

# Bexley Domestic Abuse Champions Network newsletter



## Update from Solace

Between July and September 2019, Bexley Solace Women’s Aid advocacy and support services (SASS) received 225 referrals into their service (this includes one male survivor) and 67 referrals into their group programme **ARISE**. This represents a significant increase in quarter 1 as the service is embedded into delivering support for victims of domestic abuse in Bexley. The two main referrers into the service remain as

**ARISE** is an 8-week domestic abuse awareness course designed to increase confidence and empower women to keep themselves safe. The sessions can help build confidence, self-esteem and improve

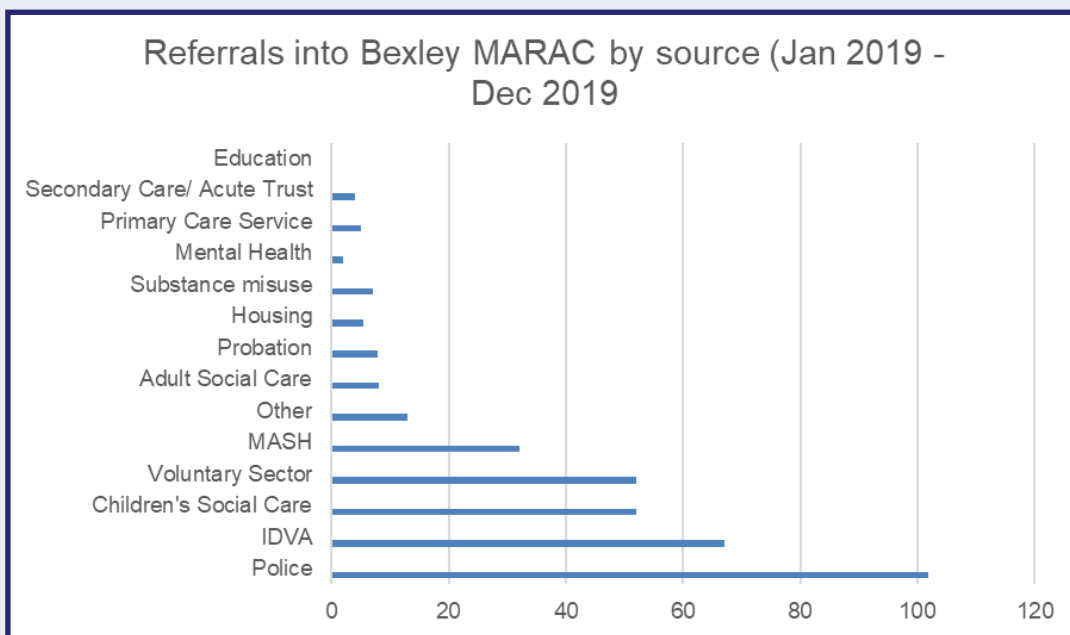
**Solace**, in partnership with London Borough of Bexley, provides a specialist domestic abuse for women and men aged 16 years and over who live in the borough and may be subject to physical, sexual, psychological or financial abuse and coercive control within an intimate or family relationship. Solace also provides safe and suitable refuge accommodation, advocacy for high risk cases and an outreach service for medium risk cases.

## MARAC

Between January and December 2019, 356 cases were heard over 22 MARACs compared to 306 (over 20 MARACs) in 2018 which is showing a slight increase. The average number of cases discussed is 15 but this can vary considerably from one meeting to the next with December 2019 having 26 cases listed. In 2019 there were 79 repeat\* cases discussed (59 in 2018) with a marked increase in the number of children within the household of victims of domestic abuse – 473 in 2019 and 341 in 2018.

*\*A repeat case is ANY instance of **abuse** between the same victim and perpetrator(s), within 12 months of the last referral to MARAC.*

The main source of referrals into Bexley MARAC is the police, followed by IDVA, Children’s Social Services and the voluntary sector.



## DASH and MARAC referral forms

To refer high risk domestic abuse cases to MARAC please use the latest forms. [Click here](#) to download and to access other useful on-line resources from our partnership Bexley Domestic Abuse Services

## In the NEWS

### FGM clinics set to open in London

Five FGM clinics are due to open in London, with others in Birmingham, Bristol and Leeds, to offer expert help from medical specialists and counsellors for women over 18. The London clinics opening are located in Brent, Waltham Forest, Croydon, Hammersmith and Tower Hamlets. [More](#) .....

### How stalkers can spy on their partners



In October the BBC reported on an increase in the use of powerful software to spy on partners. Stalkerware, also known as spouseware, is a surveillance software programme which can be openly purchased on line. Once downloaded onto a partner's mobile device a stalker can access all messages and apps, get access to the camera for the purpose of spying as well as GPS to monitor locations. [Read more here](#)

## Resources

### New resource for young people

Women's Aid have launched a new website which is aimed at young people. LoveRespect has a "healthcheck" for young people to help them learn more about their relationship and how healthy it is. The website is also somewhere to go to get advice and help and includes real stories from young survivors of domestic abuse. [Check out their website](#)

### Safety Planning

Bexley Domestic Abuse Services has just updated their [Safety Plan Guide](#) which helps victims explore how they can protect themselves and their children from violence and future abuse.

## New Campaign

### Deaf Health Charity launches SignHealth prevention videos

SignHealth have launched five new short films to help raise awareness of the different issues around domestic abuse that include consent, FGM, forced marriage, sexting and honour based abuse. The films are all in British Sign Language (BSL) and funded by the Home Office, they will be used in the Young Deafhope work funded by London Councils in schools and youth groups.

## White Ribbon Day 2019

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual White Ribbon 16 Days of Action to end violence against women last month and wore their white ribbon to help raise awareness.



It is with regret that scheduled domestic abuse training had to be cancelled over the last few months. Sincere apologies for the inconvenience this may have caused. **Good news is, our new prospectus will be published in the New Year, this includes a new lunchtime learning session on MARAC.**