back to life as normal, with support for their health, emotional, economic, and social needs.”
- Pursuing Perpetrators: “reduce the amount of people who are repeat offenders and make sure that those who commit this crime feel the full force of the law.”
- A Stronger System: “improve the systems and processes that underpin the response to domestic abuse across society.”

The national plan seeks to address four major problems:

- The stubbornly high prevalence of domestic abuse.

- The significant loss of life caused by domestic abuse. 114 domestic homicides were recorded in 2020–21, of which 75 were female victims.
- The negative health, emotional, economic, and social impact victims and survivors face during and following domestic abuse.
- An efficient system is necessary to allow us to tackle domestic abuse. We must improve the current system by identifying more domestic abuse cases, enabling greater collaboration and coordination between and within organisations, and improving our knowledge about domestic abuse through better data. This includes providing workforces with the skills to better identify and respond to domestic abuse cases.

The Northumbria PCC's four priorities align with the four objectives of the national Plan. These priorities are set out by the PCC's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2023–2025.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner's 2022–2025 Plan set out four strategic priorities:

- Stand with victims and survivors.
- Improve support for the most marginalised survivors.
- Improve consistency in service provision and statutory services, to address the 'patchwork of provision' across England and Wales.
- Bring together local partners and Government Departments to provide a holistic response to domestic abuse.

7.0 Local Context

Local Governance

The North Tyneside DAP has primary responsibility for tackling domestic abuse in the borough. This includes developing and implementing North Tyneside's domestic abuse strategy. The local authority must appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as part of its duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Partnership's members include:

- North Tyneside Council Public Health, Children's and Adult Social Care, Housing and Property Services, Commissioning, and Education.
- Northumbria Police.
- Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner.
- NHS.
- National Probation Service.
- Harbour Support Services (provider and representative for adult victims).
- Acorns (provider and representative for children and young people).

The Partnership reports directly to the Safer North Tyneside Board (SNTB), a CSP. The SNTB recognises domestic abuse as a key priority and tasks the DAP with reducing the prevalence and impact of domestic violence and abuse in the borough.

The Partnership brings together a wide range of partners at a senior level to develop and implement a domestic abuse strategy. The 2024-2027 Domestic Abuse Strategy will be informed by this domestic abuse needs assessment.

Statutory Duties of Local Authorities

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 imposed several statutory duties on North Tyneside Council. These relate to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within refuges and other safe accommodation. The Council must:

- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership).
- Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in North Tyneside for all victims or their children, including those who come from outside the borough, at least every three years (Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024).
- Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support, having regard to the needs assessment (new strategy to be published before January 2025).
- Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning/de-commissioning).

Safe accommodation includes:

- Refuge accommodation – single-sex accommodation and domestic abuse support which is tied to that accommodation. Victims have access to a planned programme of therapeutic and practical support from staff. This may be shared or self-contained housing. Both cases enable peer support from other residents.
- Dispersed accommodation – self-contained accommodation with a similar level of domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge. This may be more suitable for those with additional support needs.
- Specialist safe accommodation – supports those with one or more particular protected characteristics and/or vulnerabilities requiring additional support. This may be shared or self-contained housing and it includes 'By and For' services.
- Sanctuary schemes – enable victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes by providing additional security measures.
- Second stage accommodation – temporarily provided to victims who are moving on from other forms of safe accommodation but would still benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse support before they move to fully independent accommodation.

Domestic abuse support includes:

- Advocacy support – includes developing personal safety plans and liaising with other services.

- Domestic abuse-prevention advice – assists victims in recognising the signs of abusive relationships. This helps victims remain safe and prevents re-victimisation.
- Specialist support – for victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs.
- Children’s support – includes play therapy, child advocacy and specialist children’s workers.
- Housing-related support – advice and support with things like securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and living safely and independently.
- Counselling and therapy – for adults and children.

Commissioned Services

North Tyneside Council commissions domestic abuse services from two main providers. [Harbour Support Services](#) supports adults and [Acorns](#) primarily supports children and young people. The Northumbria PCC provides additional funding to the services commissioned by the Council.

Harbour Support Services is the Council’s main contractor. Harbour supports male and female victims aged 16+. The provider accepts self and agency referrals at all levels of risk. Harbour provides safe accommodation (refuge and dispersed properties), outreach, assertive outreach, IDVAs, group work, sanctuary schemes, and the service user forum. The total number of referrals to Harbour in 2023/24 was 3,155. This was 10.5% more

than the previous year. This total included 313 referrals for 306 individuals to refuge accommodation. 48 of these were accommodated while almost 85% were not because there was no available space.

Acorns provides North Tyneside's children's counselling and outreach support service. Acorns offers counselling, therapeutic and outreach support for 14-18 year olds who reside in the borough. Acorns also provides a youth panel. The provider accepts self and agency referrals. In 2023-24, Acorns offered 4,958 sessions and delivered 4,677 sessions to 400 children and young people and 143 adults.

The Council's Behaviour Change Service is a perpetrator programme provided by Harbour. It accepts self and agency referrals for those causing risk and harm over the age of 18. In 2023/24, 51 referrals were received for the Behaviour Change Service, a 13.9% decrease compared to the previous financial year.

Harbour also provides North Tyneside's adult counselling service. In 2023-24, 562 sessions took place with 85 victims of domestic abuse.

Safe Accommodation in North Tyneside

There are currently 22 units of safe accommodation for domestic abuse victims in North Tyneside.

Harbour provides a purpose-built 14-unit refuge. This has 11 self-contained flats, one of which is fully accessible, and 3 family houses. Refuge accommodation is available to single women and women with children.

There are 8 units of dispersed accommodation in the borough. 5 units are provided by Harbour and are available to single women and males. 3 units are provided by North Tyneside Council, with support services provided by Harbour, and are available to single women, males and families.

The Council uses 43 dispersed accommodation units to temporarily house people who are homeless for various reasons. If a person is at risk of becoming homeless due to domestic abuse, they are given priority for this accommodation.

North Tyneside Council also offers sanctuary schemes. In 2022-23, 145 individuals were supported through the installation of target-hardening measures in their homes. Individuals supported with sanctuary schemes also receive wraparound support from Harbour.

There are currently no specialist or second-stage accommodation units for domestic abuse victims in North Tyneside. There is also a limited amount of safe accommodation for males experiencing domestic abuse.

Presently, males can access 8 units of dispersed accommodation and have no access to refuge accommodation.

North Tyneside Council currently has three properties which are designated as safe accommodation for those experiencing domestic abuse. These arrangements are continually reviewed and the possible expansion of this offer to meet growing demands is being explored.

Prevention

North Tyneside Council trains both internal and multi-agency staff to identify and respond to cases of domestic abuse.

Schools are supported to embed a comprehensive personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum that meets all statutory requirements. Particular focus is placed on effectively teaching pupils about healthy relationships and recognising unhealthy, coercive or controlling behaviour. Schools are provided with evidence-based resources to support teaching and staff training opportunities to build confidence. All schools are encouraged to engage in the annual White Ribbon campaign and 16 days of Action events.

The Council's Organisational Development Team devised a Domestic Abuse Training Strategy for 2024-27. This aims to prepare those working in roles involving direct contact with individuals and families to respond to

domestic abuse with sensitivity, understanding and competence. The strategy particularly focuses on upskilling frontline professionals including social workers, housing staff and youth offending teams. The Council's induction, which is completed by all staff within the first three months of their employment, contains a module on safeguarding children and adults at risk in the borough. Continuing professional development is also offered to all staff so they can further develop their knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse.

In the last three years, a total of 1,978 staff attended some form of domestic abuse training. The majority of these (80.8%) were North Tyneside Council staff. Fewer (19.2%) were external staff from partner agencies.

Other Local Services

There are several local organisations that offer information, advice and support free of charge. Many specialist domestic abuse services are funded by the Northumbria PCC. In addition to Harbour and Acorns:

- [Northumbria Victim and Witness Service](#) is a service providing support and advice to individuals in Tyne & Wear and Northumberland. It is funded by the PCC and supports all victims of crime, regardless of whether they report to the police.
- Northumbria Police act against perpetrators and provide advice on home security and other matters.

- North Tyneside Council Housing and Property Services provides advice, help with re-housing and emergency accommodation.
- [Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland](#) is a charity offering counselling, support and advice regarding rape and sexual abuse.
- [The Angelou Centre](#) offers a wide range of holistic women-only services and specialist support for black and minoritised women and children. It is a by-and-for organisation. Although located in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, it is one of the few black-led women's organisations in the North East.
- The Angel Centre Sexual Assault Referral Centre ([SARC](#)) offers confidential healthcare and support to those in Northumbria who have experienced sexual assault, regardless of whether they report to the police.

8.0 National and Local Prevalence of Domestic Abuse

The CSEW for the year ending March 2023 estimated that 2.1 million people aged 16 years and over (4.4%) experienced domestic abuse in the last year. There was no significant change in the prevalence of domestic abuse compared to the previous year.

Sex

Domestic abuse is a gendered crime. The CSEW estimated that 1.4 million women (5.7%) and 751,000 men (3.2%) experienced domestic abuse in the previous year. Police-recorded data show that the victim was female in 73.5% of domestic abuse-related crimes. Between the year ending March 2020 and the year ending March 2022, 67.3% of domestic homicide victims were female compared with only 12.1% of non-domestic homicide victims. In the year ending September 2021, 89% of domestic homicide perpetrators were male.

North Tyneside has a population of around 210,487. This includes 108,401 females and 102,086 males. The borough has around 173,021 residents aged 16 and over. Based on national prevalence rates, up to 7,613 North Tyneside residents may have experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023. This includes more than 5,000 women and over 2,500 men.

Age

In 2021 the CSEW removed the upper age limit for survey respondents, which was previously 59 years. In the year ending March 2023, for people

aged 16–59, the prevalence rate of domestic abuse was slightly higher (5.1%) than for all people aged 16 and over (4.4%). The borough has roughly 110,500 residents aged 16–59. Based on this, 5,636 people aged 16–59 could have experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023.

The rate of domestic abuse is significantly higher for those aged 16–19 (8%). North Tyneside has 8,693 residents aged 16–19. Based on this, 695 of the borough's residents aged 16–19 may have experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023.

The rate of domestic abuse experienced by those aged 60–74 was relatively lower (3.2%) in the year ending March 2023. For those aged 75 and over, the rate of victims was significantly lower (1.4%). North Tyneside has roughly 37,800 residents aged 60–74 and 19,200 aged 75 or over. Based on this, 1,210 residents aged 60–74 and 269 aged 75 and over may have experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023.

Ethnicity

For the year ending March 2023, the CSEW showed that a significantly higher proportion of people aged 16 years and over in the Mixed (7.9%) and White (4.7%) ethnic groups experienced domestic abuse compared with those in the Black (3.5%) or Asian (2%) groups. Almost twice as many women in the White ethnic group experienced domestic abuse in the last year (6%) compared with Black (3.1%) and Asian (3%) women.

Based on these prevalence rates, more than 7,000 North Tyneside residents in the White ethnic group and up to 191 residents in the Mixed group, 36 residents in the Black group, and 90 residents in the Asian group could have experienced domestic abuse in the previous year.

Sexual Orientation

The CSEW 2023 does not address the sexual orientation of domestic abuse victims in England and Wales. However, the Home Office Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Statutory Guidance states that LGBTQ+ people are more likely to suffer domestic abuse. In the year ending March 2020, 8.4% of gay men and lesbian women and 15.2% of bisexual individuals reported experiencing domestic abuse.³ This compared to 5.2% of heterosexual respondents in the same year.

North Tyneside is home to roughly 2,925 gay or lesbian individuals and 1,992 bisexual individuals. Based on national prevalence rates, up to 246 gay or lesbian individuals and 303 bisexual individuals may have experienced domestic abuse in the previous year.

Marital Status

The most recent CSEW showed that a significantly higher proportion of people aged 16 or over who were separated (12.5%), divorced (9.5%), or single (7.4%) experienced domestic abuse than those who were married or civil partnered (2.4%) or widowed (3%).

³ There is currently no nationally representative data on the prevalence of domestic abuse for trans victims.

In North Tyneside up to 541 residents who were separated, 1,677 residents who were divorced and 4,584 residents who were single could have experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023. Similarly, up to 1,848 residents who were married or civil partnered and 363 residents who were widowed may have experienced domestic abuse in the previous year.

Employment Status and Occupation

The latest CSEW showed that a lower percentage of those who were employed (4.6%) experienced domestic abuse in the last year compared to those with a long-term or temporary illness (11.7%) and those looking after their family and home (8.5%). Unemployed adults (5.2%) also experienced domestic abuse more often than those who were employed. Students (2.5%) and those who were retired (2.3%) experienced less domestic abuse than all other groups.

In 2023 there were around 96,400 people aged 16 and over in North Tyneside who were employed. Up to 4,434 of these people could have experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Around 3,600 residents were unemployed, 187 of whom may have experienced domestic abuse.

According to the Census 2021, roughly 8,217 people in North Tyneside were economically inactive due to a long-term illness or disability. 961 of these could have experienced domestic abuse in the last year. 6,635 residents were inactive due to looking after their family and home, 564 of whom

could have experienced domestic abuse. The borough is home to 8,957 students. 224 of these may have experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Finally, there are around 43,003 retired people in North Tyneside. 989 of these could have suffered domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023.

Household Structure

Nationally, the proportion of domestic abuse experienced was higher in households composed of a single person with one or more children (18.6%) than in households with no children (4.2%) and households with multiple people and one or more children (3.7%).

There are roughly 96,232 households in North Tyneside. Based on the national prevalence rate, there may be up to 2,076 single parent households in North Tyneside experiencing domestic abuse. This is in comparison to up to 2,114 households with no children and 837 households with multiple people and one or more children.

Area

According to the CSEW, in the year ending March 2023 6.2% of women and 2.5% of men in the North East experienced domestic abuse. This is compared to 5.7% and 3.2% nationally. Police in the North East recorded 19.8 domestic abuse-related crimes per 1,000 population. This was higher than the national average of 15.4 per 1,000 population and only two regions saw a higher rate of recorded crimes.

Lifetime Abuse

The CSEW for the year ending March 2023 estimated that 9.8 million people aged 16 years and over had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 years. This equates to a prevalence rate of approximately one in five (20.5%). In North Tyneside, this could include up to 35,469 residents.

Crimes and Convictions

In the year ending March 2023, police in England and Wales recorded 1,453,867 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes. 889,918 of these were recorded as domestic abuse-related crimes. This was similar compared to the previous year and was 14.4% higher than the year ending March 2020. When compared to the estimates of the CSEW, domestic abuse appears as a severely underreported crime.

Domestic abuse crimes also result in convictions infrequently. In the year ending March 2023 47,361 suspects were charged and, out of 51,288 prosecutions, 39,188 offenders were convicted. This means that 5.3% of domestic abuse-related crimes resulted in a suspect being charged and 4.4% of crimes saw an offender convicted.

The Northumbria police force area has a population of around 1.5 million. North Tyneside's population of 210,487 forms roughly 14% of this. In the year ending March 2023, there were 1,631 domestic abuse-related prosecutions in the Northumbria police force area. Based on this, we can estimate that there were roughly 228 domestic abuse-related prosecutions in the borough.

During the same period, there were 1,223 domestic abuse-related convictions in the Northumbria police force area. This represented a 75% conviction rate, which was slightly lower than both the North East (76.8%) and national (76.4%) rates. Based on this, we can estimate that there were roughly 171 domestic abuse-related convictions in North Tyneside in 2022/23.

The vast majority (83.6%) of domestic abuse-related crimes in Northumbria presented evidential difficulties. In most (58.6%) cases the victim did not support action against the suspect. Just 7.5% of crimes resulted in a suspect being charged or summonsed. This is despite the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) deciding to charge the suspect in 84.3% of cases.

9.0 Available Domestic Abuse Data

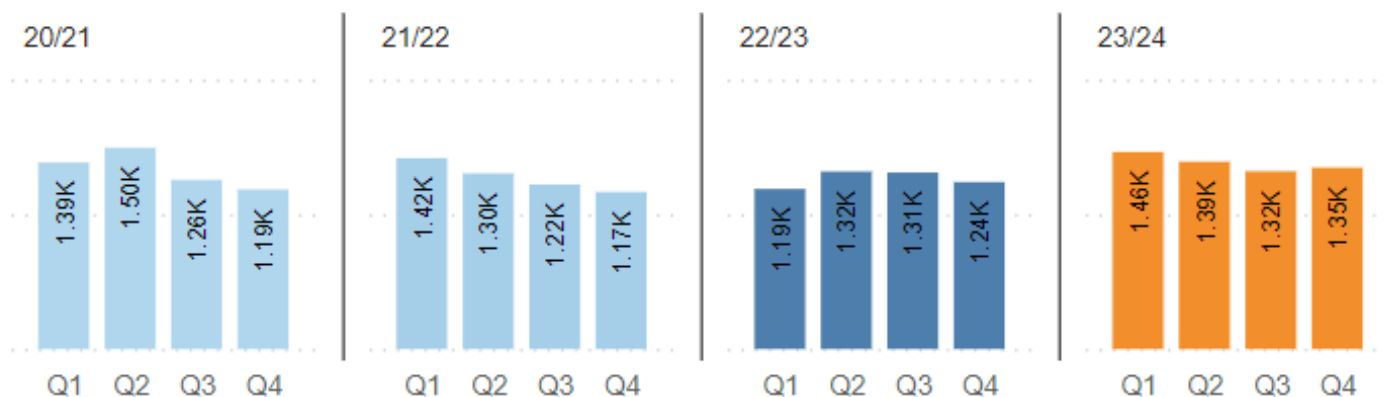
The following data is taken from North Tyneside Council's domestic abuse dashboard. The dashboard contains data submitted by several key partners.

Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police recorded 5,522 domestic abuse incidents in North Tyneside in 2023/24. This was a 9.2% increase on the previous year, which may reflect improved recording.

Domestic Abuse Incidents

Source: Northumbria Police



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
% alcohol crimes	29%	28%	29%	27%
% incidents with children involved	44%	43%	50%	45%
% of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority Victims	3%	2%	2%	4%
% of female victims	73%	76%	77%	75%
% of male victims	26%	24%	23%	25%
% of repeat victims	48%	47%	49%	45%
% of victims age 16 or 17	2%	2%	3%	2%
% of victims age over 55	12%	13%	11%	13%
% Partner/Ex-partner	77%	77%	77%	74%

76% of these incidents were perpetrated by the victim's partner or ex-partner. 2,519 (45.6%) incidents involved children, 14.6% more than in 2022/23.

These domestic abuse incidents produced 3,179 victims. Around 2,314 (72.8%) were female and 862 (27.1%) were male. National data show that domestic abuse is an underreported crime. The number of police-recorded victims is significantly lower than the number of potential victims in North Tyneside based on the CSEW's estimated prevalence rates (7,613 total with over 5,000 women and 2,500 men).

The proportion of female victims in the borough is similar to the regional (72%) and national (73.5%) data. The number of repeat victims was 1,290 (41%), also similar to the Northumbria-wide data (41%). 100 victims (3.1%) were Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority. This is slightly lower than the Northumbria rate (5.8%) which may be due to demographic differences. 74 victims (2.3%) were aged 16 or 17. 422 (13.3%) were aged over 55. This is similar to the Northumbria-wide data (2.2% and 13.6%).

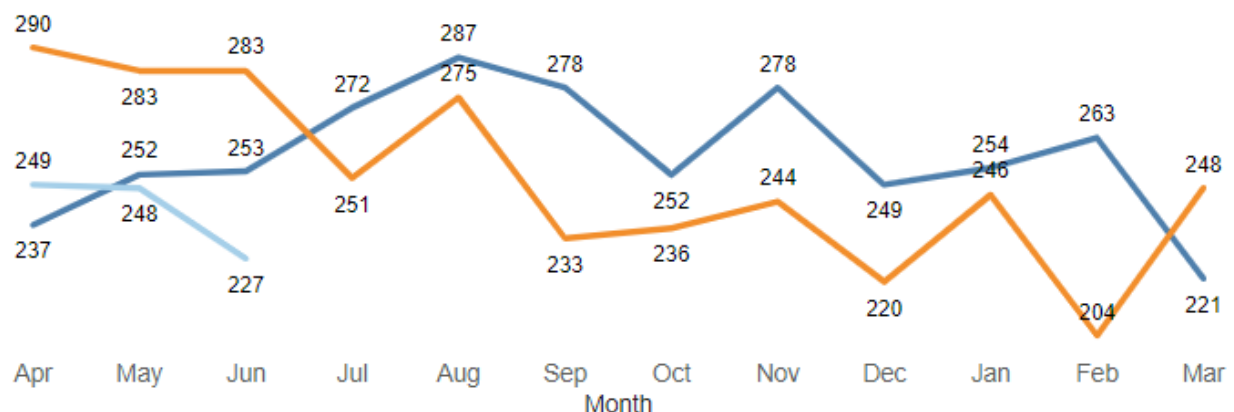
The borough's 5,522 domestic abuse incidents produced 3,526 crimes and 1,313 arrests. This means that 63.9% of incidents resulted in crimes and around 23.8% led to an arrest. The number of domestic abuse-related crimes increased by just 0.7% compared to 2022/23 despite the number of

incidents increasing significantly. More than a quarter of domestic abuse-related crimes involved alcohol (28.6%).

Domestic abuse crimes reported to the police

Source: iBase

FY Full ● 22/23 ● 23/24 ● 24/25



In 2022/23, North Tyneside saw 38.0 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes per 1,000 population. This was slightly lower than the North East rate (39.1) but significantly higher than the English average (30.6).

B11 - Domestic abuse related incidents and crimes 2022/23

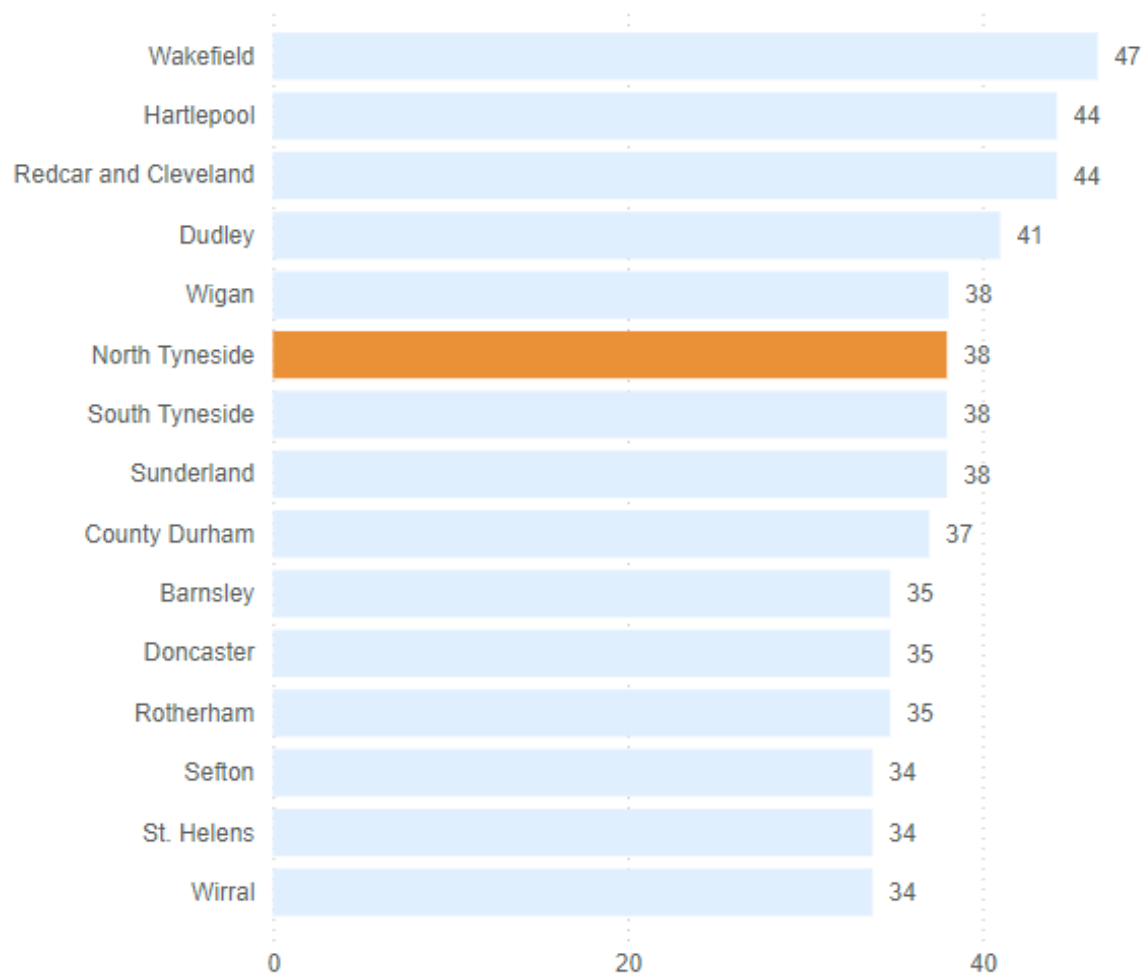
N Tyneside		North East Value	England Value
Count	Value		
-	38.0*	39.1	30.6*

● North Tyneside is in the 2nd highest quintile for England

North Tyneside's rate of incidents and crimes exactly matched the mean for the borough's CIPFA nearest neighbours (38.0). This set of 14 English local authorities are considered statistically similar based on a range of economic, social and physical characteristics. The rate of domestic abuse

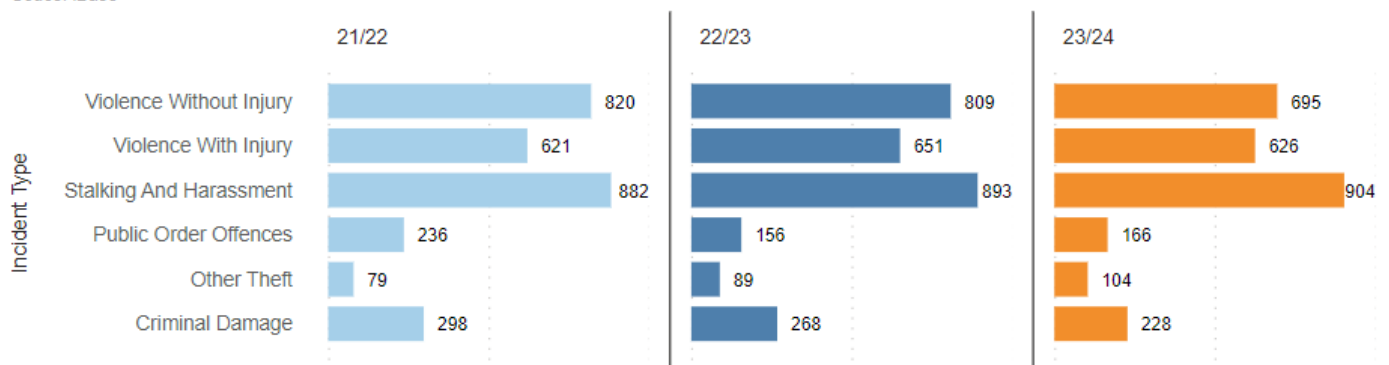
incidents and crimes in North Tyneside was significantly higher than in Wirral, Sefton and St. Helens (33.8). However, it was significantly lower than in Wakefield (46.5), Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool (44.2).

Domestic abuse rate per 1,000 population over 16 (2022/23) crime & incidents- CIPFA nearest neighbour comparator set

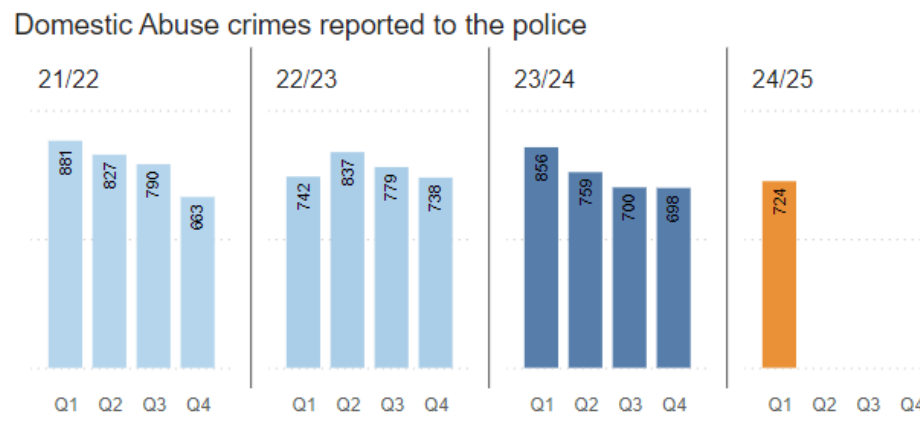


Primary Abuse Types-(top 6)

Source: iBase

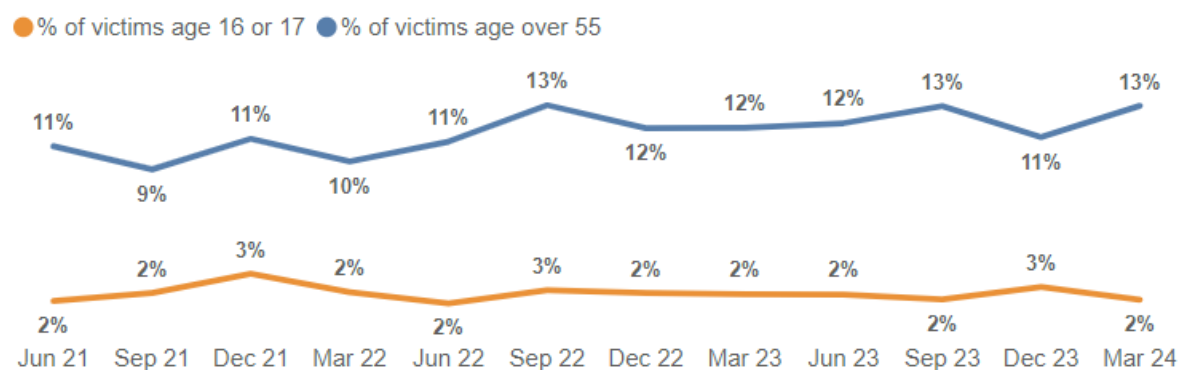


According to police data, the most common abuse type in North Tyneside continues to be stalking and harassment. This is followed by violence without injury and violence with injury.



In quarter one of 2024/25, there were 724 domestic abuse-related crimes reported to Northumbria Police. This was fewer than in quarter one of the previous three years and was a 15.4% decrease from quarter one of 2023/24. There may be a need for improved detection of domestic abuse-related crimes.

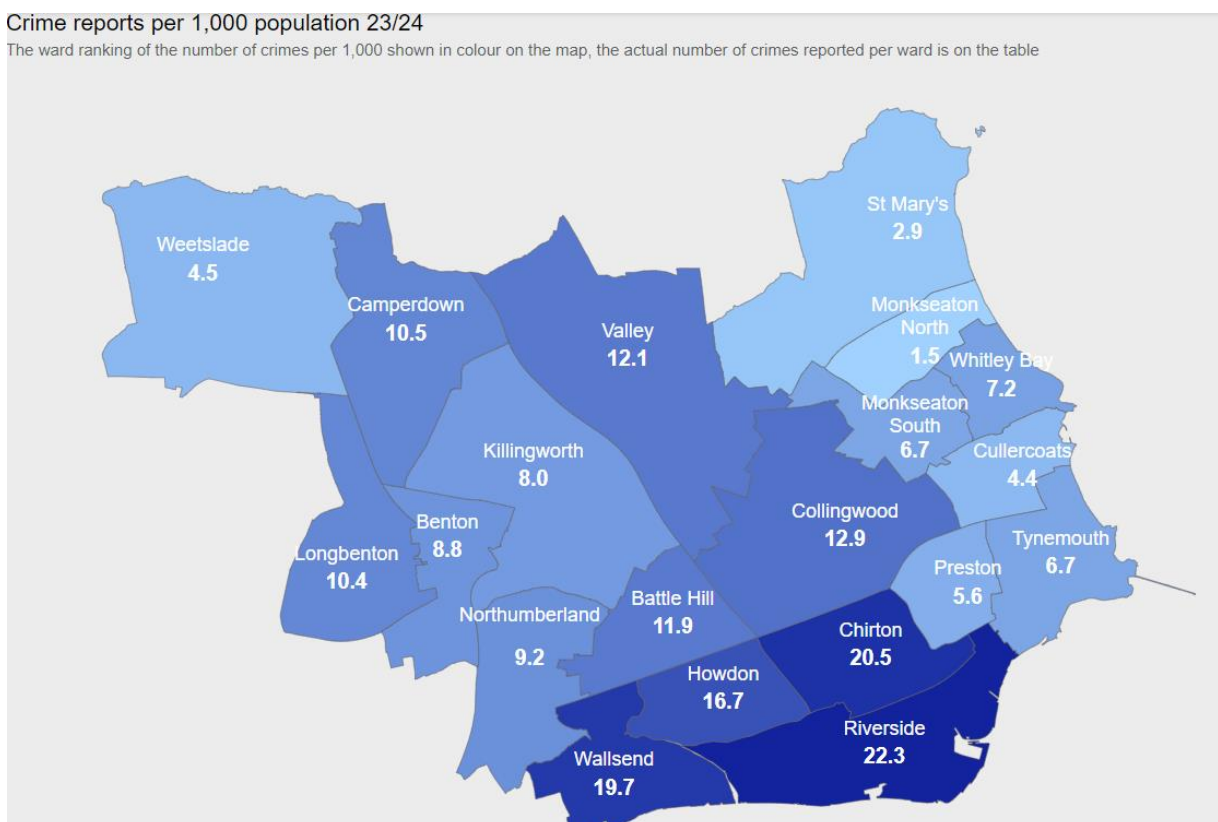
Northumbria Police - % of DA victims aged over 55, & 16 or 17



Between June 2021 and March 2024, few victims identified by Northumbria Police were aged over 55 or between 16 and 17. In March 2024, 13% of these victims were aged over 55 and just 2% were aged between 16 and 17. The national prevalence rate of domestic abuse is significantly higher for those aged 16–19 (8%), which suggests that more must be done to identify younger victims. The domestic abuse prevalence rate is lower for older people, but this may be due to underreporting.

Crime reports per 1,000 population 23/24

The ward ranking of the number of crimes per 1,000 shown in colour on the map, the actual number of crimes reported per ward is on the table



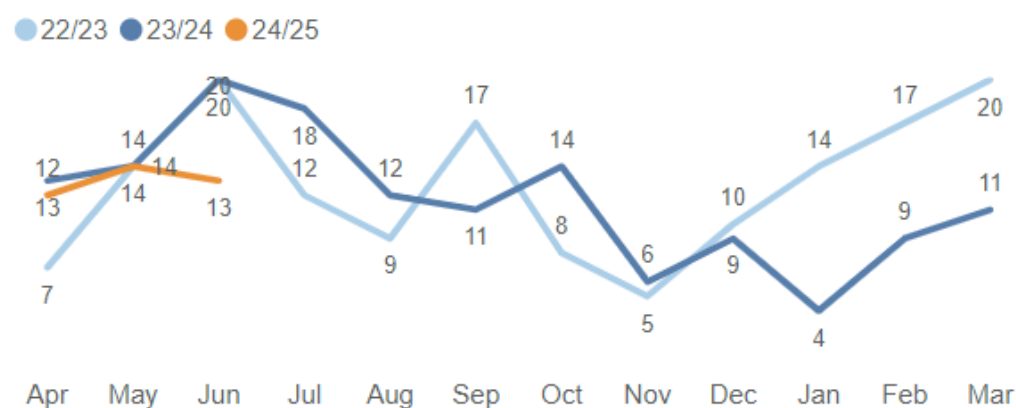
In 2023/24, Northumbria Police recorded a significantly higher rate of domestic abuse-related crime reports in North Tyneside's southernmost wards. Crime reports were highest in Riverside, Chirton, Wallsend and Howdon wards which are among the borough's most deprived. Conversely, reports were lowest in some of North Tyneside's least deprived coastal wards including Monkseaton North, St. Mary's, and Cullercoats. The rate of

crime reports was almost fifteen times higher in Riverside (22.3) than in Monkseaton North (1.5).

The borough's southernmost wards exhibit a stubbornly high rate of domestic abuse-related crime reports. This may reflect inequalities in health outcomes which are often apparent in North Tyneside. However, equally concerning is the possible underreporting of domestic abuse in the borough's least deprived coastal wards. This may be due to social stigma associated with police involvement and criminal justice.

CPVA

Incidents per month



In 2022/23, Northumbria Police recorded 153 incidents of CPVA in North Tyneside. This fell by 8.5% to 140 incidents in 2023/24. The first quarter of

2024/25 also saw fewer CPVA incidents (39) than both quarter one of 2022/23 (41) and 2023/24 (47).

Perpetrator relationship 24/25 Q1 only



CPVA appears slightly gendered in North Tyneside. In quarter one of 2024/25, almost half of CPVA incidents (48.7%) were perpetrated by a son against a parent. More than a third (35.9%) were perpetrated by a daughter against a parent, while smaller numbers involved grandchildren and nieces.

Incidents per location 24/25 Q1 only

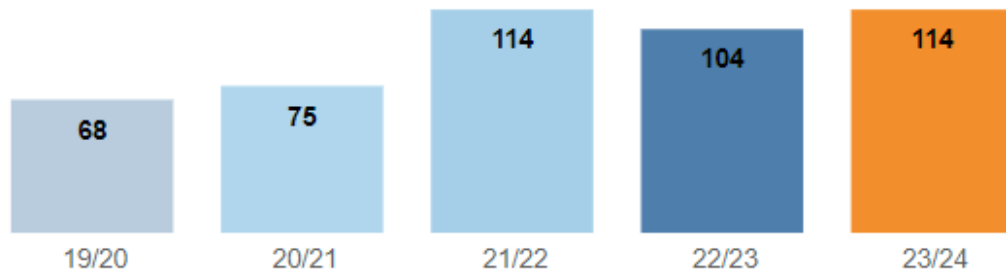


In the first quarter of 2024/25, the largest numbers of CPVA incidents reported to Northumbria Police took place in North Shields and Wallsend. This corresponds to the previous map showing higher rates of domestic abuse-related crime reports in the Riverside, Chirton and Wallsend wards.

Housing

Housing Domestic Abuse presentations

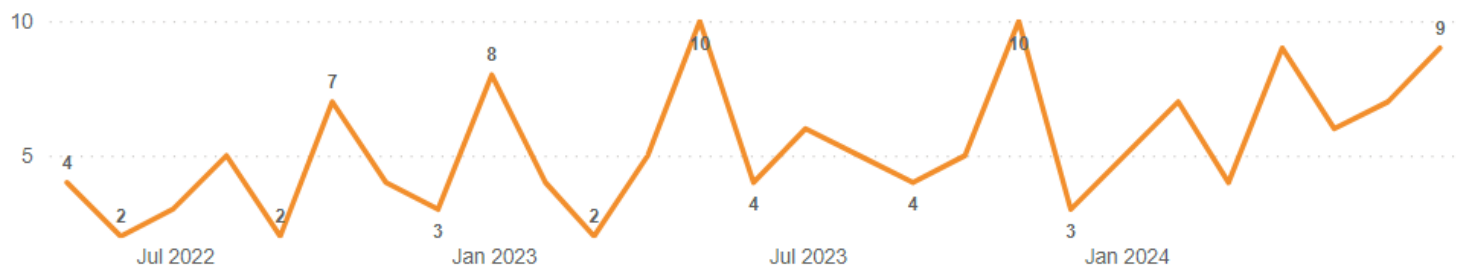
Source: NT Housing



In 2023/24 there were 114 domestic abuse presentations to North Tyneside Council's Housing and Property Services. This was a 9.6% increase on the previous year. The number of presentations has significantly increased by 67.6% since 2019/20. This may reflect the improved ability of staff to recognise domestic abuse and improved data recording.

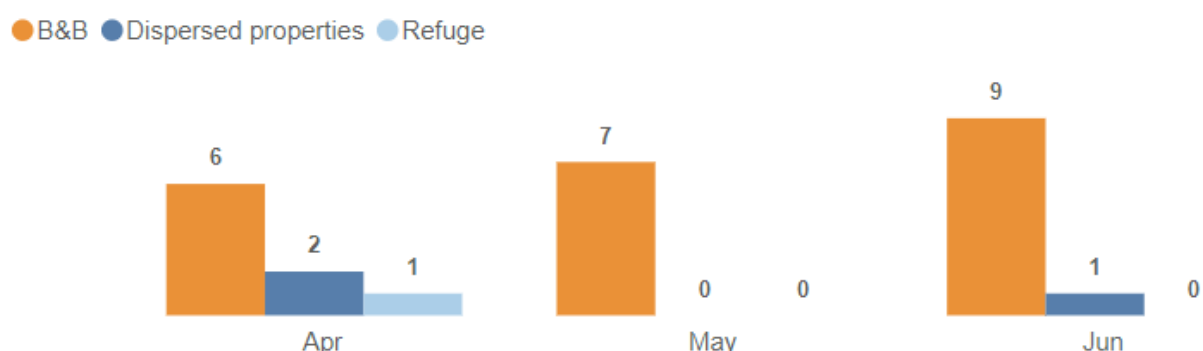
Households in B&B emergency accommodation

Source: NT Housing



The demand for safe accommodation in North Tyneside is increasing. Data from the Council’s Housing and Property Services shows that increasing number of households are being placed in bed and breakfast emergency accommodation. In July 2022, there were just two households supported in this way. This is compared to nine households in June 2024, an increase of more than fourfold.

Domestic Abuse emergency accomodation 24/25



The increased use of emergency bed and breakfast accommodation to shelter domestic abuse victims is evidence that demand for safe accommodation outstrips supply in North Tyneside. From April to June 2024, such instances increased by 50%.

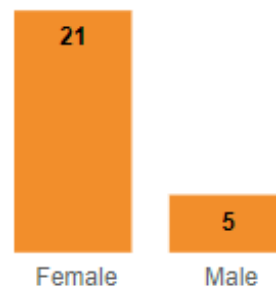
Location of Presentations 24/25



The largest number of presentations to Housing and Property Services came from Wallsend and North Shields, which matches the

aforementioned Northumbria Police data. Fewer came from less deprived areas including Whitley Bay.

Gender of presentations 24/25

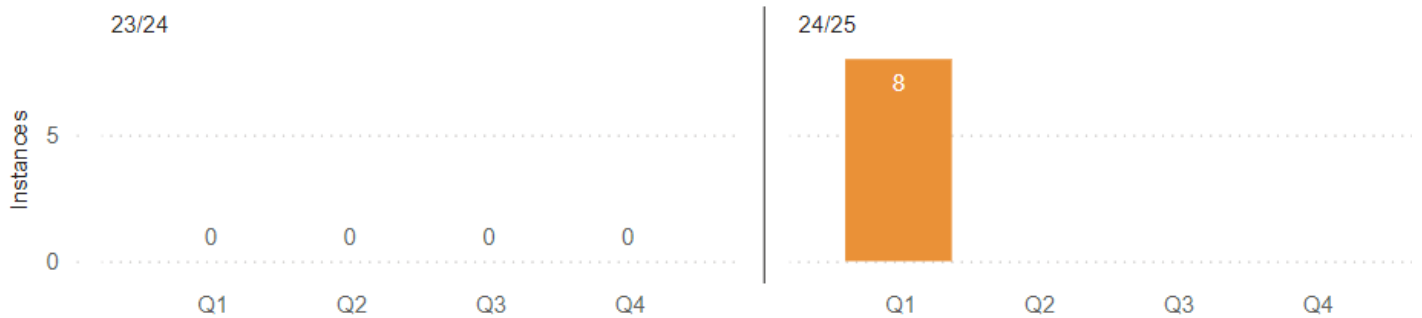


The majority of presentations to Housing and Property Services are female. In the first quarter of 2024/25, 80.8% of presentations were female while 19.2% were male. Nationally, it is estimated that roughly a third of domestic abuse victims are male, which may suggest the need for greater identification of and provision for male victims in North Tyneside.

Most (64.3%) presentations to Housing and Property Services in quarter one of 2024/25 involved a single individual. More than a third (35.7%) of presentations also involved children.

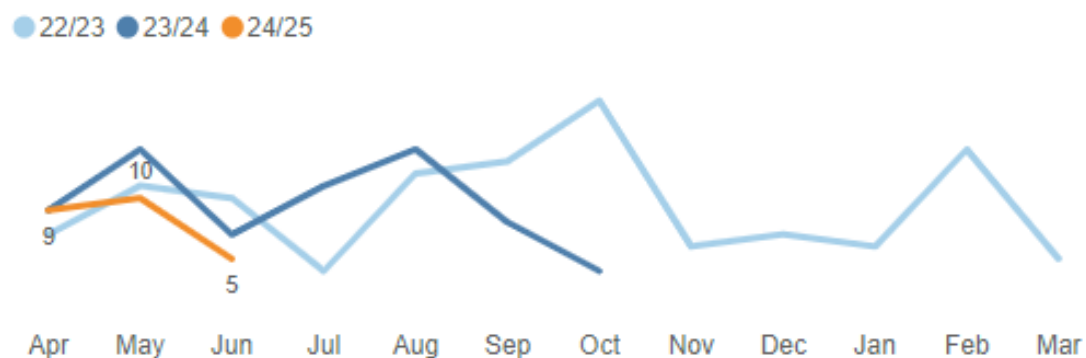
In the first quarter of 2024/25, the majority (60.7%) of presentations were between the ages of 25 and 44. Fewer (10.7%) were aged between 16 and 24. The same number were aged 65 and over.

DA reports in NTL



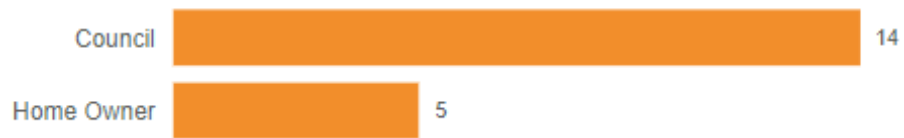
NTL offers sheltered, rented accommodation to tenants aged 60 and over. In 2023/24, there were zero instances of domestic abuse reported through NTL. However, recent outreach work by the Council's Domestic Abuse Housing Advisor led to eight referrals in quarter one of 2024/25. This suggests there is a need to more effectively and proactively identify older victims.

Sanctuary referrals by month



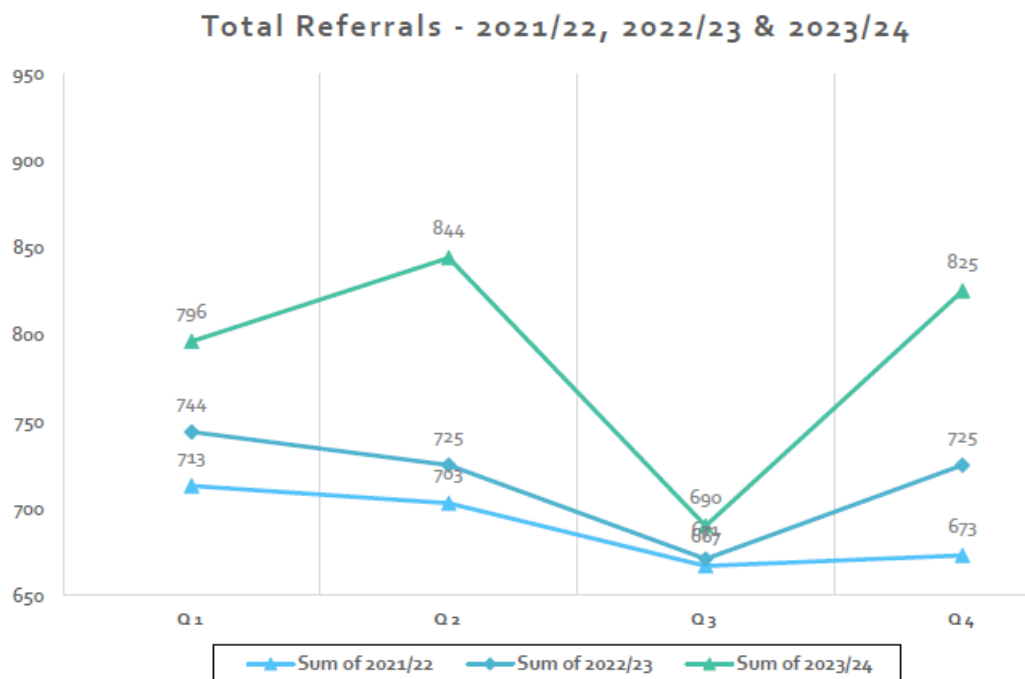
There were fewer sanctuary scheme referrals in quarter one of 2024/25 than there were in quarter one of the previous two years.

Referrals by tenure Q1 only

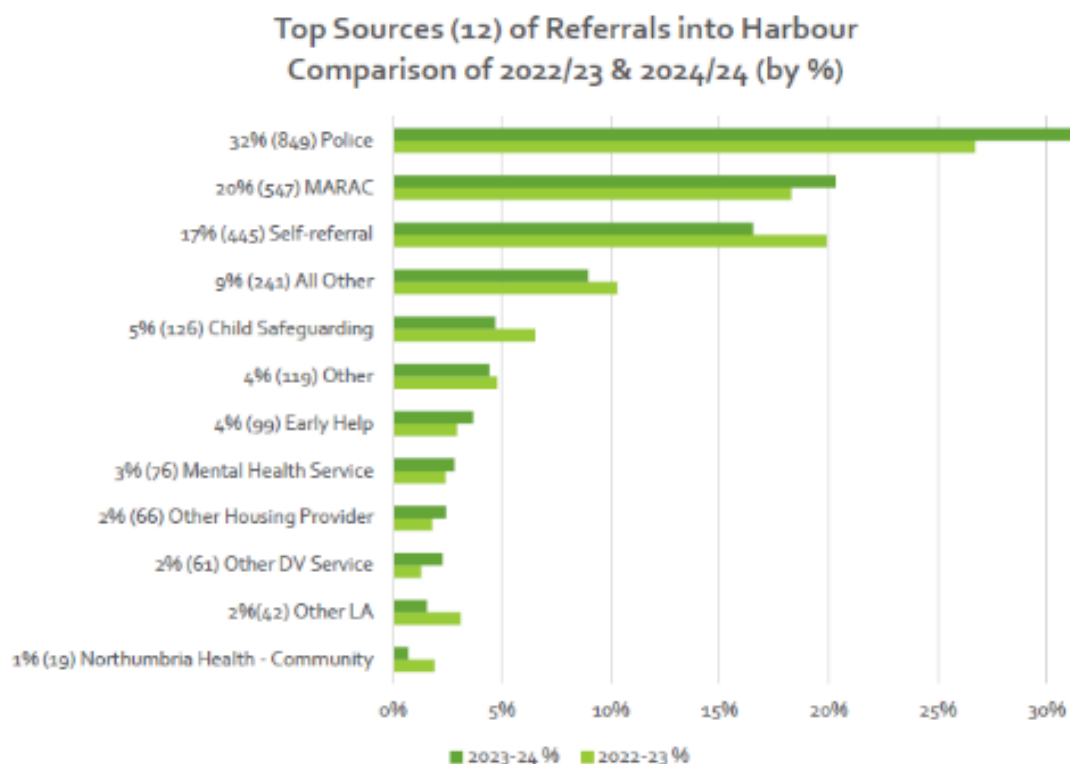


During the same period, the majority (58.3%) of sanctuary scheme referrals involved North Tyneside Council tenants. Fewer involved home owners (20.8%), private rentals (16.7%) and housing association tenants (4.2%).

Harbour

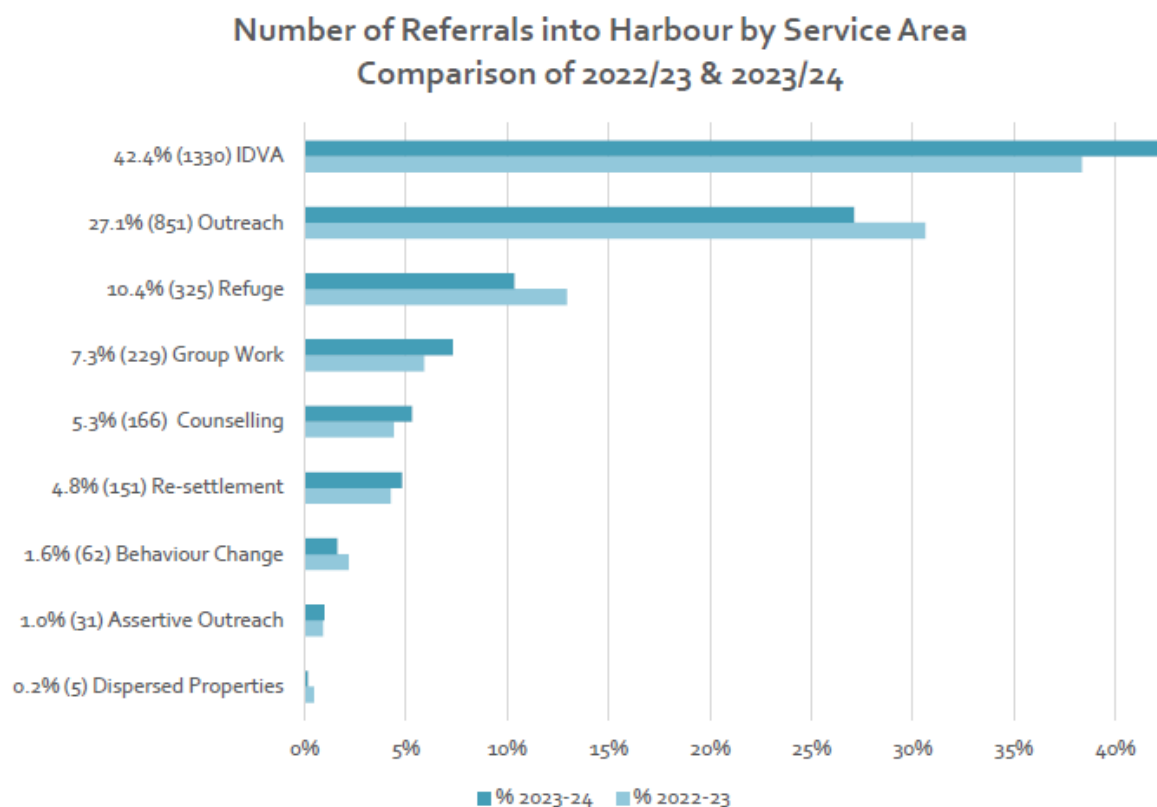


In 2023/24, Harbour Support Services received 3,155 referrals in North Tyneside. This was an increase of 10.5% from 2022/23 and was 14.5% higher than the number of referrals received in 2021/22. This is evidence of the



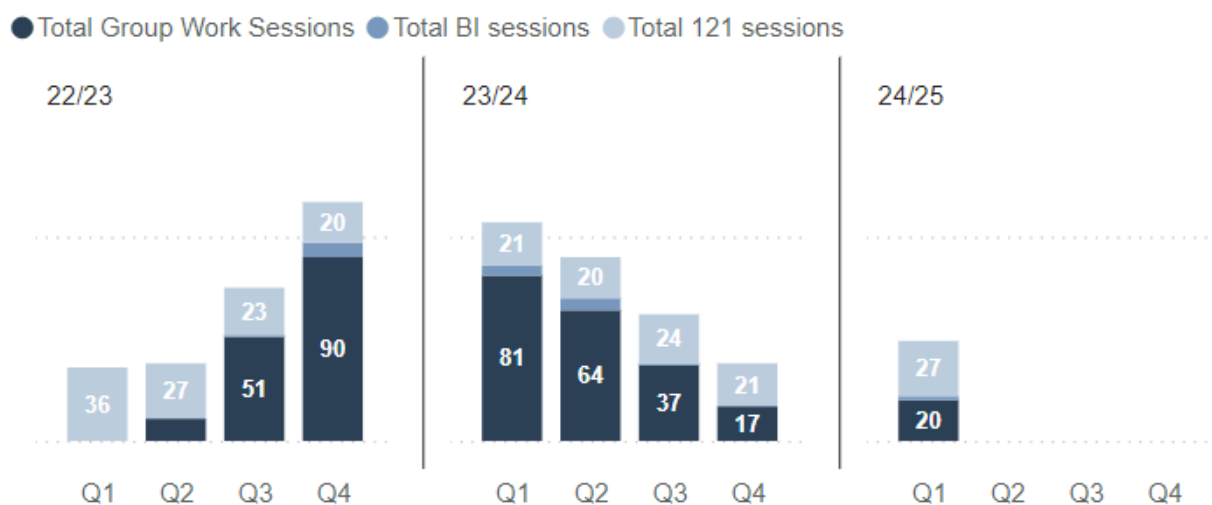
continuously increasing demand for domestic abuse services in the borough.

The largest number of Harbour referrals continues to come from police. Between 2022/23 and 2023/24, there was a 24.7% increase in police referrals. The largest increase in referrals came from “Other DV Services” (84.5%), as referrals from housing providers and Early Help increased significantly.



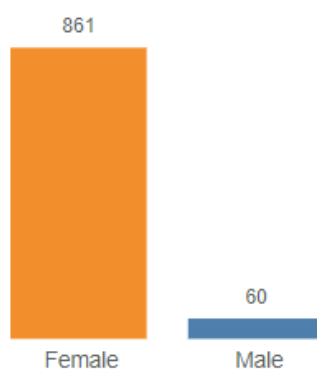
The data show an increasing demand for many Harbour services including IDVA (21%) and counselling (31.7%). In 2023/24 there were 51 referrals directed to Harbour’s Behaviour Change Service, a perpetrator programme. This was 17.7% fewer than the previous year.

BC sessions delivered



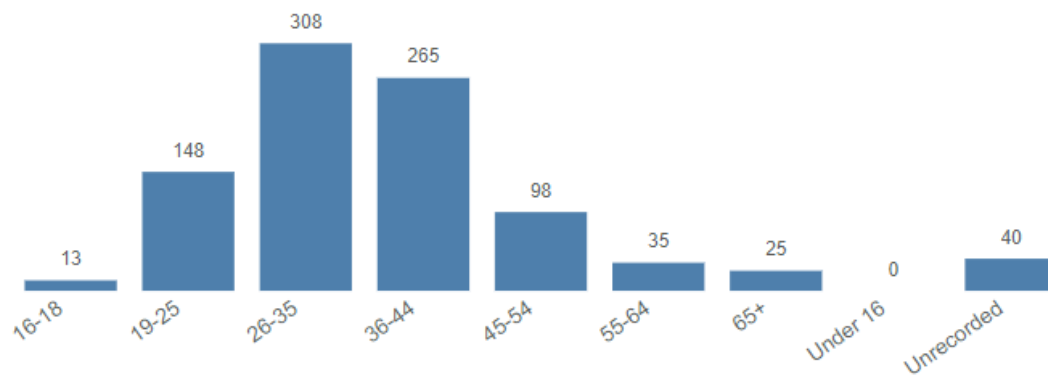
In quarter one of 2024/25, Harbour delivered 49 behaviour change sessions. This was less than half the 107 delivered in quarter one of the previous year. However, it was more sessions than were delivered during the final quarter of the previous year.

All referrals by sex 23/24



In the previous financial year, the vast majority (92.4%) of Harbour referrals were female. Very few (6.4%) were male, and a tiny number (0.2%) were transgender.

All referrals by age group 23/24



Most (61.5%) referrals to Harbour were aged between 26 and 44 years old. Fewer (15.9%) were aged between 19 and 25. Very few (1.4%) were aged between 16 and 18. A relatively small amount (6.4%) of referrals were aged 55 and over.

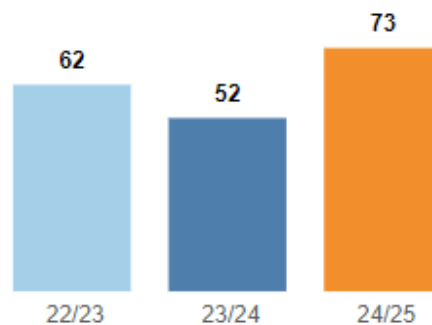
All referrals by ethnicity 23/24



The ethnicity of Harbour referrals was not recorded in every case. For those where it was recorded, 91.6% of referrals were white British.

Acorns

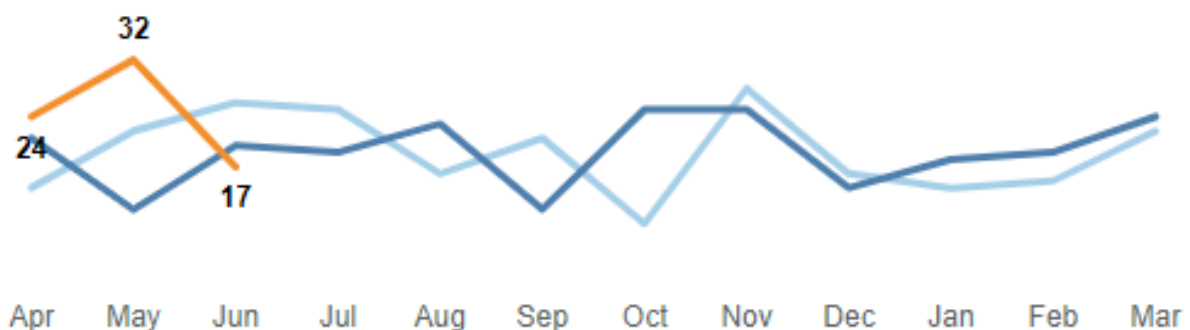
Acorns referrals to end of Q1



Acorns received 73 referrals in quarter one of 2024/25. This was a 40.4% increase compared to quarter one of the previous year.

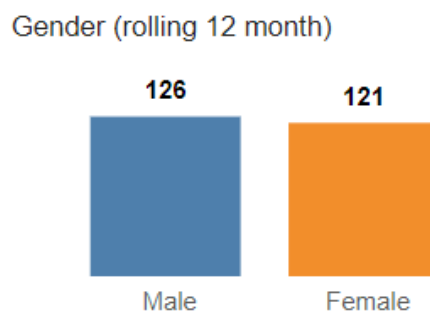
Acorns referrals by month

● 22/23 ● 23/24 ● 24/25



In 2023/24, Acorns received 376 referrals in 2023/24. This was similar to but slightly fewer than the 378 referrals received in 2022/23. This small decrease may be due to the streamlining of the service's processes rather than declining demand. The overwhelming demand for domestic abuse services is evidenced by Acorns' waiting lists which, as of 31 March 2024,

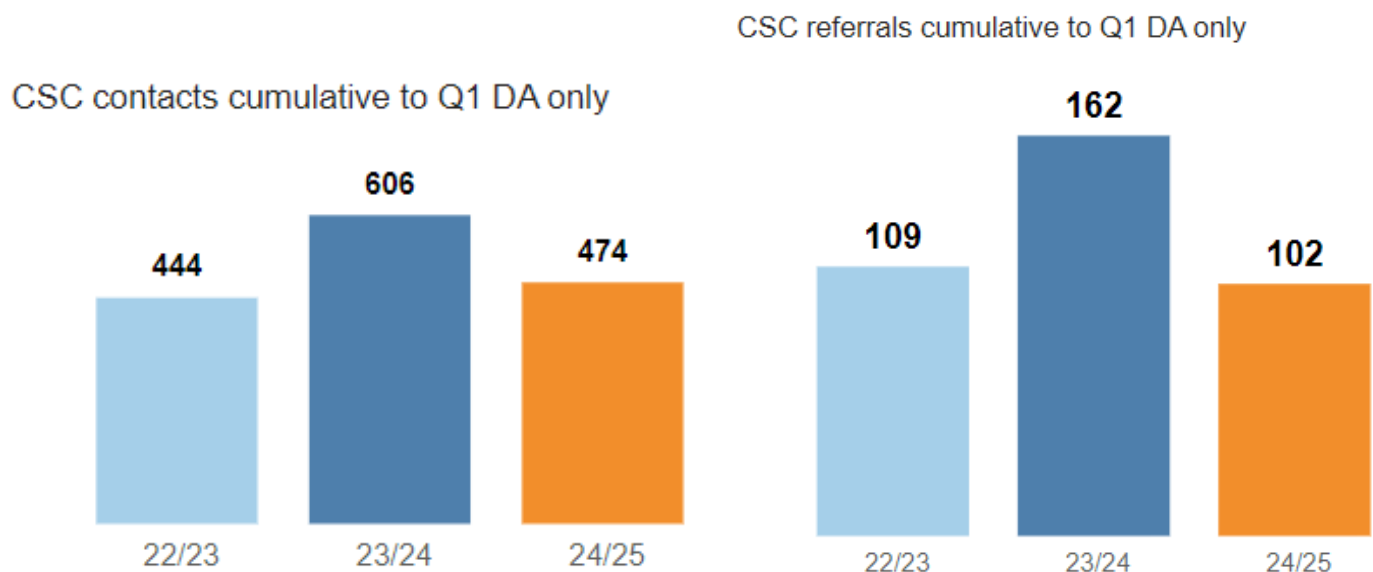
were 3–5 months for children’s counselling and 6 months for outreach services.



Over the last 12 months, slightly over half (50.6%) of Acorns referrals were male. A similar number (48.6%) were female. A tiny number were non-binary. Domestic abuse is a gendered crime for adult victims but child victims may be of either gender.

Several of Acorns recent clients presented with complex needs such as autism, Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and special educational needs (SEN).

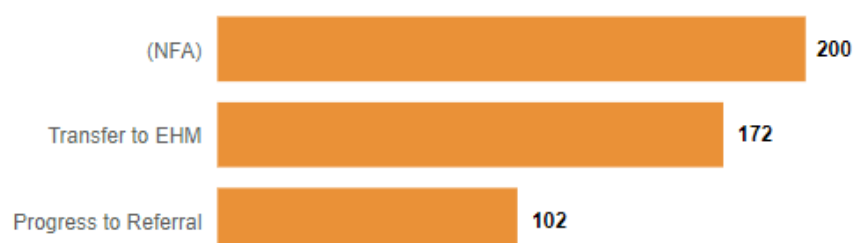
Children's Social Care⁴



In quarter one of 2024/25, there were 474 domestic abuse-related contacts made by Children's Social Care. This was a 21.8% decrease from quarter one of the previous year. Contacts are instances when concerns were raised regarding domestic abuse.

Of these 474 contacts, 102 (21.5) led to referrals. This was a slightly lower proportion than in quarter one of 2023/24 (26.7%).

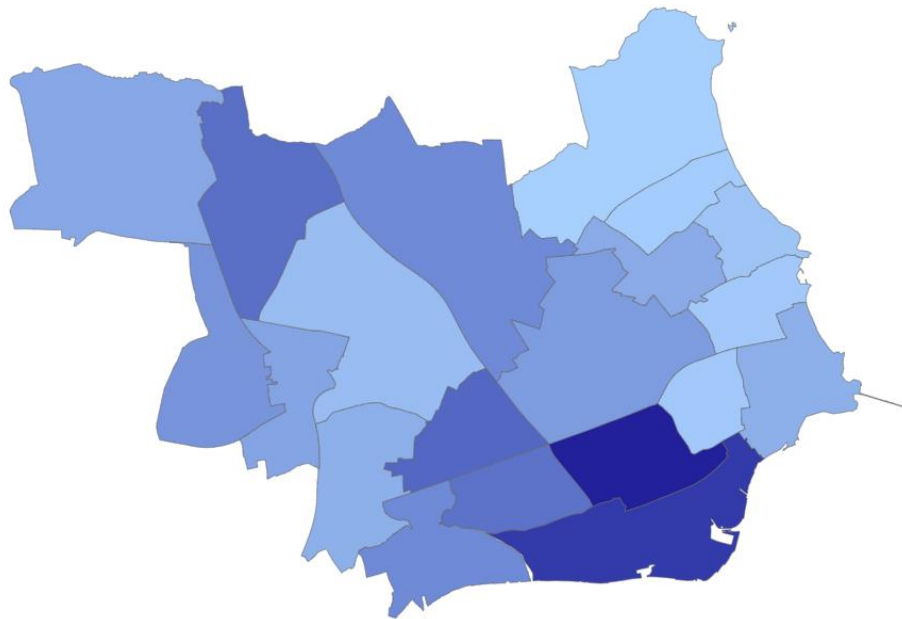
CSC contact outcomes cumulative 24/25



⁴ Data from North Tyneside Council Adult Social Care has not been included in this needs assessment due to issues with new ways of recording.

Almost half of contacts (42.2%) resulted in no further action (NFA). Slightly fewer (36.3%) were transferred to early health monitoring (EHM) services. The fewest progressed to referrals.

CSC Referrals by Ward 23/24



In 2023/24, the geographical distribution of domestic abuse-related referrals to Children's Social Care largely matched that of crime reports and housing presentations. The largest number of referrals were in Chirton and Riverside wards, which are among North Tyneside's most deprived. There were significantly fewer in the borough's least deprived coastal wards. These included Cullercoats, Monkseaton North, and St. Mary's. The few referrals in these wards may reflect that the residents of these wards have less contact with the Council's social services. Battle Hill and Camperdown wards also had relatively high numbers of referrals to Children's Social Care despite having lower rates of crime reports.

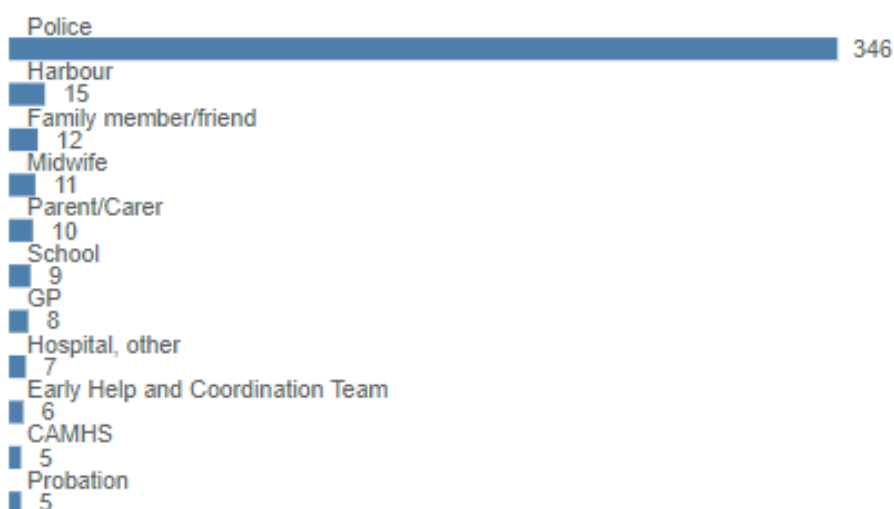
CSC Referrals by Source top 10 24/25



In 2024/25, far more referrals came to Children’s Social Care from the police than from any other source.

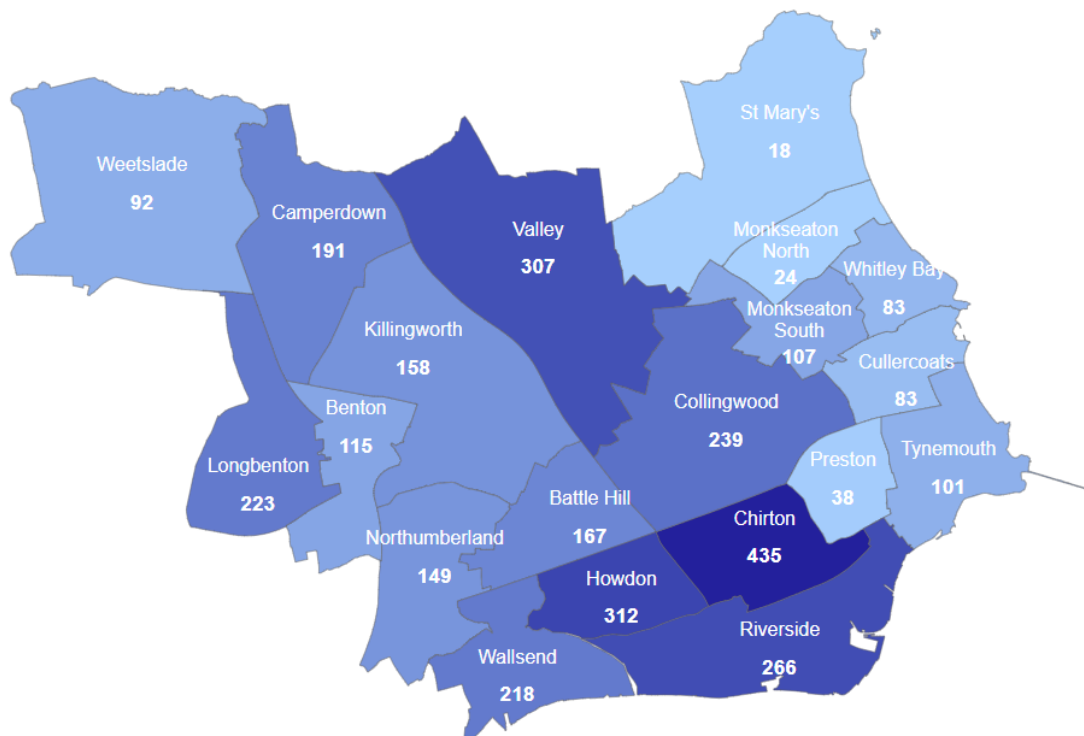
Early Help

EH Contact Source (top 10) 24/25



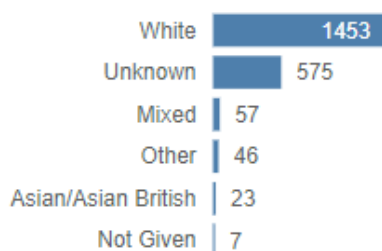
The Council’s Early Help and Coordination Team (EHC) also received the vast majority (79.7%) of its domestic abuse-related contacts from the police.

Early Help Referrals by Ward 23/24



In 2023/24, the EHC Team received high numbers of domestic abuse-related referrals from the borough's southernmost wards including Chirton (435), Howdon (312), and Riverside (266). There were also high numbers of referrals located in the Valley (307) and Longbenton (223) wards in the north and west of North Tyneside. Fewest referrals again came from the borough's least deprived wards including St. Mary's (18) and Monkseaton North (24).

EH contacts by ethnicity 23/24

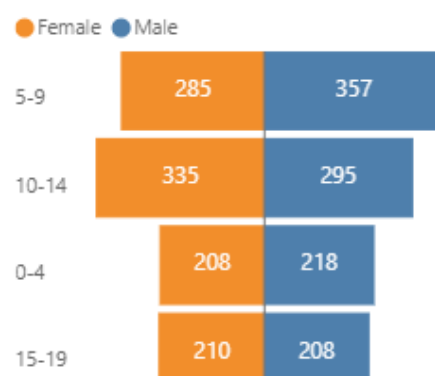


EH contacts by disability status 23/24



EH contacts by age and gender 23/24

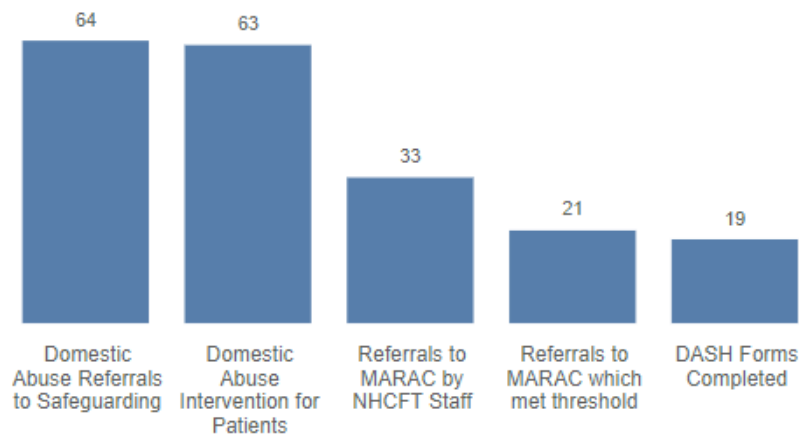
Excludes where gender is not recorded



In 2023/24, the majority (91.4%) of EHC domestic abuse-related contacts were white, excluding those instances where ethnicity was not recorded. A tiny minority (1.6%) of contacts were disabled. Slightly more were male (50.9%) than female (49.1%), which again shows that child victims of domestic abuse are evenly split.

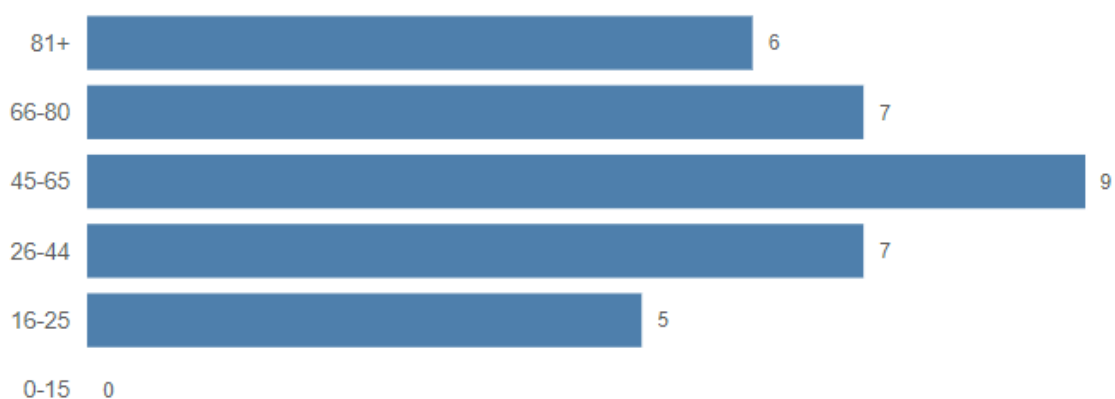
MARAC Referrals from Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHCFT)

Referrals to MARAC from NHCFT staff 24/25



In quarter one of 2024/25, NHCFT staff made 64 domestic abuse-related referrals to safeguarding teams. 33 referrals were made to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, of which 21 referrals met the MARAC threshold.

Age of referrals in 24/25



The largest number (26.5%) of referrals to MARAC involved individuals aged between 45 and 65. Many MARAC referrals (38.2%) were aged 66 and over

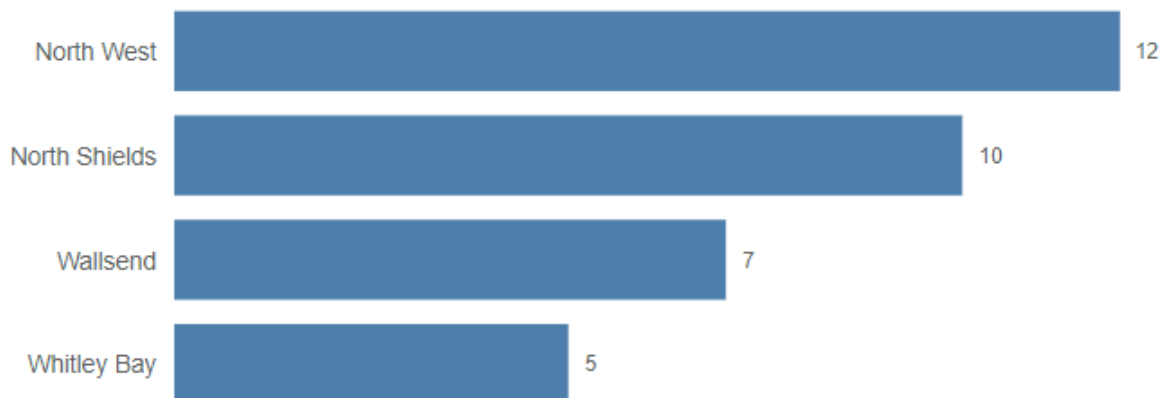
while fewer (14.7%) were aged 16–25. The NHS may be an effective channel through which to identify older victims of domestic abuse.

Sex of referrals in 24/25



The majority (79.4%) of MARAC referrals in quarter one of 2024/25 were female. A significant minority (20.6%) were male.

Local areas of referrals in 24/25



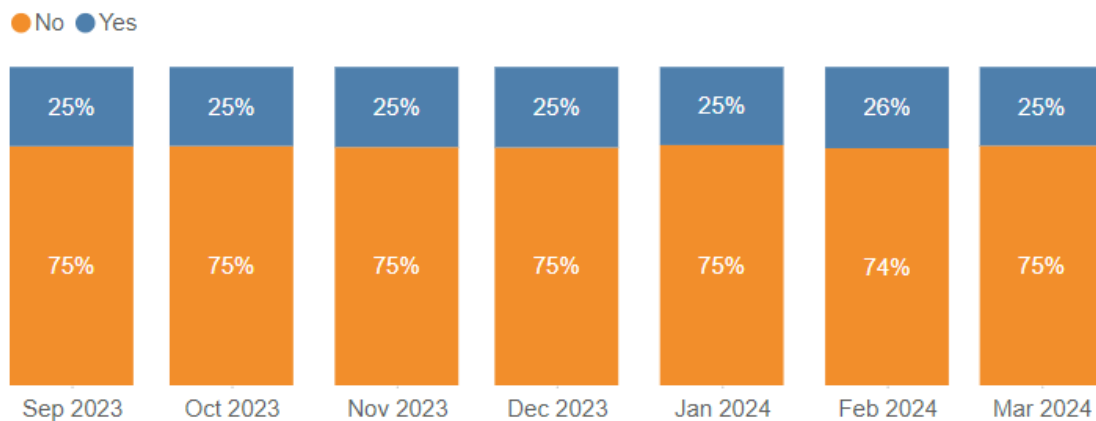
The largest number of referrals (35.3%) came from the North West of the borough. This roughly corresponds to the Weestlade, Camperdown and Killingworth wards. Many referrals also came from North Shields (29.4%)

and Wallsend (20.6%), which continue to emerge as domestic abuse hotspots.

NTRP

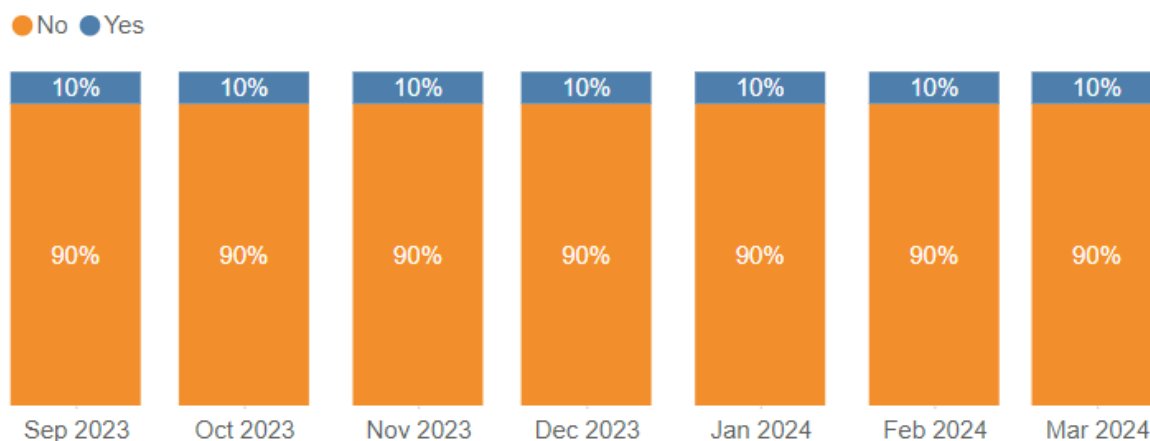
NTRP is a service for those who are experiencing problems with drugs and alcohol in North Tyneside. Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust is the lead service provider in partnership with Turning Point and Changing Lives.

% of clients with a history of domestic abuse as victim

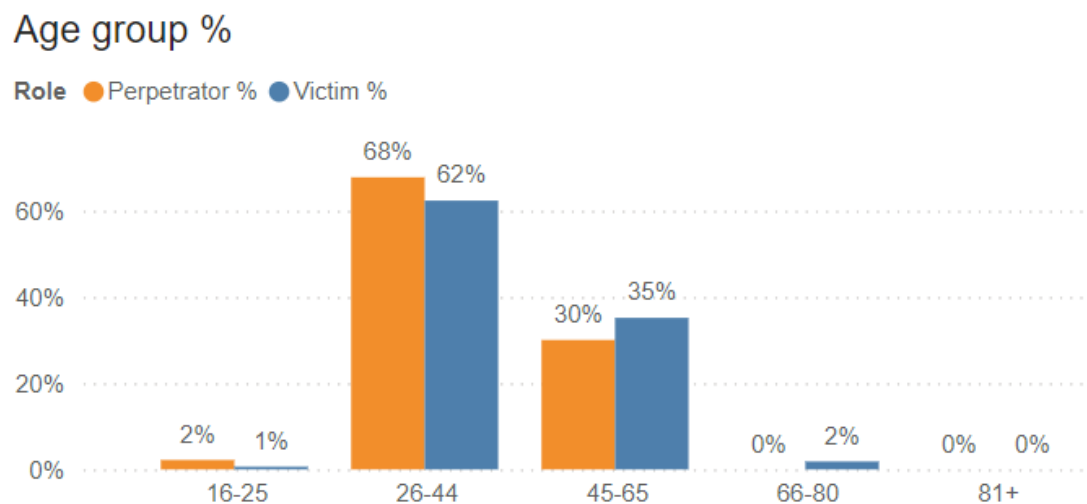


From September 2023 to March 2024, around a quarter of NTRP clients had history as a victim of domestic abuse. This is slightly higher than the national estimate that approximately one in five (20.5%) people aged over 16 have experienced domestic abuse since that age. NTRP may be another effective channel through which to identify victims.

% of clients with a history of domestic abuse as perpetrator



During the same period, 10% of NTRP clients had a history of perpetrating domestic abuse. The disparity between the percentages of domestic abuse victims and perpetrators may be due to individuals not identifying themselves as perpetrators if they are, for example, without convictions.



The vast majority (98% of perpetrators and 97% of victims) of NTRP clients who were identified as having a history of domestic abuse were between the ages of 26 and 65. Very few (2% of perpetrators and 1% of victims) were aged between 16 and 25. There were zero perpetrators identified between the ages of 66 and 80 while just 2% of victims belonged to this age bracket. These disparities may be caused by the demographics of NTRP service users. However, they suggest a potential need to proactively identify older and younger-aged victims of domestic abuse.

10.0 Safe Accommodation Data

In 2022/23, the DLUHC compiled data to monitor progress and implementation of Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 across England. This relates to local authorities' duty to provide domestic abuse support services to domestic abuse victims within safe accommodation.⁵

In 2022/23, English local authorities reported that there were 50,670 instances of individuals supported in safe accommodation. 21,170 (41.8%) of these were children. 26,830 (53%) individuals with at least one specialist characteristic were supported.

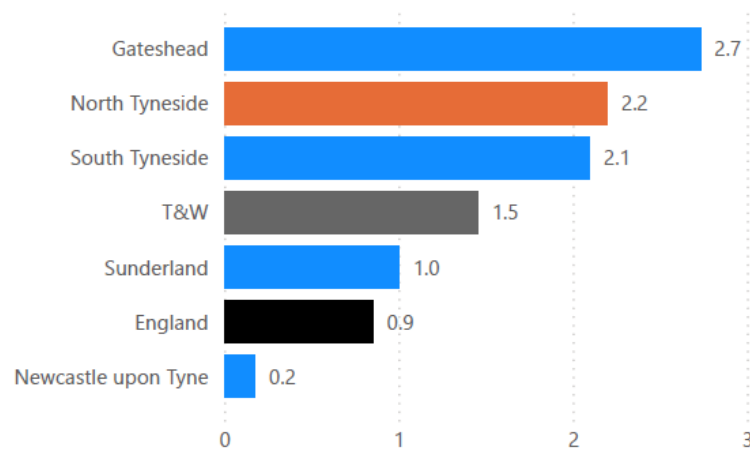
Individuals were supported most often in refuge accommodation (44%) and with sanctuary schemes (26%). However, the landscape of commissioning support is changing. Dispersed accommodation (13%) is now the third highest type of commissioned service. Specialist (7%) and second-stage (3%) accommodation also supported many individuals.

During the same period, English local authorities reported 24,580 instances where a household was referred to a safe accommodation service but the service did not support the household. This represented 32.7% of all referrals made to safe accommodation services.

⁵ The DLUHC acknowledged that the 2022/23 safe accommodation data has limitations. Although the overall submission rate was high (98%) there were issues with under-reporting as all questions were voluntary. It is also recognised that the data does not provide insight into the quality of support and the outcomes achieved. Local authorities are advised to analyse the data cautiously. However, the numbers can give a general sense of local, regional and national trends.

Referrals and Bedspaces

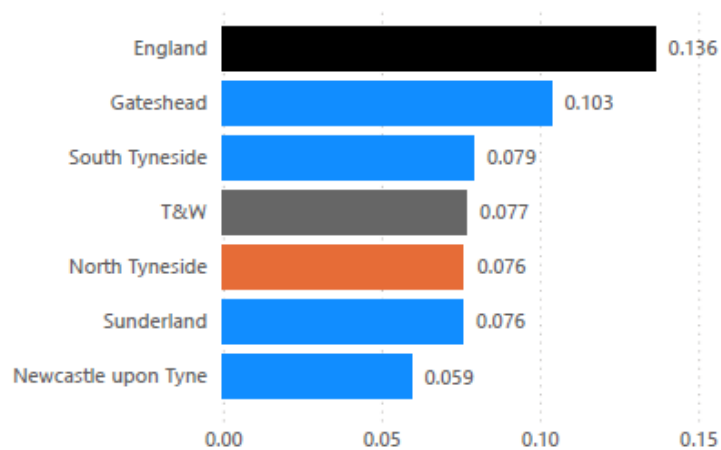
Total Referrals



In 2022/23 in North Tyneside there were 464 referrals to safe accommodation services. This was a rate of 2.2 referrals per 1,000 population. This was significantly higher than the Tyne & Wear (1.5), North East (1.69) and England (0.9) rates.

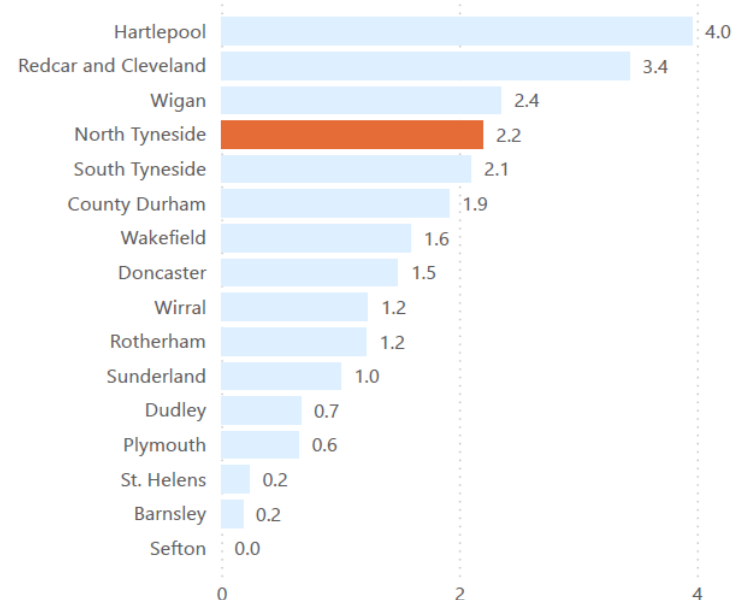
North Tyneside had 16 safe accommodation bedspaces at a rate of 0.076 per 1,000 population. The rate of bedspaces per 1,000 in North Tyneside is similar to Tyne & Wear (0.077). However, both were significantly lower than the national rate (0.136). North Tyneside has since added six dispersed units, bringing the total number of safe accommodation units up to 22. The rate of bedspaces in North Tyneside in 2024 (0.105) is now closer to the national average.

Total bedspaces

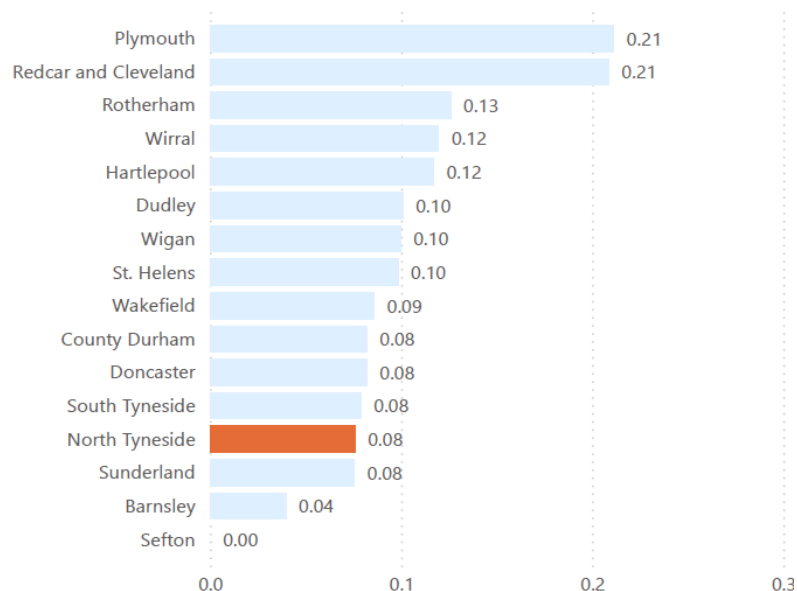


A similar pattern emerges when North Tyneside is compared to its CIPFA nearest neighbours. In 2022/23, the borough received relatively high rates of referrals per 1,000 population while having a relatively low rate of bedspaces.

Total Referrals

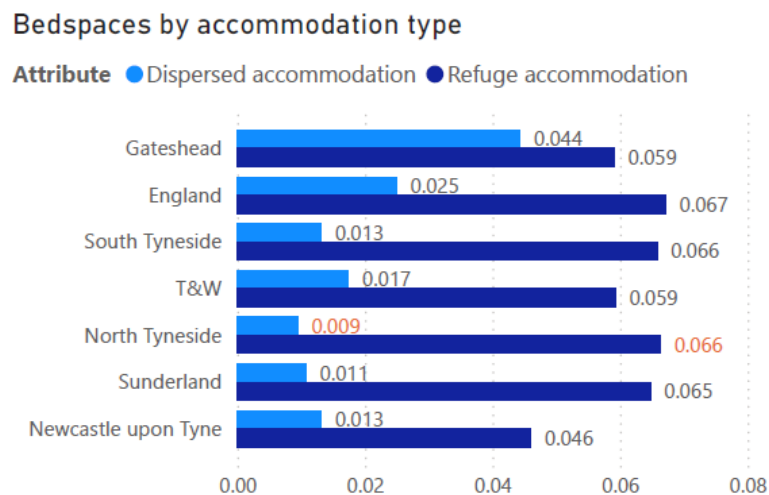


Total bedspaces

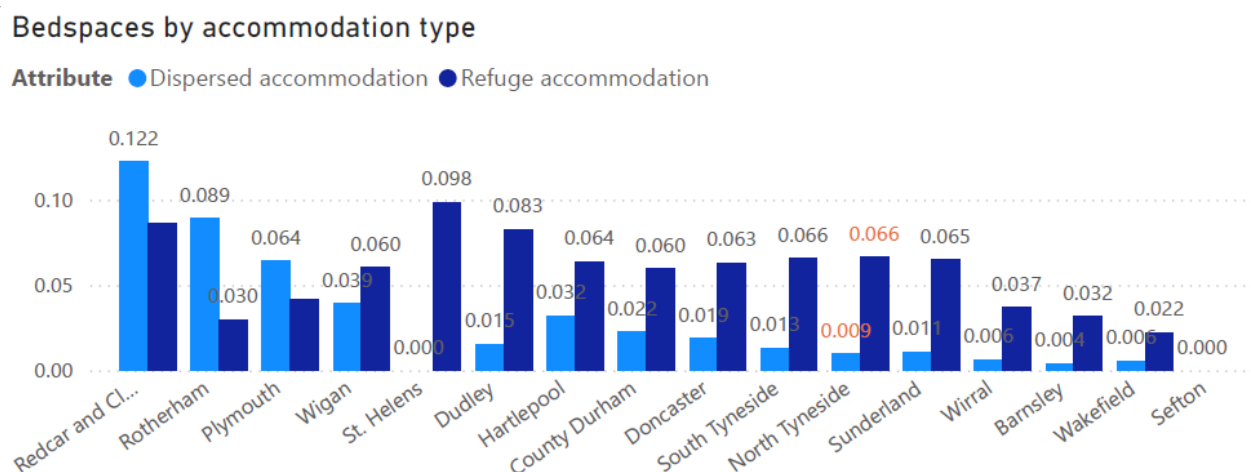


North Tyneside's bedspaces included 14 refuge spaces and two dispersed accommodation spaces. In 2022/23 there were 0.066 refuge spaces per

1,000 population in the borough. This was similar to the national rate (0.067) and slightly higher than that of Tyne & Wear (0.059). In contrast, the number of dispersed accommodation spaces per 1,000 population was lower in North Tyneside (0.009) than in both Tyne & Wear (0.017) and England (0.025).

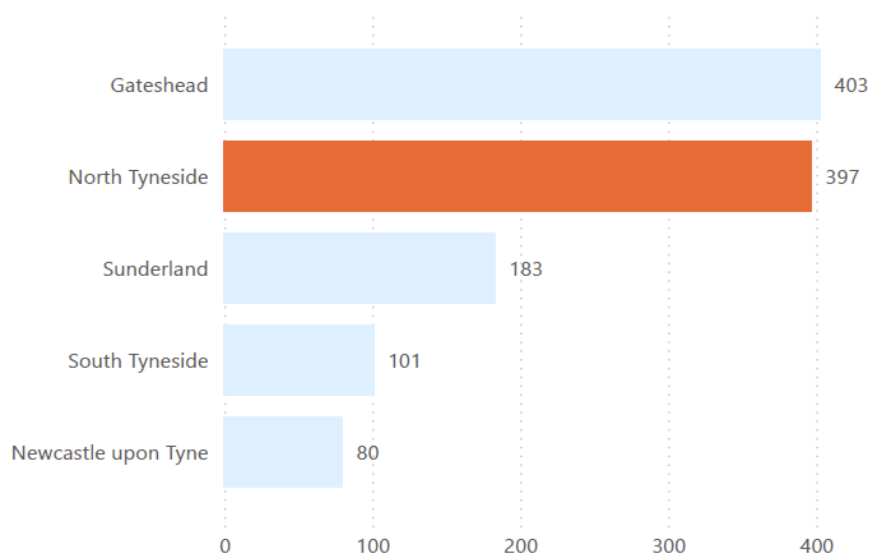


Compared to its CIPFA nearest neighbours, North Tyneside had a relatively low rate of dispersed accommodation per 1,000 population (0.009 vs 0.03). The borough had slightly above average rates of refuge accommodation per 1,000 population (0.066 vs 0.058) compared to the same group of local authorities.



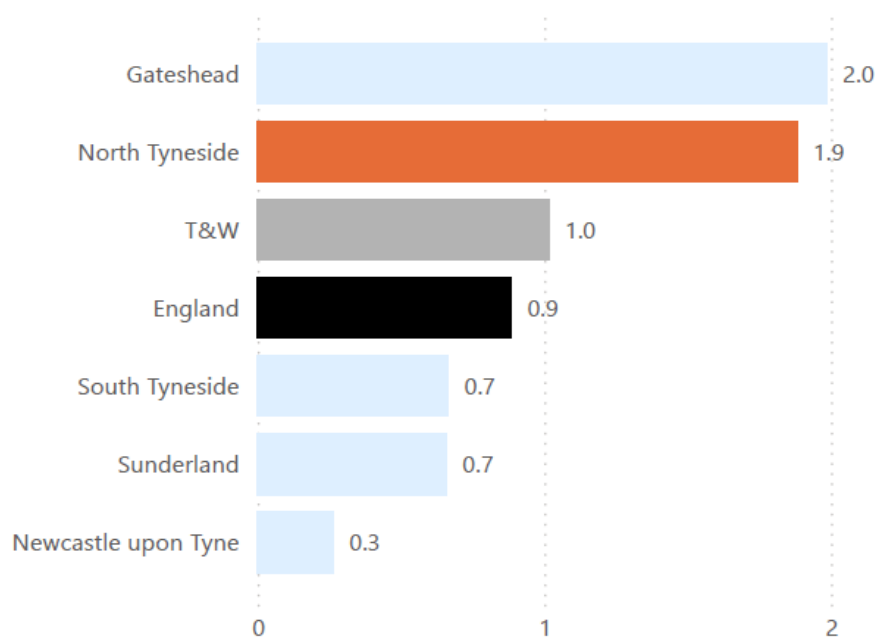
Individuals Supported

Total Individuals Supported

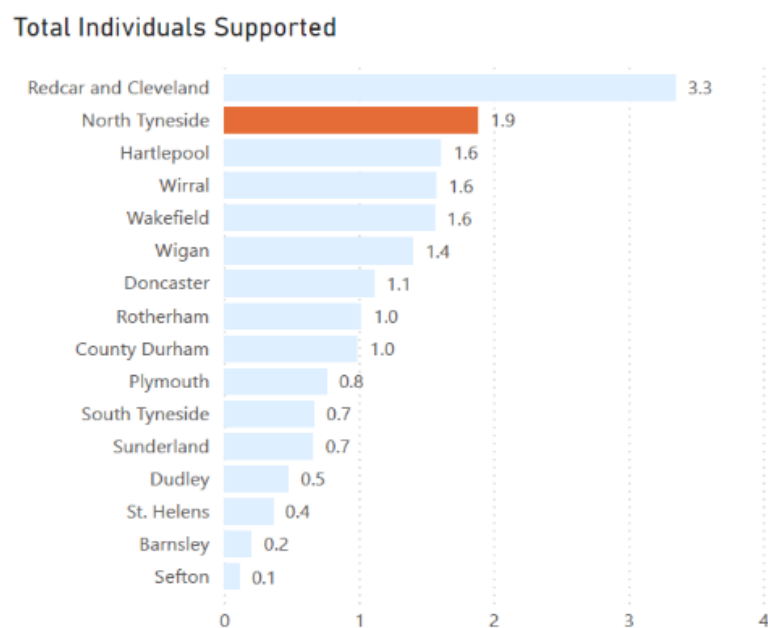


In 2022/23, 397 individuals were supported at domestic abuse safe accommodation services in North Tyneside. Within Tyne & Wear, only Gateshead supported a higher number.

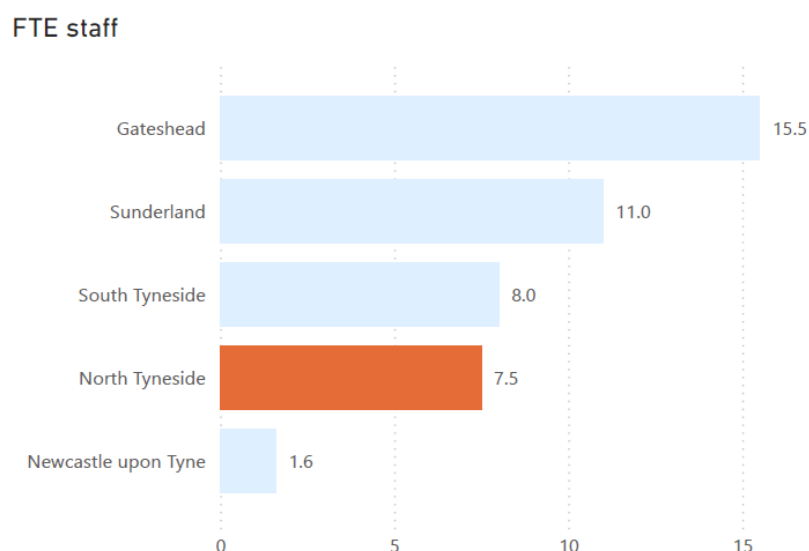
Total Individuals Supported



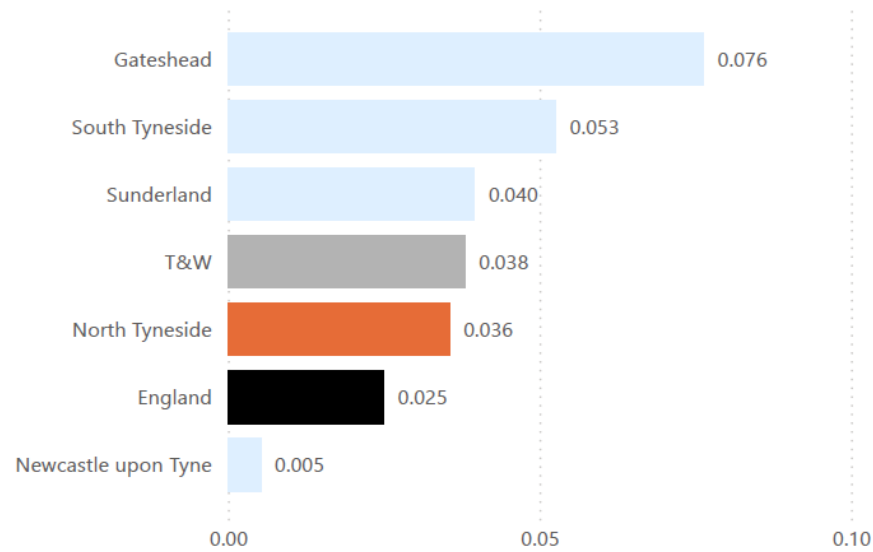
The borough supported 1.9 individuals per 1,000 population. This was around double the rate of both England (0.9) and Tyne & Wear (1.0). Compared to the average of its CIPFA nearest neighbours, North Tyneside supported a higher rate of individuals (1.9 per 1,000 vs. 1.2 per 1,000). Only Redcar and Cleveland (3.3 per 1,000) supported a higher rate of individuals in 2022/23.



In North Tyneside, individuals were supported by 7.5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff. In Tyne & Wear, only Newcastle-upon-Tyne had fewer FTE staff in 2022/23.

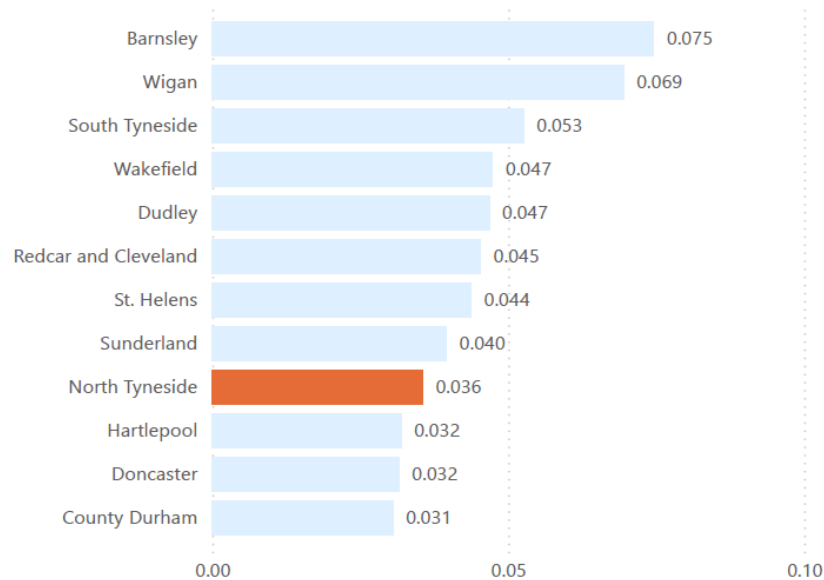


FTE staff



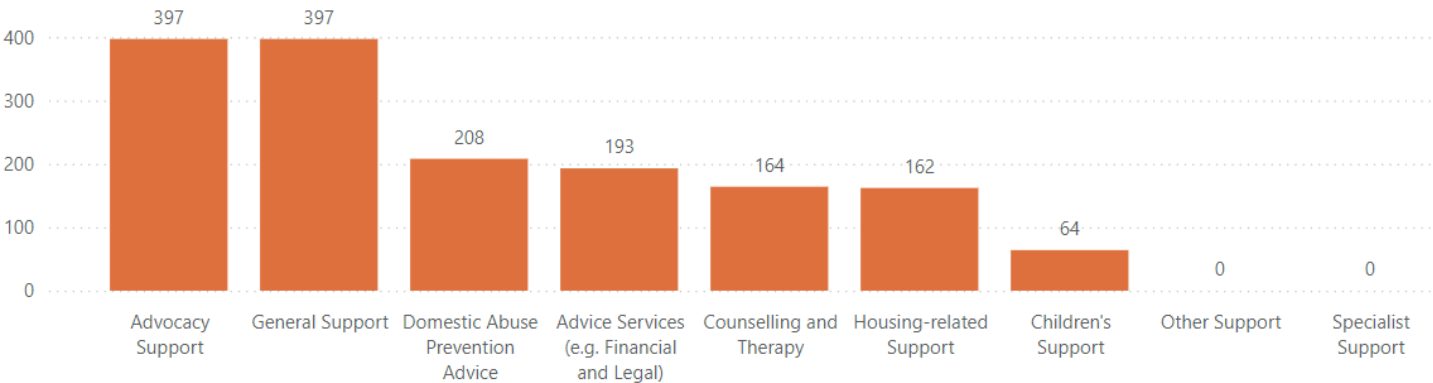
Per 1,000 population, North Tyneside had a similar rate of FTE staff to the Tyne & Wear average (0.036 vs. 0.038). The borough had a slightly higher rate of FTE staff than the national average (0.025 per 1,000).

FTE staff



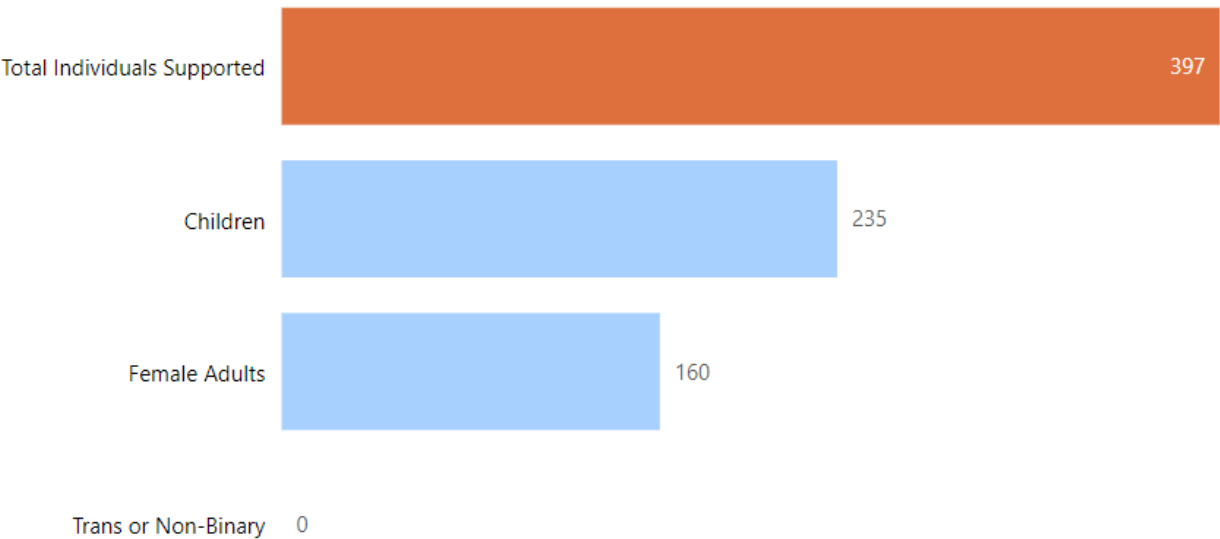
Compared to its CIPFA nearest neighbours, North Tyneside had a similar number of FTE staff per 1,000 population (0.036 vs. 0.037 average).

Types of support at SA services



All the 397 individuals supported in North Tyneside in 2022/23 received advocacy support and general support. More than half (52.4%) received domestic abuse prevention advice. Slightly fewer (48.6%) were supported by advice services, including financial and legal advice. 41.3% received counselling and therapy and a similar percentage (40.8%) obtained housing-related support. 16.1% of individuals received children’s support. Zero individuals received specialist support.

Individuals Supported at Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services (North Tyneside)

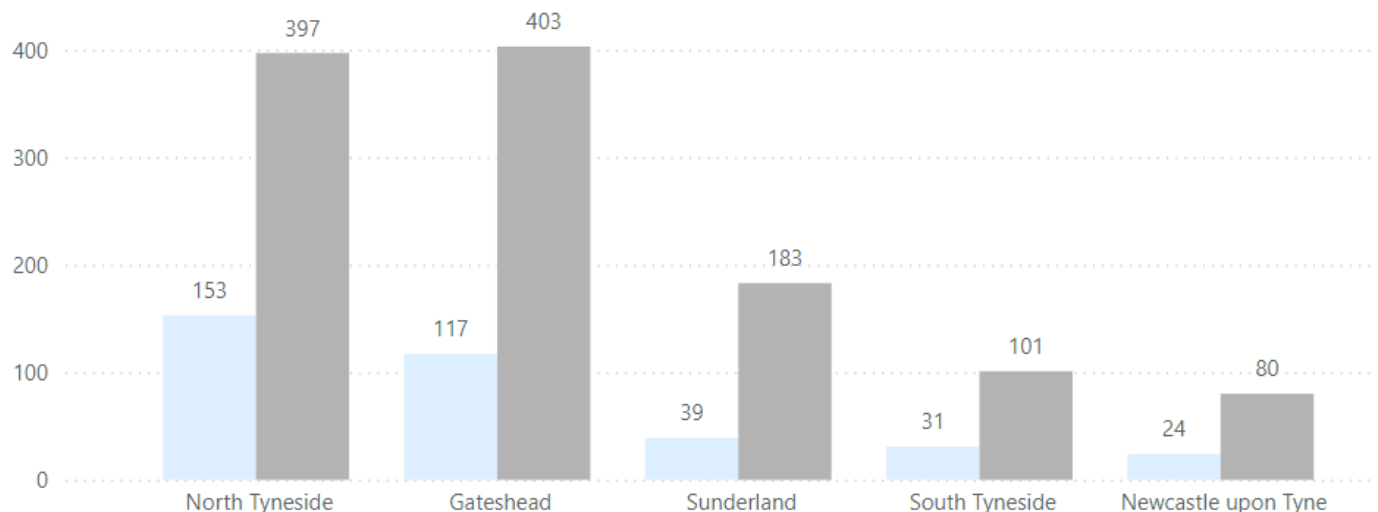


Of the 397 individuals supported in 2022/23, the majority (59%) were children. Slightly under half (40%) were female adults and less than five (>1.3%) were male adults. Zero trans or non-binary adults were supported at safe accommodation services.

A greater proportion of children were supported in North Tyneside than in the North East (49%) and in England (42%). A smaller proportion of female adults were supported in the borough than regionally (50%) and nationally (56%). The proportion of male adults supported in North Tyneside was statistically similar to the North East (1%) and England (2%). Few trans or non-binary individuals were supported both regionally and nationally (<1%).

Total Individuals Supported in SA

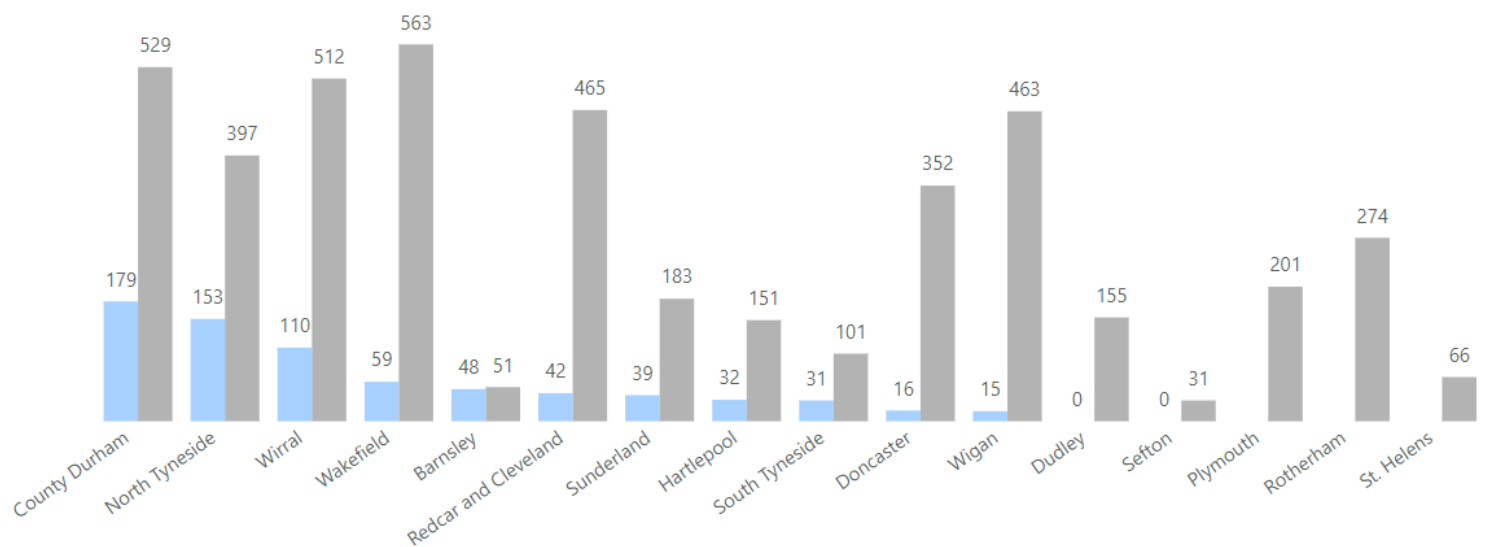
Attribute ● Out Of Area ● Total individuals supported



In 2022/23, North Tyneside's safe accommodation services supported 153 people from outside the area. This was more than in any other local authority in Tyne & Wear. 38.5% of individuals supported in North Tyneside were from outside the area. This was a greater proportion than anywhere else in Tyne & Wear, which ranged from 21.3% in Sunderland to 30.7% in South Tyneside, and the English average (14.8%).

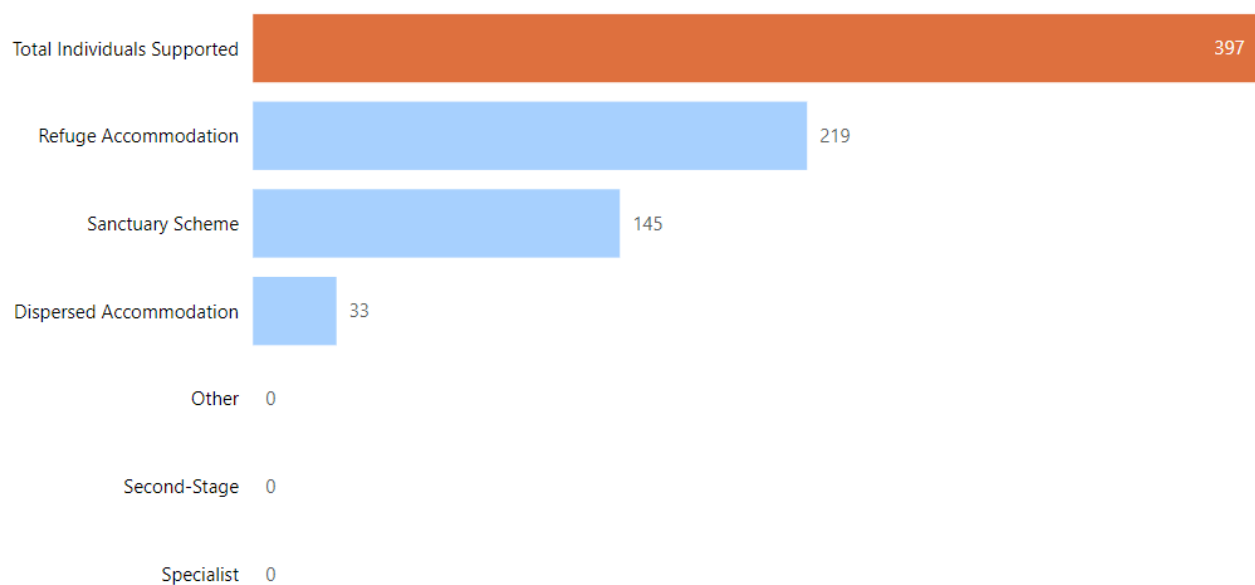
Total Individuals Supported in SA

● Out of Area ● Total Individuals Supported



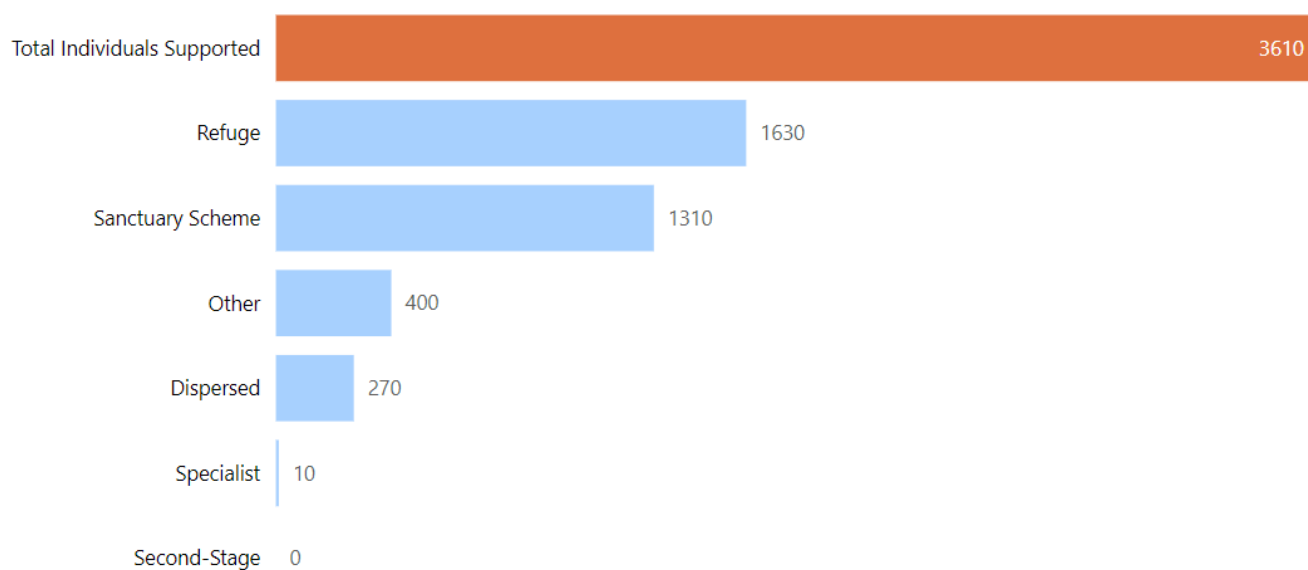
Compared to its CIPFA nearest neighbours, North Tyneside supported a high proportion of individuals from outside the area in 2022/23. Only Barnsley (94.1%) supported a greater proportion than North Tyneside (38.5%). The average for North Tyneside's nearest neighbours was significantly lower (15%) than the rate witnessed in the borough.

Individuals Supported by Accommodation Type (North Tyneside)

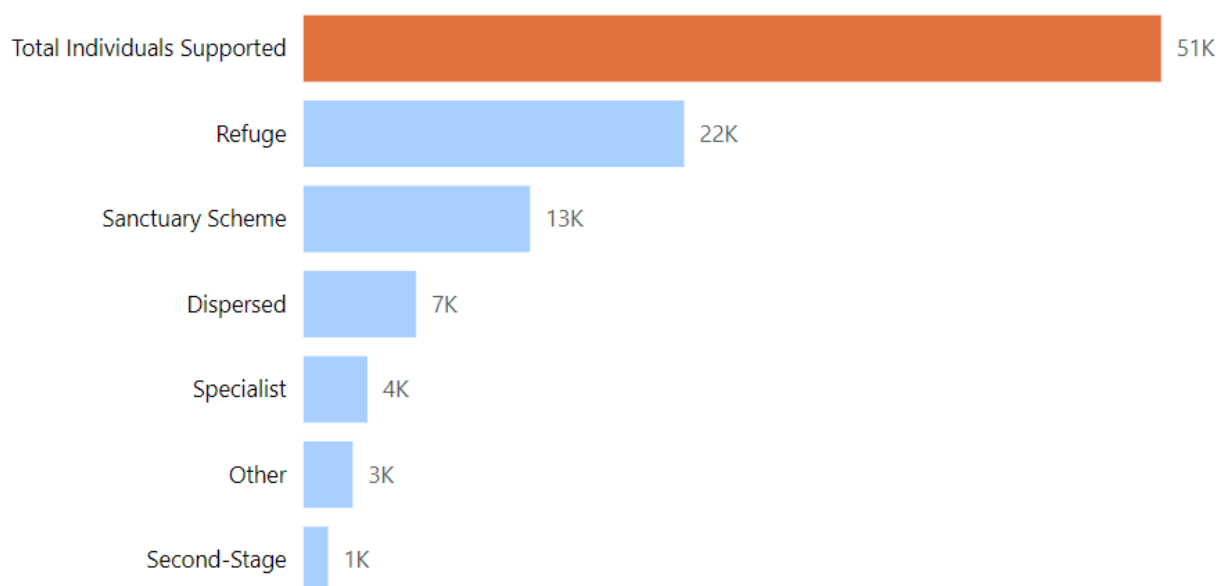


In 2022/23, 219 individuals (55.2%) were supported at refuge accommodation in North Tyneside. 33 (8.3%) were supported at dispersed accommodation. Zero individuals were supported at specialist, second-stage or other accommodation. 145 individuals (36.5%) were supported through sanctuary schemes.

Individuals Supported by Accommodation Type (North East)



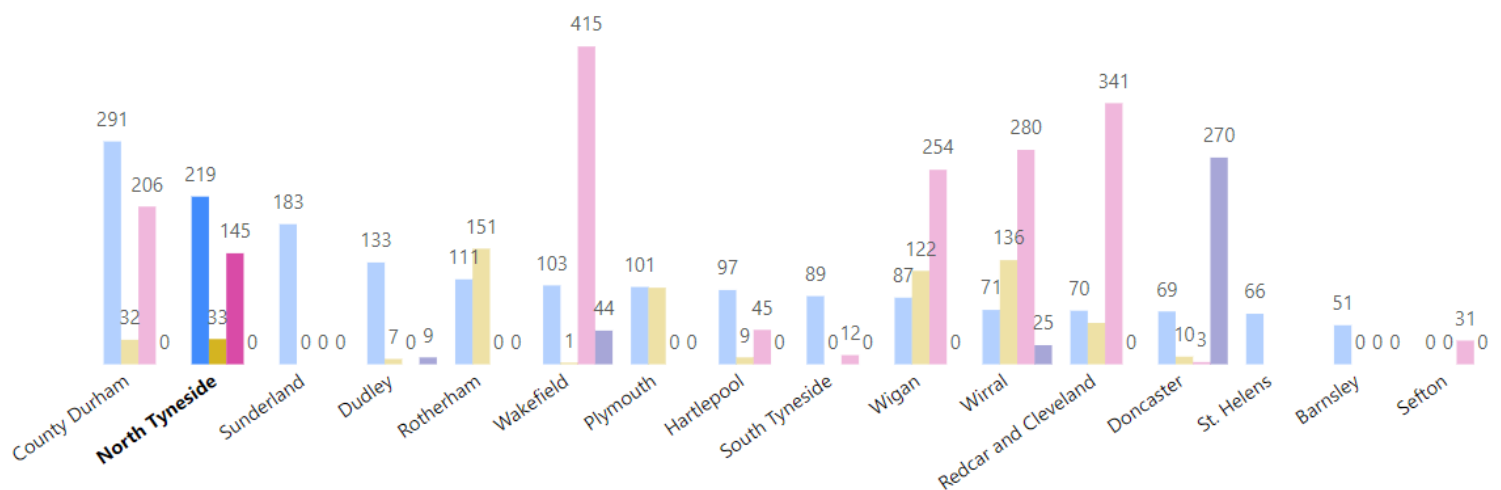
Individuals Supported by Accommodation Type (England)



North Tyneside supported a greater proportion of individuals at refuge accommodation than the North East (45.2%) and England (44.4%). The proportion of individuals supported at dispersed accommodation was similar to the North East (7.5%) but lower than in England (13.1%). The proportion of individuals supported through sanctuary schemes in North Tyneside was similar to the North East (36.3%) and higher than in England (26.4%). Nationally, 7.5% of supported individuals were supported at specialist accommodation while 2.9% were supported at second-stage accommodation. These figures were both zero in North Tyneside.

Individuals Supported by Accommodation Type

● Refuge ● Dispersed ● Sanctuary Scheme ● Other

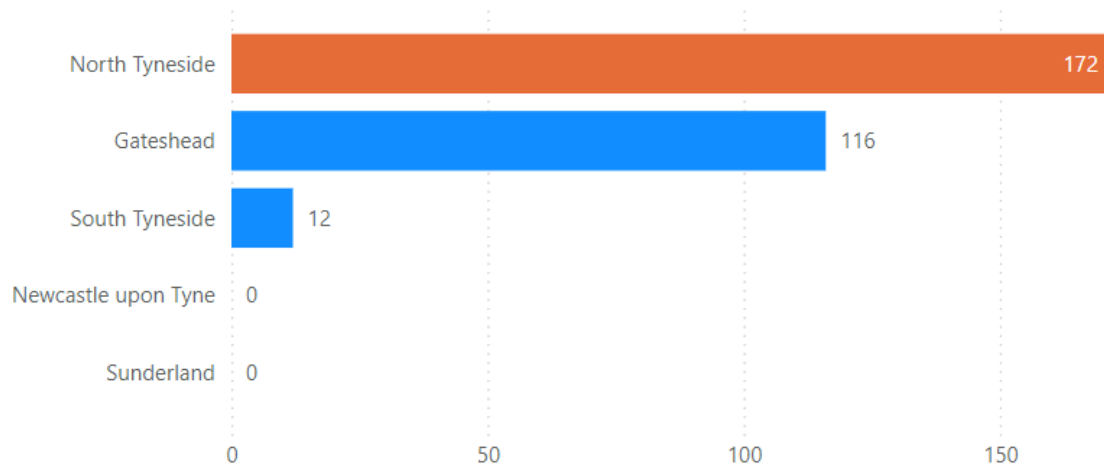


Compared to its CIPFA nearest neighbours, North Tyneside supported a relatively high proportion of individuals at refuge accommodation. Some local authorities used more sanctuary schemes, including Wakefield (73.7%) and Redcar & Cleveland (73.3%). Others were more reliant on dispersed accommodation, including Rotherham (57.6%) and Plymouth (49.8%).

Sanctuary Schemes

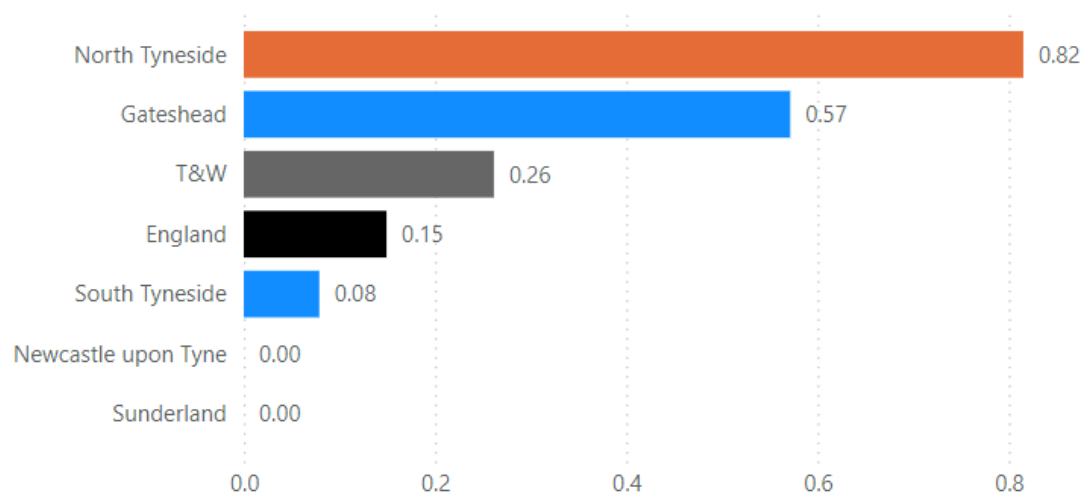
Sanctuary schemes enable victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes by providing additional security measures.

Sanctuary schemes



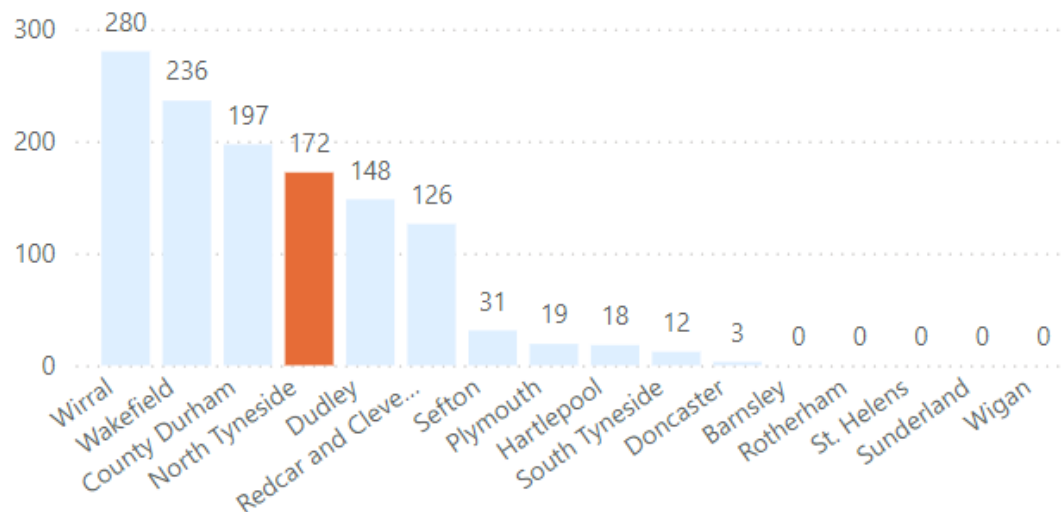
In 2022/23, 172 sanctuary schemes were installed in North Tyneside. This was more than in any other borough of Tyne & Wear.

Sanctuary schemes



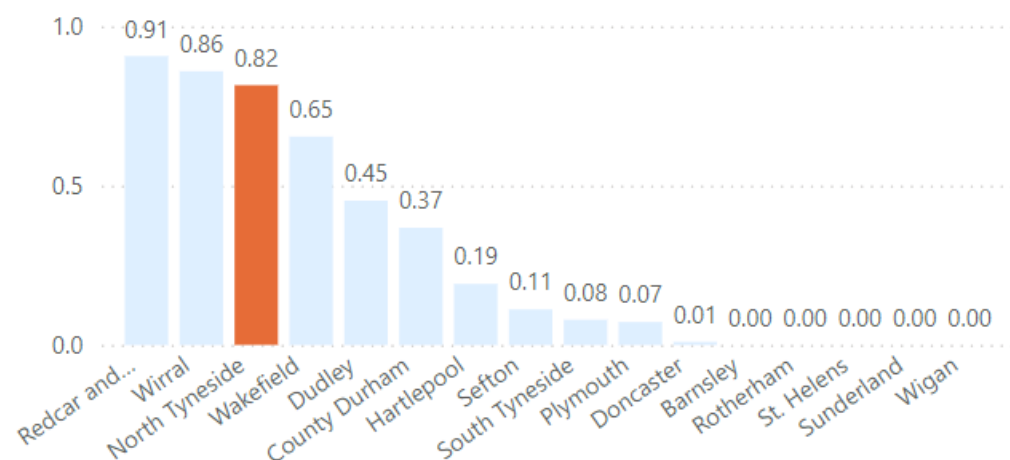
North Tyneside saw 0.82 sanctuary schemes installed per 1,000 population in 2022/23. This was a significantly higher rate than seen both in Tyne & Wear (0.26) and nationally (0.15).

Sanctuary schemes



More sanctuary schemes were installed in North Tyneside than in most of its CIPFA nearest neighbours. Only three of these local authorities installed more in 2022/23.

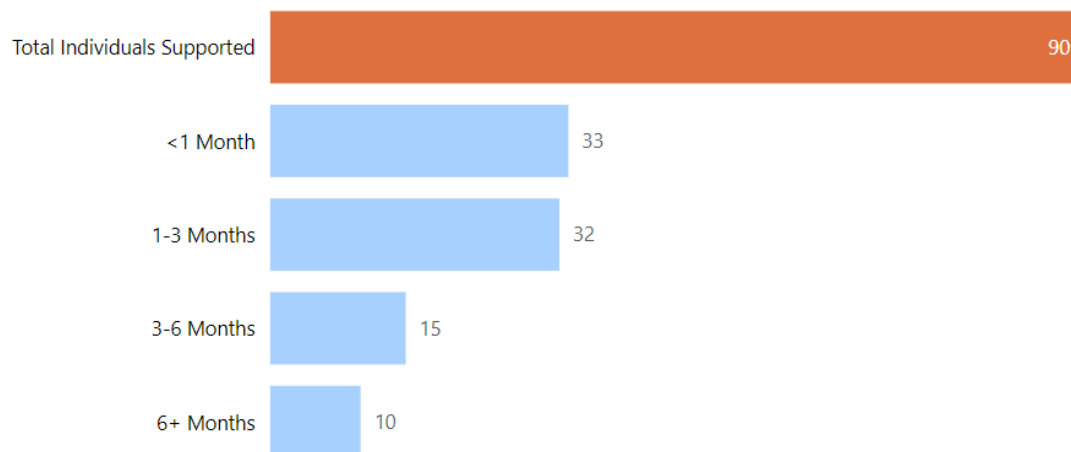
Sanctuary schemes



The rate of sanctuary schemes per 1,000 population was higher in North Tyneside than in all but two of its CIPFA nearest neighbours – Redcar & Cleveland and Wirral.

Length of Stay at Refuge and Dispersed Services

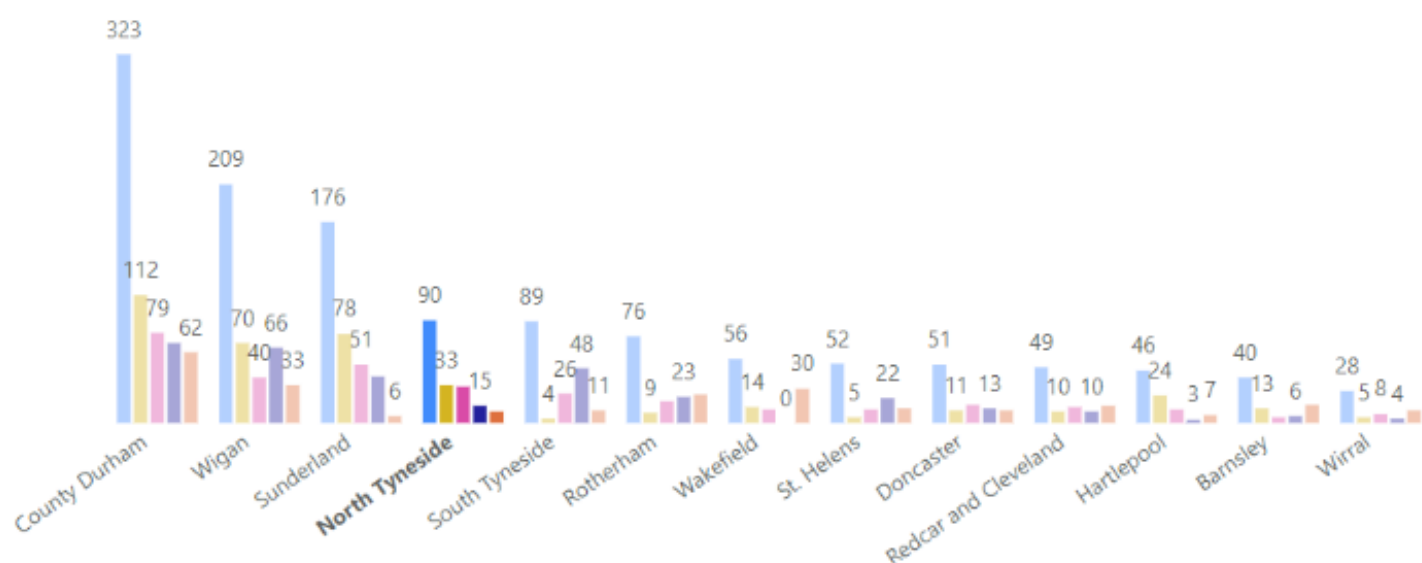
Length of Stay at Refuge and Dispersed Services (North Tyneside)



In 2022/23, 90 individuals stayed at refuge and dispersed accommodation in North Tyneside. More than a third (36.7%) stayed for less than one month. A similar proportion stayed for between one and three months (35.6%). Fewer individuals stayed for between three and six months (16.7%) and for more than six months (11.1%).

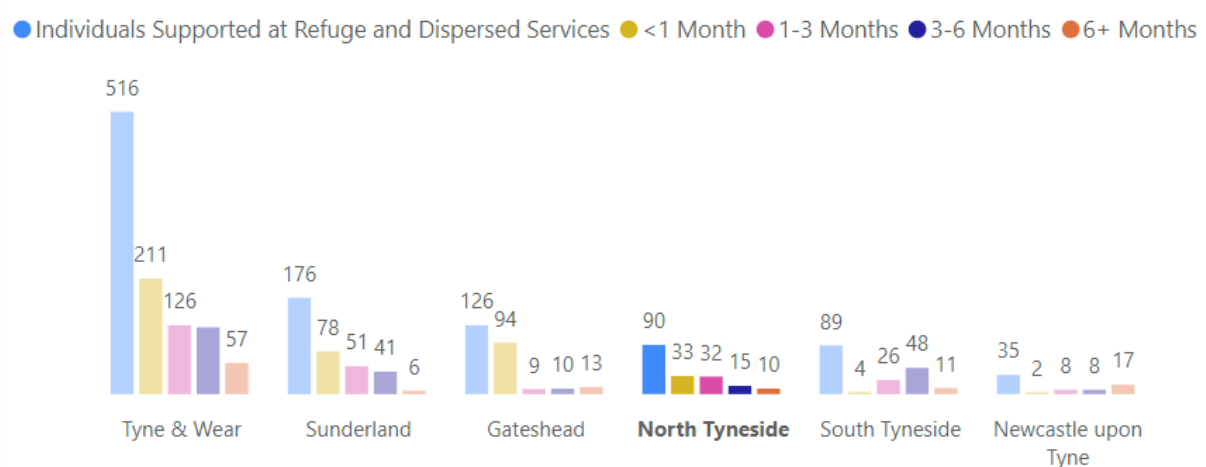
Length of Stay at Refuge and Dispersed Services

● Total Individuals Supported at Refuge and Dispersed Services ● <1 Month ● 1-3 Months ● 3-6 Months ● 6+ Months



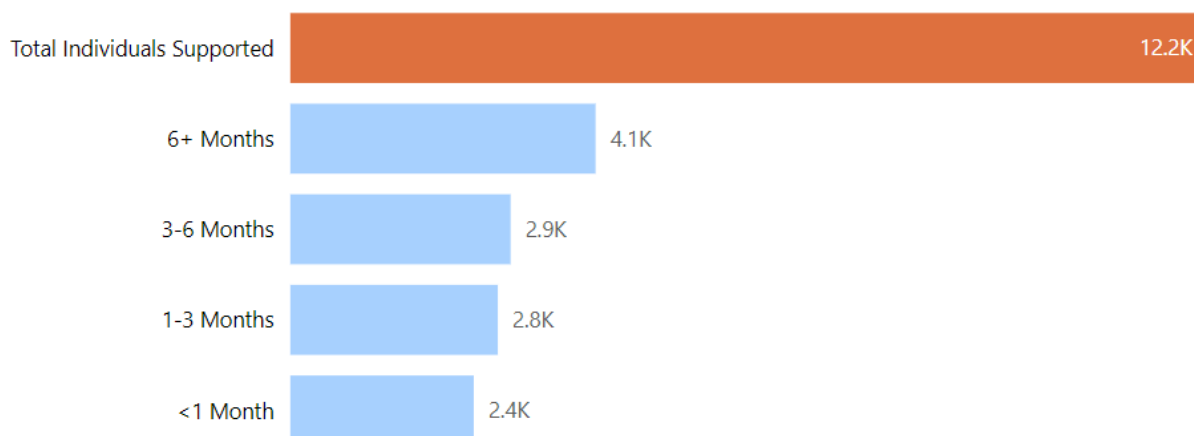
North Tyneside supported more individuals at refuge and dispersed services than all but three of its CIPFA nearest neighbours (County Durham, Wigan and Sunderland). Several of these local authorities supported a higher proportion of individuals for longer periods of time. Of the 40 individuals supported in Barnsley, 16 (40%) stayed for more than six months. In Wakefield, this figure was 30 (53.6%).

Length of Stay at Refuge and Dispersed Services



Across Tyne & Wear, 211 (41%) individuals stayed at refuge and dispersed services for less than a month. Fewer (24.4%) stayed for between one and three months. A similar proportion (23.6%) stayed for between three and six months while the smallest proportion (11%) stayed for more than six months.

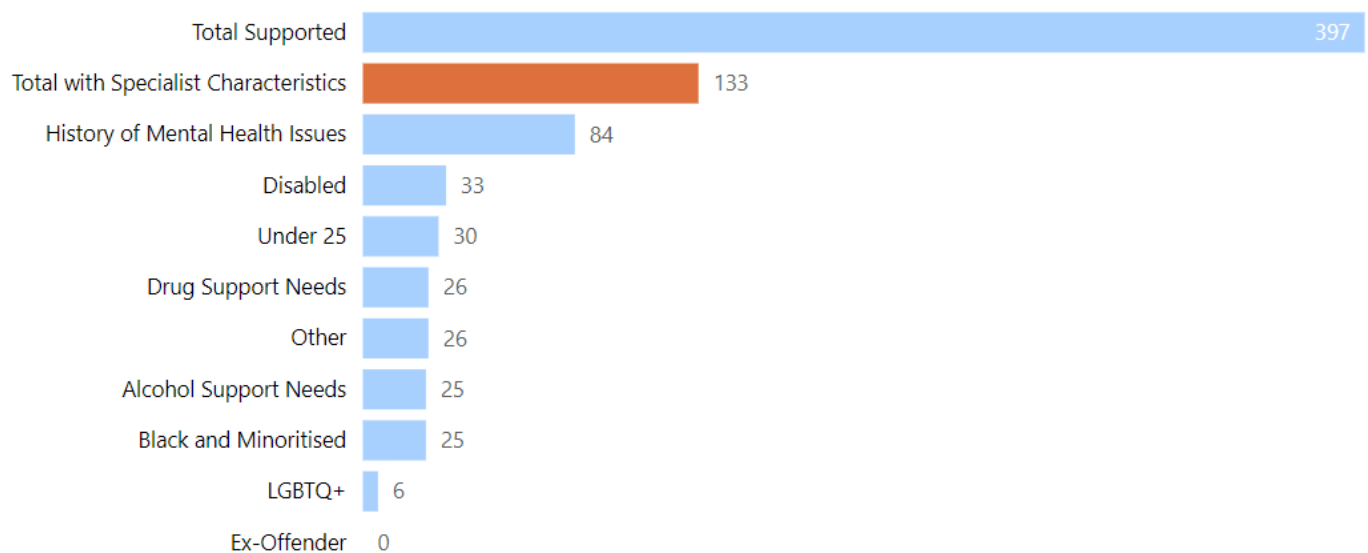
Length of Stay at Refuge and Dispersed Accommodation (England)



Nationally, 12,190 length-of-stays were recorded in 2022/23. The national trend was inverse to that in North Tyneside. In England, the largest proportion (33.3%) of individuals stayed for longer than six months. This was three times larger than the equivalent group in North Tyneside. The smallest proportion (20%) stayed for less than one month. This group was significantly smaller than its equivalent in the borough. A smaller proportion of individuals stayed for between one and three months in England (22.6%) than in North Tyneside. A greater proportion stayed for between three and six months nationally (24%) than in the borough.

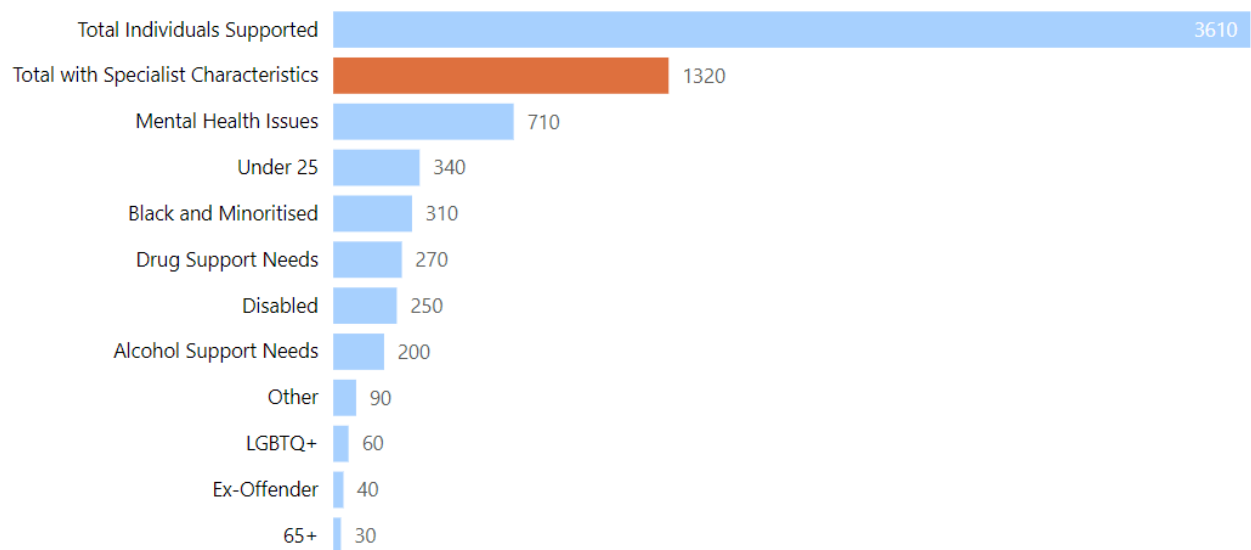
Individuals Supported with Specialist Characteristics

Individuals Supported with Specialist Characteristics (North Tyneside)



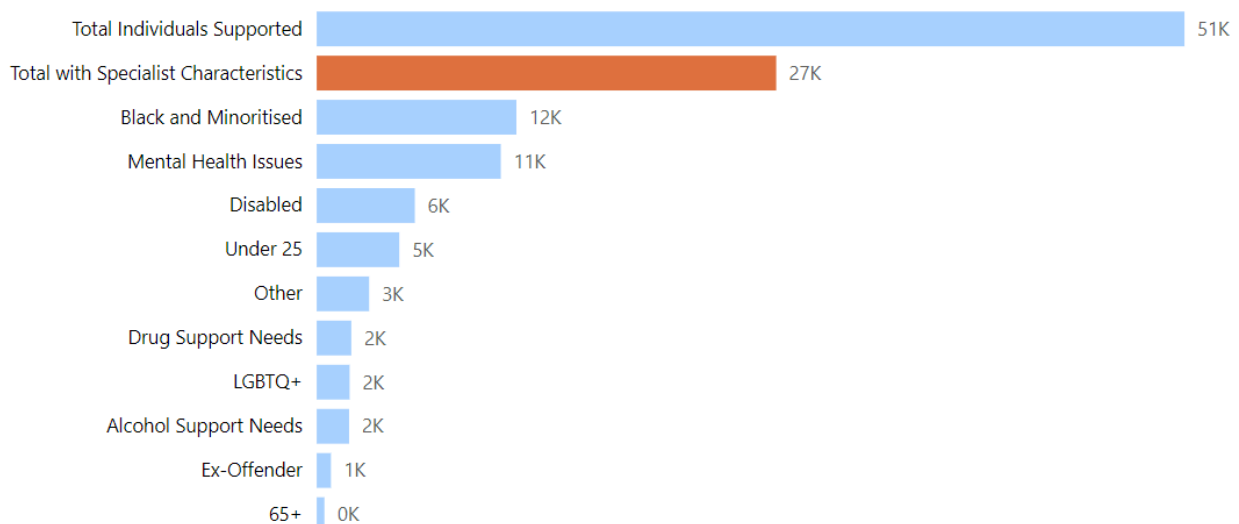
In 2022/23, 133 individuals with specialist characteristics were supported at safe accommodation services in North Tyneside. This represented 33.5% of all individuals supported. The largest single group had a history of mental health issues (21.2%). Smaller proportions of individuals were disabled (8.3%), aged under 25 (7.6%), had drug (6.6%) and alcohol support needs (6.3%), or were black and minoritised (6.3%). Just six individuals (1.5%) were LGBTQ+. Fewer than 5 individuals (less than 1.3%) were aged 65 or over. Zero (0%) ex-offenders were supported at safe accommodation services in the borough.

Individuals Supported with Specialist Characteristics (North East)



In the North East a similar proportion of supported individuals had specialist characteristics (36.6%). The proportion of individuals supported with each specialist characteristic was broadly similar to North Tyneside, with the exception that there were 40 (1.1%) ex-offenders supported in the North East compared to zero (0%) in the borough. A slightly higher proportion of disabled individuals was supported in North Tyneside (8.3%) than in the North East (6.9%).

Individuals Supported with Specialist Characteristics (England)



Nationally, a higher proportion of individuals supported had specialist characteristics (53%). The largest category was black and minoritised individuals (23%) which may reflect demographic differences. This was closely followed by those with a history of mental health issues (21.2%) which matched the proportion in North Tyneside.

The borough supported a smaller proportion of disabled individuals (8.3%) than the national average (11.3%). The proportion of LGBTQ+ individuals supported in North Tyneside (1.5%) was less than half that in England (3.8%). Zero ex-offenders were supported at safe accommodation in the borough compared to 1.6% nationally. Greater proportions of individuals aged under 25 and 65 and over received support in England compared to North Tyneside.

Greater proportions of individuals with drug support needs were supported in North Tyneside (6.6%) than in England (4%). This was also true of individuals with alcohol support needs (6.3% vs. 3.7%).

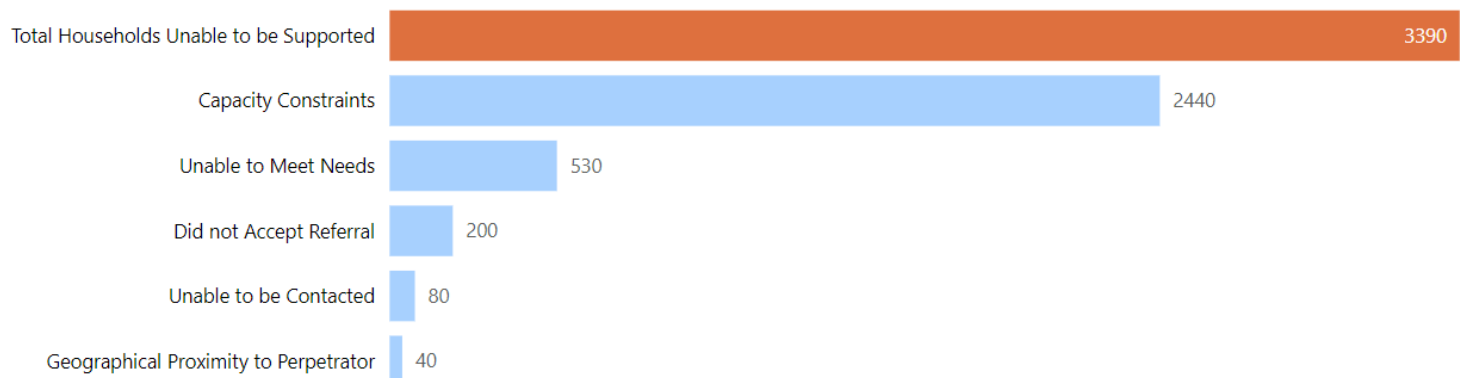
Households Unable to be Supported

Households Unable to be Supported at Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (North Tyneside)



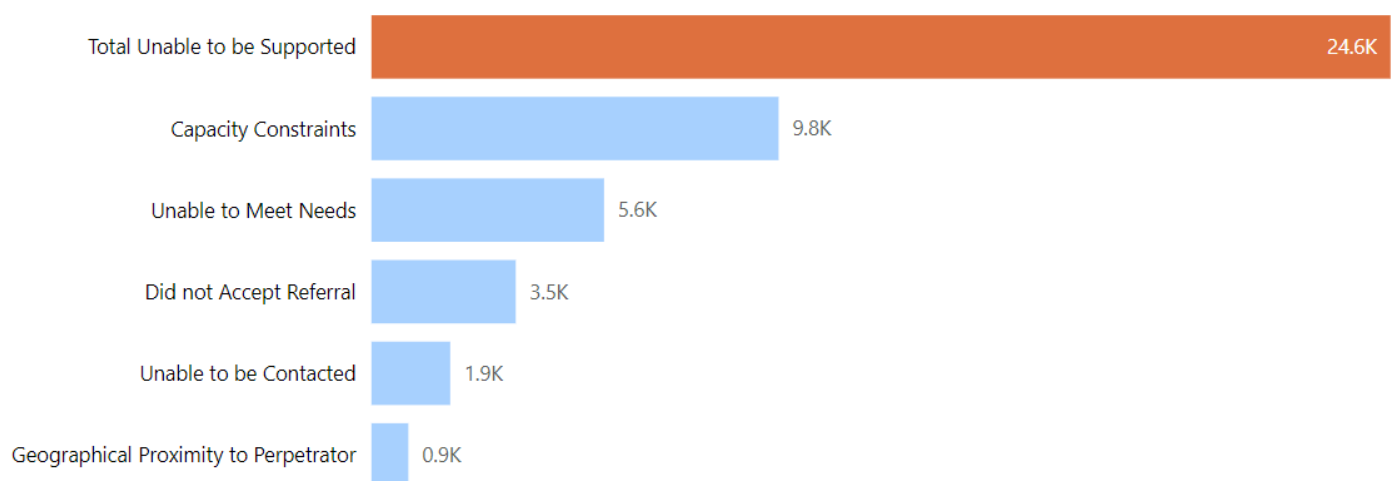
In 2022/23, 263 households were unable to be supported at safe accommodation services in North Tyneside. This is compared to a total of 397 individuals who were supported. The vast majority (87.8%) of these households were unable to be supported due to capacity constraints. Far fewer households did not accept their referral to safe accommodation (6.8%). The borough's safe accommodation services were unable to meet the needs of a small percentage (4.2%) of the households which were unable to be supported.

Households Unable to be Supported at Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (North East)



In the North East, 3,390 households were unable to be supported at safe accommodation in 2022/23. This is compared to a total of 3,610 individuals who were supported. Of these households, 72% were unable to be supported due to capacity constraints. This was a smaller proportion than in North Tyneside. The North East's safe accommodation services were unable to meet the needs of 530 (15.6%) of these households, a proportion more than three times greater than that in North Tyneside.

Households Unable to be Supported (England)



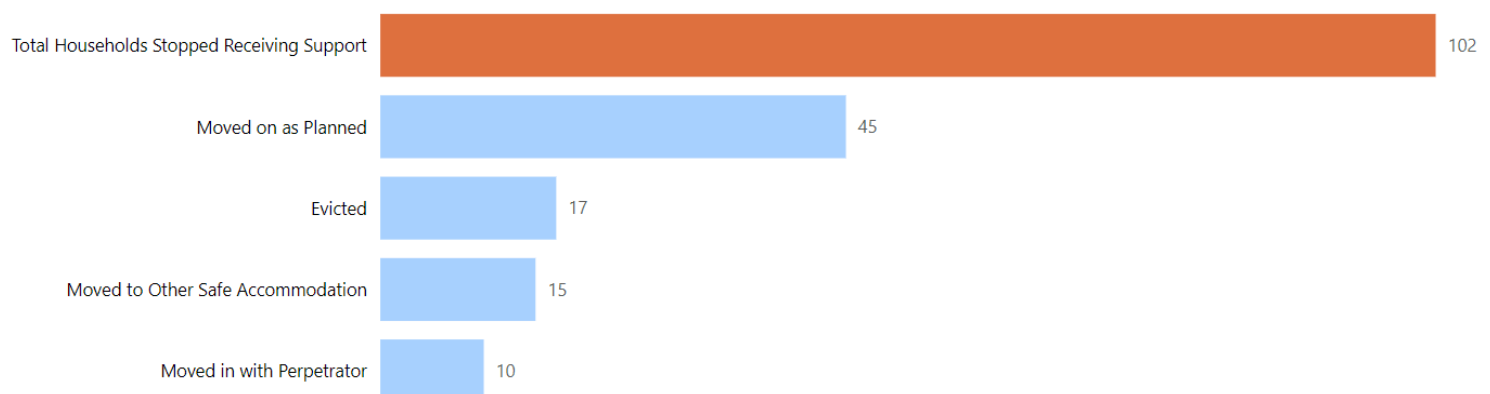
Nationally, 24,580 households were unable to be supported at safe accommodation in 2022/23. This is compared to a total of 50,670 individuals who were supported. A smaller proportion of these households were unable to be supported due to capacity constraints (40%) than in North Tyneside. Instead, other reasons were more common. These included households unable to be contacted (7.7%) and those which did not accept a referral (14.2%). Safe accommodation services were unable to meet the needs of 22.8% of these households, which was a significantly higher proportion than in North Tyneside.

In North Tyneside, domestic abuse safe accommodation services were unable to meet the needs of 11 (4.2%) households. Of these, most (72.7%) were not supported due to unmet drug support needs. Other reasons included family size and mental health support needs.

Across the North East, 70 (13.2%) households were unable to be supported due to unmet drug support needs. Nationally, 360 (6.4%) households were not supported for the same reason. Both regionally and nationally more common unmet needs related to disability, mental health support, alcohol support, and lack of recourse to public funds.

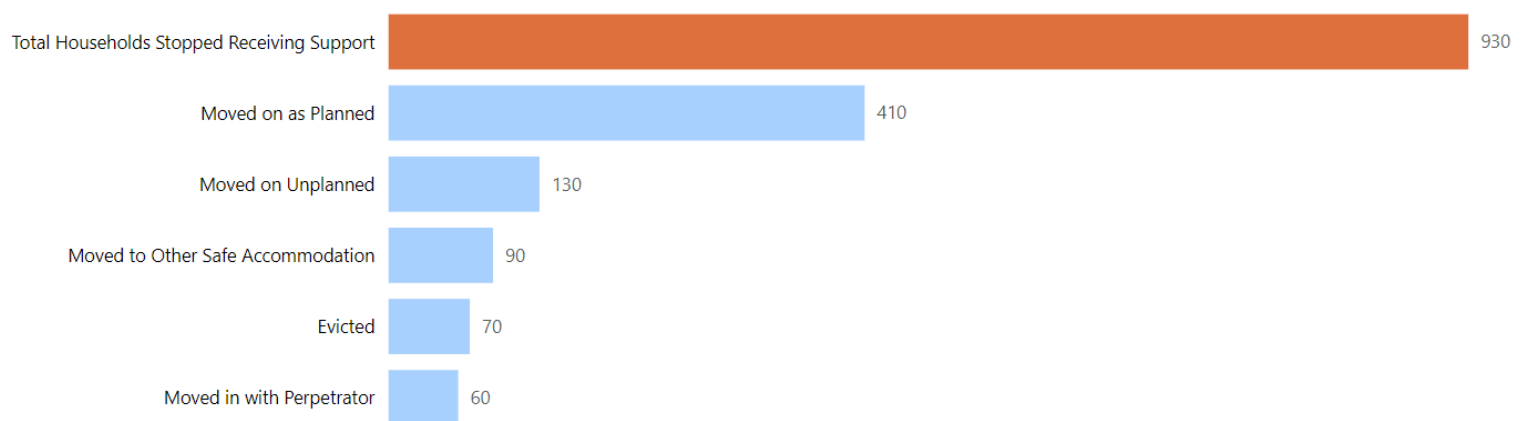
Households Stopped Receiving Support

Households Stopped Receiving Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services (North Tyneside)



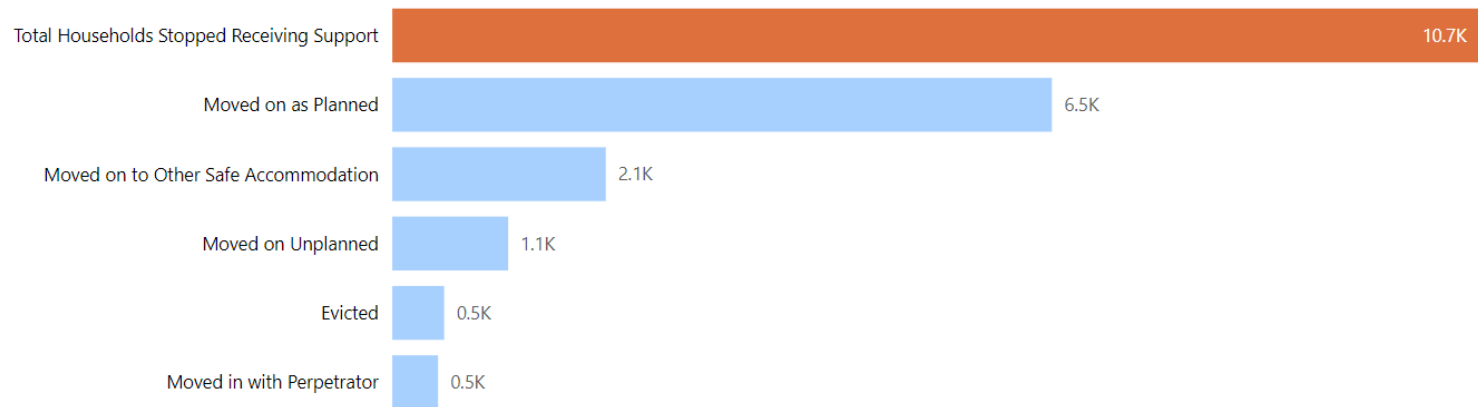
In 2022/23, 102 households stopped receiving domestic abuse safe accommodation services in North Tyneside. 45 (44.1%) of these moved on as planned. The second largest group was asked to leave or evicted (16.7%). A similar proportion moved on to another form of safe accommodation (16.7%). Fewer moved in with the abuse perpetrator (9.8%) while less than 5 (<4.9%) moved on unplanned.

Households Stopped Receiving Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services (North East)



In the North East, 930 households stopped receiving domestic abuse safe accommodation services in 2022/23. 44.1% of these moved on as planned, which matched North Tyneside. A significantly higher proportion of households moved on unplanned in the North East (14%) than in the borough. A smaller proportion of households in the North East moved to other safe accommodation (9.7%) than in North Tyneside. Significantly smaller proportions of households moved in with the perpetrator (6.5%) and were evicted (7.5%) in the North East than in the borough.

Households Stopped Receiving Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services (England)



Nationally, 16,330 households stopped receiving domestic abuse safe accommodation services in 2022/23. 39.7% of these moved on as planned, which was slightly lower than in North Tyneside. A similar percentage of households moved on to another form of safe accommodation in England (12.9%) as in the borough. Nationally, a higher percentage of households moved on unplanned (7%) than in North Tyneside. However, significantly smaller proportions of households moved in with the abuse perpetrator (2.8%) and were evicted (3.1%) in England than in the borough.

Specialist and Supported Housing Needs Assessment

In 2024, North Tyneside Council commissioned consultants to conduct a Specialist and Supported Housing Needs Assessment. This included an estimation of the need for safe accommodation for people experiencing domestic abuse in the borough. The assessment drew on a range of quantitative and qualitative data sources to identify the projected need for safe accommodation in 2024, 2029 and 2034.

Key points are as follows:

- In 2023/24 there were 313 referrals to Harbour's safe accommodation. Based on an average 3.5% annual increase, there could be up to 432 referrals by 2034/35. Qualitative data indicate high demand for safe accommodation as available bedspaces are quickly filled.
- There are currently 22 units of safe accommodation in North Tyneside. There is an estimated need for an additional 15 units in 2024/25. This is projected to increase to 18 units by 2029/30 and 21 units by 2034/35.
- Qualitative evidence indicates there are more individuals using safe accommodation with multiple and enduring needs. These needs are often related to drugs, alcohol and mental health. Individuals with such needs require specialist support and cannot always be accommodated by North Tyneside's service providers.
- It was recommended that North Tyneside Council engage with Harbour regarding six units of safe accommodation for people with multiple and enduring needs which are provided in Hartlepool. The Council should ascertain if this could be replicated in North Tyneside.
- The number of sanctuary schemes offered and installed has increased. It was recommended that this scheme continue as an

effective way to allow domestic abuse victims to safely remain in their own homes.

- There is a limited amount of safe accommodation for males experiencing domestic abuse. There is evidence of a small but increasing number of male victims in North Tyneside.
- The average length of stay in safe accommodation is around three months. This increases to between four and five months for those with multiple and enduring needs. A lack of move-on accommodation is preventing people from leaving safe accommodation. This creates blockages and prevents other victims from accessing safe accommodation bedspaces.
- Potential locations for additional units of safe accommodation are Killingworth, North Shields and Wallsend. These areas have a need for safe accommodation and are also accessible with amenities and public services close by.
- North Tyneside Council is exploring the provision of accommodation to perpetrators of domestic abuse. This would allow victims to remain in their homes. The Council would enable this across all tenures, which could mean accommodating perpetrators in social, private or supported housing.

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11.0 Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews

A DARDR is a multi-agency review which seeks to identify and implement lessons learnt from deaths which have, or appear to have, resulted from domestic abuse. Their aim is to better protect victims in future by highlighting to the police and other agencies what can be done to strengthen their response. DARDRs were formerly known as Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). In 2024 the government renamed the reviews to better reflect all deaths which fall within their scope.

England and Wales

In England and Wales, 242 domestic abuse-related deaths were recorded between April 2022 and March 2023. The number of suspected victim suicides following domestic abuse (93) overtook intimate partner homicides (80) for the first time. There were smaller numbers of adult family homicides (31), unexpected deaths (23), and child deaths (11).

The majority of victims are female aged 25–54 years old, with the majority of suspects male and in the same age bracket. Between the year ending March 2020 and the year ending March 2022, 67.3% of domestic homicide victims were female compared with only 12.1% of non-domestic homicide victims. In the year ending September 2021, 89% of domestic homicide perpetrators were male.

From April 2020 to March 2023, 61% of all suspects were known to the police for domestic abuse prior to the victim's death. The victim and/or suspect

was known to a partner agency in 60% of cases. Of the cases in which the individuals were not previously known to the police, 39% were known to one or more non-police agency.

North Tyneside

Since 2013, there were ten DARDs in North Tyneside. Eight reviews are complete and two are ongoing. The cases involved eleven victims. Six (55%) were female and 5 (45%) were male. Five (45%) were aged 40-59. Four (36%) were aged 20-39. One (9%) was aged 60-79 and one was aged 80 or over. Most deaths were homicides (64%). There were fewer drug-related deaths and suicides.

Cases exhibited behaviours including cuckooing, torture, coercive and controlling behaviour, and financial, sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Individuals involved had experienced trauma arising from sexual abuse, military service, a history of domestic abuse and adverse childhood experiences.

Many cases involved individuals with additional needs. Several individuals misused drugs and alcohol. Mental health concerns such as PTSD, Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), and undiagnosed learning disabilities frequently featured.

Five themes emerged from North Tyneside's DARDs:

1. The importance of professional curiosity. In the vast majority of cases, agencies missed opportunities to intervene before the victim's death.
2. The need for a consistent approach to risk assessment. Agencies often missed opportunities to assess the risk to an individual. Risk assessment criteria were subjective and historical information was often not considered.
3. Agencies dealing with vulnerable individuals should involve their friends and family as early as possible. Friends and family can be an invaluable source of information and support. Agencies should revisit the issue if, at first, individuals do not consent to their involvement.
4. Relationship dynamics are often complex and difficult for agencies to understand. A victim of domestic abuse can also be a perpetrator. Past perpetrators of domestic abuse can currently be victims. Agencies should act without prejudice in supporting vulnerable people.
5. Perpetrators of domestic abuse may manipulate professionals, systems and processes to maintain control. This could include attending appointments with agencies to reinforce their control of

narratives. As a result, agencies can misunderstand events and miss opportunities to intervene.

Since 2021, the SNTB made several improvements to the review process following the COVID-19 pandemic. These focused on:

- Standardising the process and setting clear milestones. This can be shared with families to set expectations from the outset.
- Strengthening the relationship with HM Coroner.
- Establishing a link with the office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.
- Improving family liaison.
- Involving children in reviews.
- Ensuring the privacy of victims is respected.

The lessons learnt from each published review are monitored and reviewed by the SNTB every six months.

Future improvements to the review process will involve:

- Improving the quality of Individual Management Reviews (IMRs). A new training product will promote professional curiosity across agencies.
- Strengthening reporting and governance processes via the SNTB.
- Further improving the lessons learnt process with the support of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and the Northumbria VRU.

12.0 Feedback from Domestic Abuse Services

North Tyneside Council undertook qualitative research to further understand the need for domestic abuse services in the borough. Feedback was sought from both service providers and service users. The Council aimed to understand the overall demands on local domestic abuse services and identify major issues currently facing the system.

Service Providers:

The Council liaised with and received feedback from service providers, charities, and other domestic abuse-related organisations active in North Tyneside. Organisations surveyed included Harbour, Acorns, DAP Board members, and local charities. Several key themes emerged from these discussions:

- The demand for domestic abuse-related services is outstripping supply. Referrals have increased over recent years and there are waiting lists across the board. Harbour staff remarked that they “could fill the refuge ten times over.”
- The UK housing crisis is increasing pressure on North Tyneside’s limited safe accommodation. A lack of move-on accommodation causes bed blocking and creates bottlenecks within the system.

- Clients are increasingly presenting to domestic abuse services with multiple and enduring needs. These often relate to drugs, alcohol and mental health. It is difficult to provide these individuals with specialist support due to the complex nature of cases.
- Funding is a major concern. A funding “cliff-edge” is approaching in March 2025 and the recent change in government created uncertainty. The short-term nature of funding makes it difficult for services providers to plan for the future.
- There is not enough work regarding abuse in teenage relationships, older-aged victims, and the increasing number of male victims.
- Partners find it difficult to identify and engage with perpetrators in the borough.
- More primary prevention with men and boys is needed. If the domestic abuse system does not have the capacity to identify and respond to all cases, it must prevent domestic abuse from occurring in the first place.
- The harmful impact of mobile phones and harmful social media content is a major concern as children are exposed to harmful ideas at an impressionable age.

- There is a need for systems thinking regarding domestic abuse. Single agencies cannot be held solely responsible for outputs and outcomes.
- One DAP Board member commented that “there is too much emphasis placed on outputs rather than outcomes.”
- More routes of access are needed for certain services with low numbers of referrals.

Service Users:

Overall, clients are complimentary of domestic abuse services in North Tyneside. Harbour and Acorns each consistently receives positive feedback from service users.

Harbour’s Clients report improved physical and mental wellbeing as their specific needs regarding safety plans, housing, mental health, children, finance and substance misuse are met.

While clients are generally positive regarding Harbour’s provision of domestic abuse services, they highlight their frustrations regarding the impact of the current housing crisis. A lack of move-on accommodation means that many service users stay in Harbour’s safe accommodation for a longer period of time than is necessary. In 2023/24, the average length of

stay in Harbour's North Tyneside refuge was 132 days. This was similar to the previous year (129 days). The first three quarters of 2023/24 saw average stays of 152 days, which was 18% longer than the first three quarters of the previous year. Staff report that longer stays at the refuge are increasingly common.

Acorns also receives positive feedback from service users. Clients report positively on goal-based outcomes and see improvements in wellbeing as measured by the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale.

Acorns service users also offered constructive feedback for domestic abuse services in North Tyneside. The following issues and concerns were identified:

- Greater support for child victims of domestic abuse is needed in schools. Children and young people spend much of their time in educational settings. Schools must better understand the impact of domestic abuse on children's behaviour, attainment and attendance.
- More long-term support is needed for child victims of domestic abuse. Many service users want more sessions with Acorns in addition to continued counselling after the age of 18.

- All professionals must have the ability and confidence to identify the signs of domestic abuse in young people. This includes teachers, police and others. However, services have limited capacity to accommodate increased demand.
- Acorns received several enquiries from local schools around unhealthy teenage relationships, misogyny and harmful behaviour. Schools are concerned that there is a lack of primary prevention and intervention work with young people regarding these issues.
- Children and young people felt that relationship education should start between the ages of nine and eleven. Many also identified a gap regarding digital relationship education.

13.0 Recommendations

1. *The North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership Board should align its strategic priorities with those of the Home Office Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan.*
2. *North Tyneside should review its provision of safe accommodation amid the context of increasing demand for this service. The promotion and use of sanctuary schemes should continue in instances where it is safe for victims to remain at home.*
3. *North Tyneside should review its commissioning and provision of domestic abuse services for adults, children and perpetrators in light of increasing demand.*
4. *Prevention should be a strategic priority in North Tyneside. Around 20% of children grow up with domestic abuse in their home. This significantly damages the economy and society. By preventing domestic abuse, future demand for and pressure on services can be reduced.*
5. *North Tyneside should ensure domestic abuse among older people is proactively and effectively identified. There appears to be underreporting of domestic abuse among those aged 65 and over.*

6. *North Tyneside should expand and improve the support offered to male victims of domestic abuse. Few males currently use North Tyneside's services but there undoubtedly male victims in the borough.*
7. *North Tyneside should use the domestic abuse data dashboard to inform the targeting of campaigns, interventions and resources in certain wards. North Tyneside's most deprived wards exhibit a stubbornly high rate of recorded domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes. There also appears to be underreporting of domestic abuse in the borough's least deprived wards.*
8. *North Tyneside should consider the provision of specialist support for those with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. Currently there is a lack of understanding of the needs of certain groups including ethnic minorities and LGBTQ+ individuals, and improved data recording could help to remedy this.*
9. *DAP Board members should review multi-agency attendance of domestic abuse-related training courses and multi-agency support for facilitation of such courses.*