

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

## POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report of	OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Subject	DOMESTIC ABUSE AND RELATED ALCOHOL USE
Date	MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2022
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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To provide the Panel with an update of analysis on Alcohol related Domestic Abuse performance following a presentation to the Police and Crime panel on 2 December 2021.

### **Recommendation**

2. The Panel is recommended to discuss and comment:-
  - a. Note the contents of the report

### **Background**

3. A member of the Police and Crime panel requested the Commissioner present analysis on the correlation between the Alcohol and Domestic Abuse, with a particular focus on the levels during the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. The panel received a presentation by OPCC analyst, Jemima Mason in December 2021, during which high level charts and data were presented regarding the volumes of domestic abuse relating to alcohol.
5. The OPCC have since requested a paper from the Force on this matter and this paper is a follow up to the presentation to the panel.
6. The OPCC does intend to focus on this issue further and has asked the force for regular updates through the corporate governance board.

### **Domestic Abuse Summary**

7. The onset of lockdown saw an increase in domestic abuse reports which had reduced slightly over the winter period. It then increased again between February and March 2021 and has remained at a new higher level since. It is predicted to remain at this high level without significant change. Currently, there is a 6.5% increase for the last 12 months compared to the previous year. When

only domestic crime is considered, the increase is slightly less at 4.3%. This can be seen in the trend chart below, Figure 1.

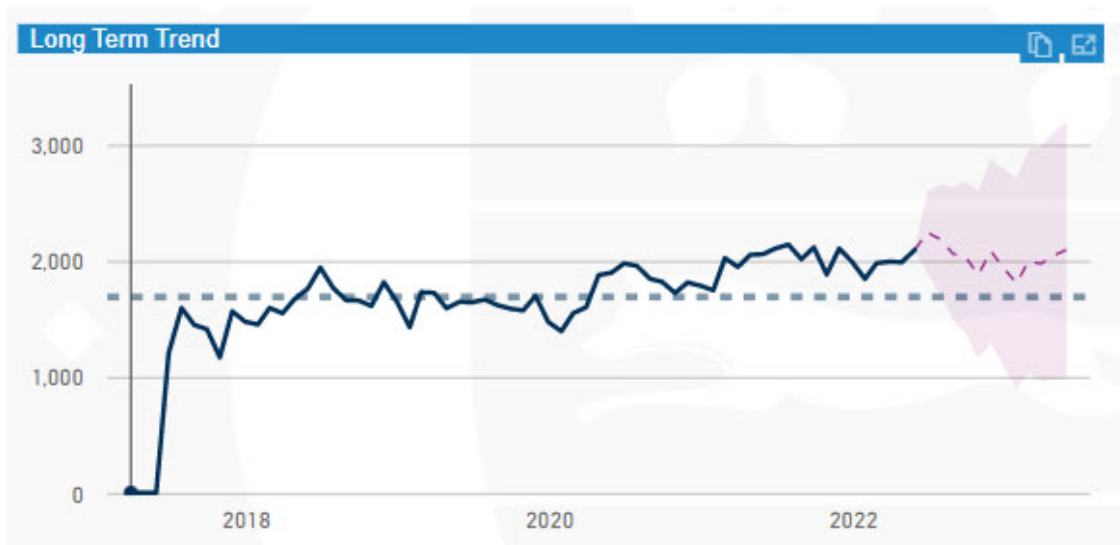


Figure 1. Chart showing the trend of Domestic Abuse related Incidents and Crime

8. In the pre-pandemic baseline year there were 14,075 domestic crimes and 5,905 domestic incidents recorded. In the last year, up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, there were 16,741 crimes and 7,085 domestic non-crimes recorded. This equates to a 19% increase in domestic related occurrences being recorded.
9. The force has undertaken a review of the response to domestic abuse and are currently in the process of implementing a number of agreed recommendations, these include: -
  - a. Increasing resource within the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit to enable this specialist team to investigate repeat and escalating medium risk cases alongside high risk cases. A pilot has demonstrated exceptional performance for cases investigated by the unit leading to an increased number of positive outcomes.
  - b. Improved use of data to identify escalating risk in domestic abuse cases and repeat cases of abuse that require a more focused problem-solving approach.
  - c. In appropriate cases, use of video calls to improve response time to victims and early assessment of risk.
10. However, it should be noted that during this period there have been changes to crime recording processes that will affect these numbers. It is now a requirement to record separately any domestic related stalking offence, in addition to the primary offence. In the last year, there were 4,746 domestic related stalking and harassment offences recorded, compared to 2,822 in the baseline year.
11. Further analysis of domestic abuse data suggests the following high-level statistics:

- a. Demographic data shows that the victim profile is predominantly female with 73% of all victims being female.
  - b. Over half of the female DA victims are aged between 20 and 40 with the peak level being between 30 and 34 years old.
  - c. 90% of offending (against females) occurs within a dwelling.
  - d. Most common offender against females are ex-partners rather than current partners.
  - e. 89% of offenders against female are male.
  - f. When considering both male and female victims, 75% of offenders are male.
  - g. Where the victim is male, 35% of offenders are male and 65% female.
12. The VRN embraces the World Health Organization's (WHO) broad definition of violence:
- "The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation". (WHO, 2002)
13. The current focus of the VRN's work defines serious violence as public place violence resulting in significant physical injury with or without weapons which is consistent with the national Serious Violence Strategy 2018.
14. Although the VRN's primary focus is on public place serious violence, the partnership recognises the multiple forms of violence affecting communities and young people, and the links between different types of violence including domestic abuse. Research highlights these connections, together with the common risk and protective factors and the importance of deploying strategies which simultaneously address multiple forms of violence. The VRN therefore collaborates with other local Boards and partnerships, and invest in strategies to prevent wider harm affecting our communities.
15. The VRN's core membership are meeting in October 2022 to revisit the VRN definition and scope in preparation for the new Serious Violence duty.

### **Alcohol Related Domestic Abuse:**

16. Analysis of crime data recorded by Leicestershire police indicate a low level of alcohol misuse as a contributory factor with 22% being listed. This is below the level following a study by the national institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism which determine that between 27 and 40% of perpetrators of domestic abuse were under the influence of alcohol.
17. The trend chart below (Figure 2) shows the recorded crime data for domestic abuse where an alcohol marker has been used. The chart indicates a similar uplift to that of the domestic abuse trend chart however a slight upward trajectory. However, when this is analysed as a proportion of total domestic offences the trend is much more stable indicating that the volume of alcohol related incidents is increasing inline with an increase of domestic abuse. (Figure 3.)

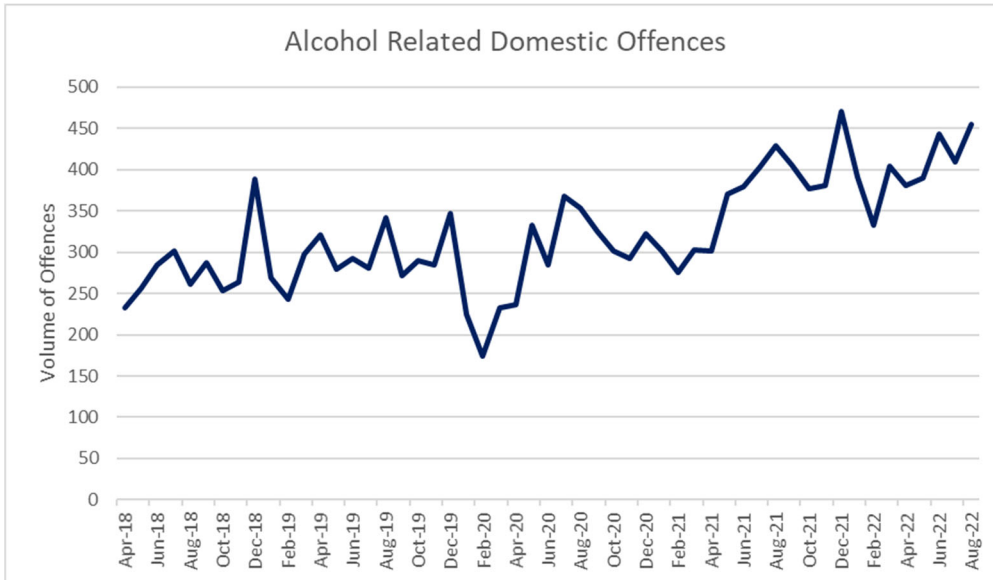


Figure 2. Chart showing the volume of alcohol Related Domestic Offences

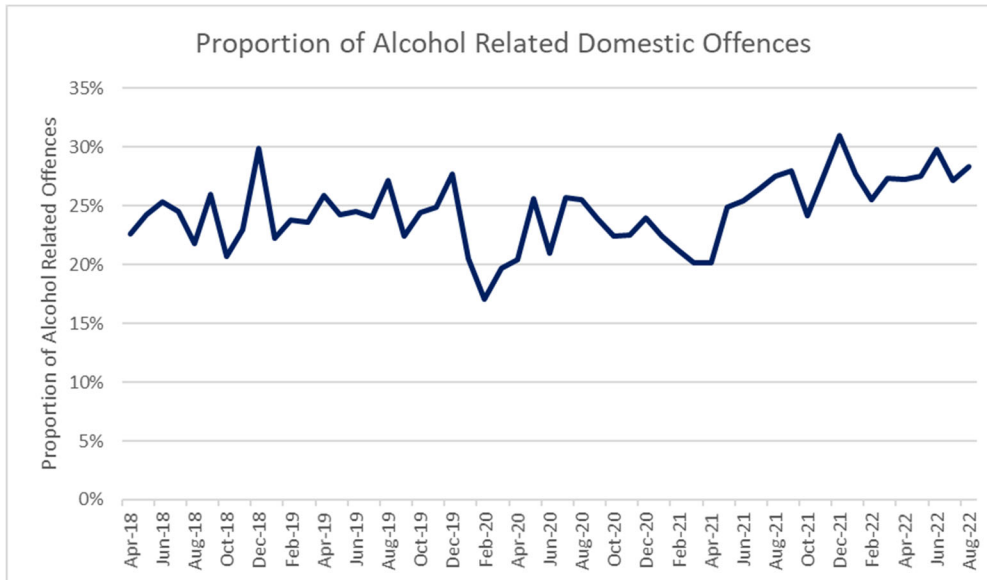


Figure 3. Chart showing the proportion of Alcohol related Domestic Offences

18. The temporal analysis below (Figure 4.) shows the volume of the alcohol related domestic abuse incidents across the 7 days of the week where red indicated the higher volume of incidents. This suggests that the days in which the majority of these incidents take place is over the weekend. The profile of this pattern remains consistent for non-alcohol related domestic abuse offences or the different time periods – or those offences in which the marker isn't used.

	April 18- March 2020	April 20- March 2022
Monday	748	999
Tuesday	654	931
Wednesday	713	940
Thursday	645	975
Friday	985	1193
Saturday	1498	1650
Sunday	1430	1624

Figure 4. Table showing the volumes by days of the week

19. The temporal analysis below (Figure 5.) shows the volume of the alcohol related domestic abuse incidents across the hours of the day and days of the week where red indicated the higher volume of incidents for the most recent 2yr period (April 2020 – March 2022). This suggests that the time in which the majority of these alcohol related incidents take place is over the weekend between the hours of 2200hrs and 0100hrs on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
20. The profile of this pattern remains consistent for the two time periods (April 2018-March 20 and April 20- March 2022) and also remains consistent for non-alcohol related domestic abuse offences. The only slight difference observed when analysing those domestic abuse offences on which the marker isn't used is the time period is much broader. For the alcohol related offences, the higher volumes appear to be between the hours of 2200hrs and 0100hrs, however for all domestic abuse offences a larger cluster can be seen between the hours of 1800hrs and 0100hrs, with Saturday into Sunday being much more of a prominent time period (2300hrs-0100hrs).

Day/Hour	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Monday	131	44	24	24	16	12	9	18	18	38	21	33	25	20	34	31	31	43	64	71	77	103	67	45
Tuesday	115	36	24	14	28	12	10	11	17	21	20	21	30	18	28	29	48	51	74	68	72	49	69	66
Wednesday	83	38	29	23	13	7	8	11	25	22	25	33	15	25	30	26	40	51	71	55	63	75	94	78
Thursday	93	57	26	25	14	17	12	13	16	27	24	26	33	22	27	35	43	41	59	44	71	66	116	68
Friday	109	44	37	31	23	13	14	19	12	16	23	28	30	24	28	21	41	59	71	74	109	105	129	133
Saturday	180	102	77	59	46	35	24	26	27	30	27	25	40	31	36	33	55	55	70	87	124	123	159	179
Sunday	256	149	87	80	44	36	15	24	28	28	26	25	49	26	34	32	48	59	102	78	101	100	105	92

Figure 5. Table showing volumes by the hours of the day

21. There are limitations to the accuracy of this data and how it is recorded on police systems. The marker indicates alcohol misuse was a factor, and does not stipulate if that was the offender or the suspect. It also is not used periodically simply because one or both of the parties are intoxicated.

22. There are a number of national studies on the link between alcohol and domestic abuse that may prove more reliable than locally recorded data. To draw any inference from this apparent reduction without an audit of how the data is recorded or a bespoke study would be unreliable.
23. Alcohol is one of many potential vulnerabilities associated with offending, as such the PCC has requested information from the Force as to how they are preparing officers for these types of incidents.
24. Officers have received training in the Trilogy of Risk (substance misuse, mental health and domestic abuse), to identify that this combination of factors can significantly increase risk. Where officers identify that alcohol is a key factor in the abuse then referrals can be made through the Adult at Risk Public Protection Notice process both for victims and suspects. Information will then be shared with the most appropriate agency to respond to this need, this can include, GP's, Adult Social Care and Turning Point (substance misuse service).
25. Turning Point are also represented on the Daily MARAC for high risk domestic abuse cases and will receive referrals through this process as well as undertake proactive outreach. The PCC commissions additional substance misuse services outside of the integrated substance misuse services for both Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council/Rutland County Council. The services commissioned directly by the Commissioner are specific criminal justice service elements and include a PAVE (Proactive Vulnerability Engagement) resource, which sit within the multi-agency PAVE team, provision of activities within custody suites and an out of court disposal programme. Turning Point having been contracted to provide this service for 2022/23 at a cost of £131,073.
26. Suspects who are arrested and brought into custody can also access substance misuse services through the Liaison and Diversion Team provided by the NHS. The team conduct daily screening for individuals with concerns around alcohol and drug misuse, they will conduct cell visits and offer interventions and onward referrals.
27. Offenders are being directed to a perpetrator programme, the PCC has been granted additional funding from the Home Office to continue the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme. The aim of the perpetrator service is to identify, engage and motivate change amongst men and women using abusive behaviour in intimate partner relationships in order to reduce that behaviour and improve the safety, health and well-being of partners, ex-partners, children and themselves. The service is delivered by Freeva and they already have an established service and have recently received re-accreditation in the Respect Accreditation standards demonstrating that the service is of a high-quality, regularly monitored and supported and has the necessary infrastructure in place for the expansion of the provision. The funding is in place until March 2023.
28. The Commissioner funds a number of services relating to substance misuse, to the total value of £546,216.

29. The Commissioner also funds a number of services which support victims and witnesses of Domestic Abuse. The PCC, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, and Rutland County Council jointly re-commissioned a series of domestic and sexual violence and abuse (DSVA) services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) of which, the PCC commissioned a Helpline and Engagement service at a cost of £434,708 and a Sexual Violence and Abuse Service at a cost of £176,539 per annum. The Commissioner has recently received an additional £1m from the Ministry of Justice to fund Domestic Abuse Services across LLR including Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors.
30. As part of the Commissioner's Safety Fund, the Commissioner held a grant round specifically for Violence Against Women and Girls in April 2022. As part of this grant round a number of applications were agreed to fund Domestic Abuse Services in LLR including:
- h. A Domestic Abuse Befriending Service
  - i. A Brave Arts and Arty Parties Services, providing creative sessions for families of Domestic Abuse
  - j. A 'We Matter' project for Muslim BAME Women
  - k. A project providing emergency food and sanitary products for women and girls fleeing abuse

**Attachments:**

None

**Implications**

Financial : None

Legal : None

Equality Impact Assessment : None

Risks and Impact : None

Link to Police and Crime Plan : The Commissioner has a statutory responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account.

Communications :

**Person to Contact**

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