

# Safeguarding adults equity analysis

April 2025

Jonathan Cox (AD in Public Health)

# Summary

- There were 4,254 referrals for safeguarding since 1 Jan 2023.
- The number of referrals rises sharply with increasing age.
- Female contacts accounted for 59% and male contacts accounted for 39%.
- Of those referred, the proportion safeguarded tends to increase with age from a third of contacts at ages 20-29 years to nearly 40% of contacts at 80+ years. Overall, a third had an outcome of safeguarding.
- 1,378 referrals (a third of the total) were for White British residents. 446 were for Black African residents, followed by Other White (406 referrals).
- Most safeguarding contacts were for White British residents ages 80+ years. Contacts for Bangladeshi and Pakistani residents were most common for 20-29 years rather than for older ages which is the opposite to the general trend.
- Contacts are notably high for Black Caribbean residents aged 80+ years.
- After accounting for Newham's age structure, the highest rate of safeguarding contacts were for White British residents aged 80+ years, closely followed by Black Caribbean residents ages 80+ years.
- The contact rates for Asian residents in general and for Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and Chinese residents specifically were generally lower compared to other groups.
- Rates for Other White, Other and Mixed (except for 80+ years) ethnic groups also appear lower than for Newham as a whole.

# Summary

## Referrals

- Since 1 Jan 2023 there have been 4,254 referrals. Secondary care made the most (1,126) followed by social care. Altogether, 39% were made by NHS services.
- Patterns of referral differ for each source of referral which include organisations (eg Police), services (eg Housing), individuals and family members.
- Across all sources of referral we see more than expected given Newham's population structure for White British residents.
- Social care refer more White British and Black Caribbean residents than expected, while referring fewer Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and Other White residents.
- Similar patterns are seen for referrals from family members, with the highest referral from family being seen amongst the oldest White British and Black Caribbean residents.
- Housing services tend to refer more White British residents aged 40 to 60 years than expected while referring notably fewer Bangladeshi and Indian residents than expected.
- Family members, primary care, secondary care and social care tend to refer more older people and fewer younger people than expected. Conversely, Police and Housing tend to refer more young people and fewer older people than expected.
- Patterns of referral will partly be explained by the characteristics of people seen by each of the referral sources, which could not be considered here. Comparisons made here can only consider the overall demographic profile of Newham.

# Methods

## Data source

Numerators: data extracted from LBN Azeus Care All SG Concerns and SG Governance dashboards

Denominators: Newham residents registered with NHS primary care services

Time: all available records, analysis based on records since 1 Jan 2023

Approach: records merged and de-duplicated (n = 14,655). Directly age standardised to the EU standard population

Analysis: i. safeguarding concerns with any outcomes  
ii. safeguarding concerns with safeguarding outcome

# Evidence base for being at risk

Common risk factors for safeguarding include:

Older age, frailty

Neglect

Substance misuse

Abuse

Dementia

Disability

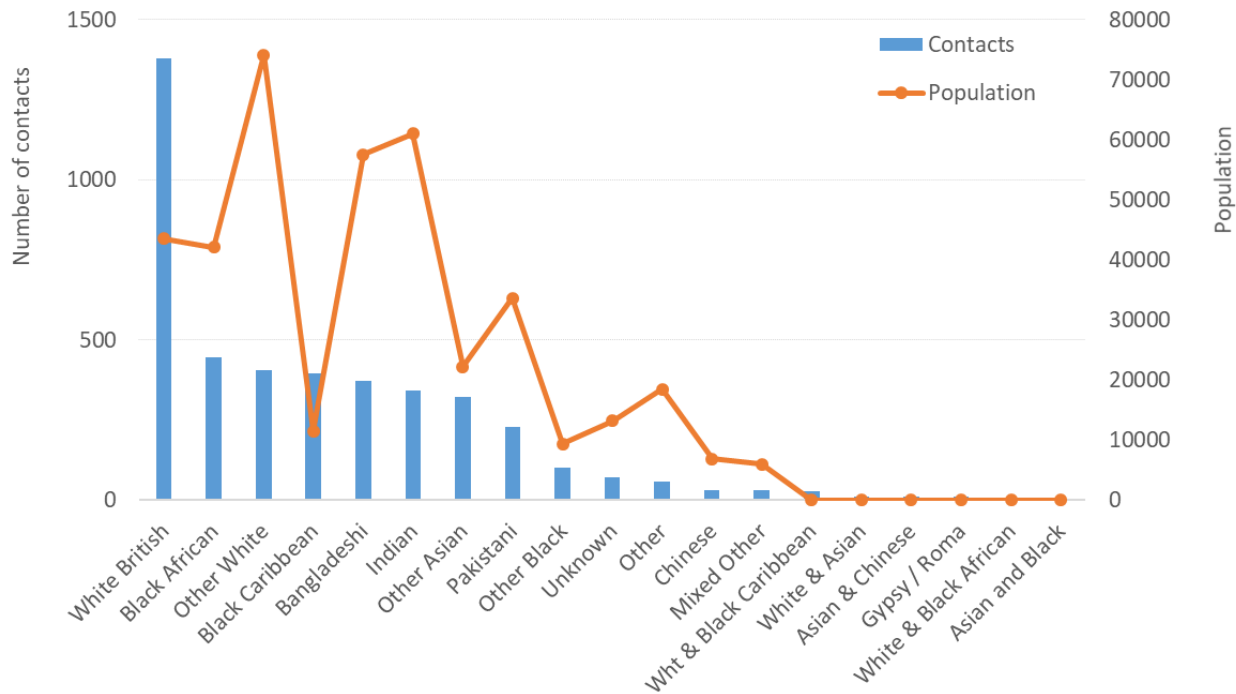
Mental Health needs eg ESMi

Deprived environment

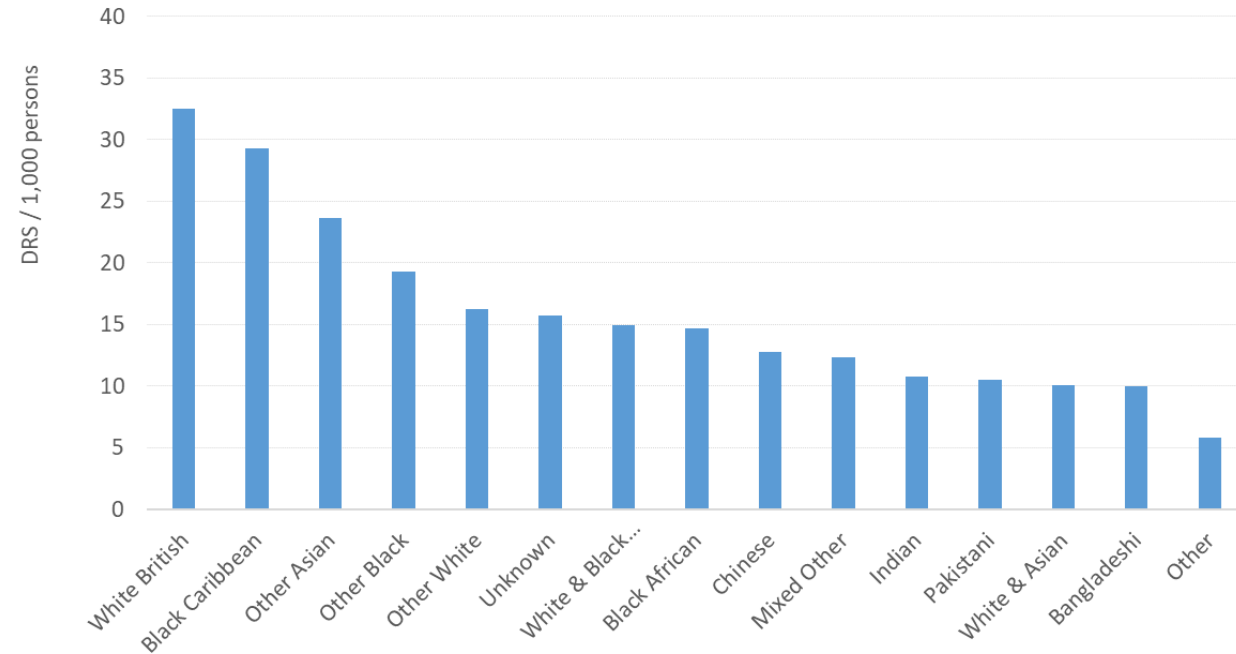
Social vulnerability

# Rate of contacts with any outcome: any age since 1 Jan 2023

## Number of contacts



## Directly age standardised rate

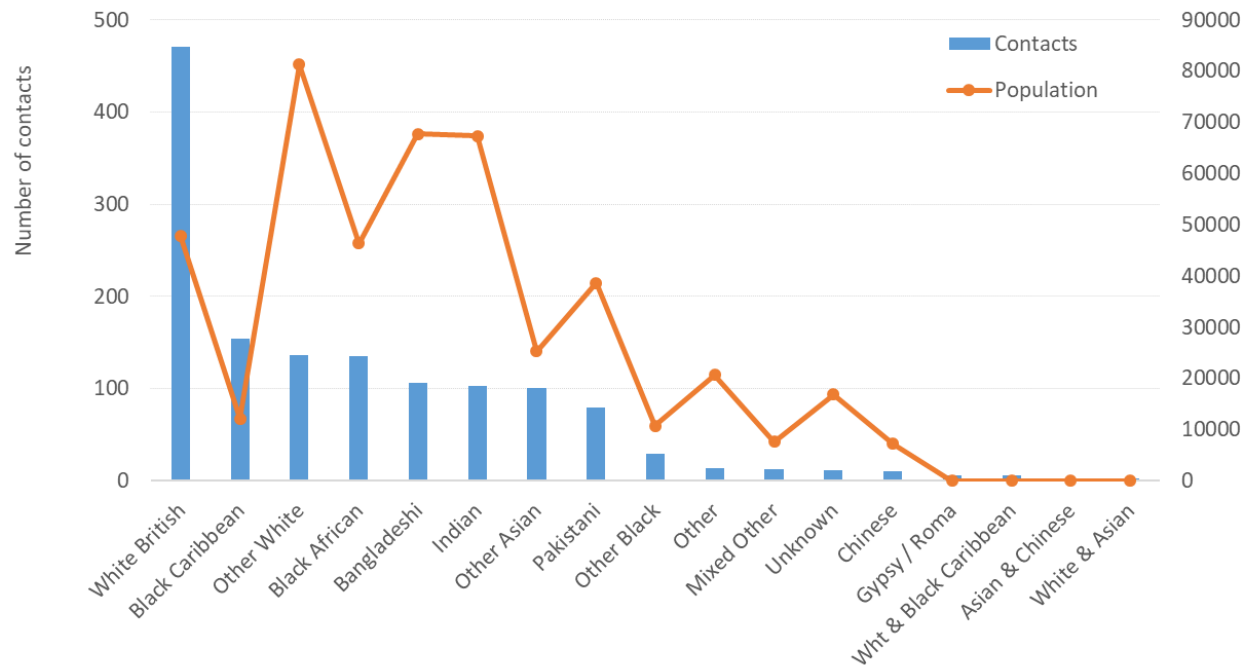


When accounting for population age structure the contact rate is the highest for White British followed by Black Caribbean residents.

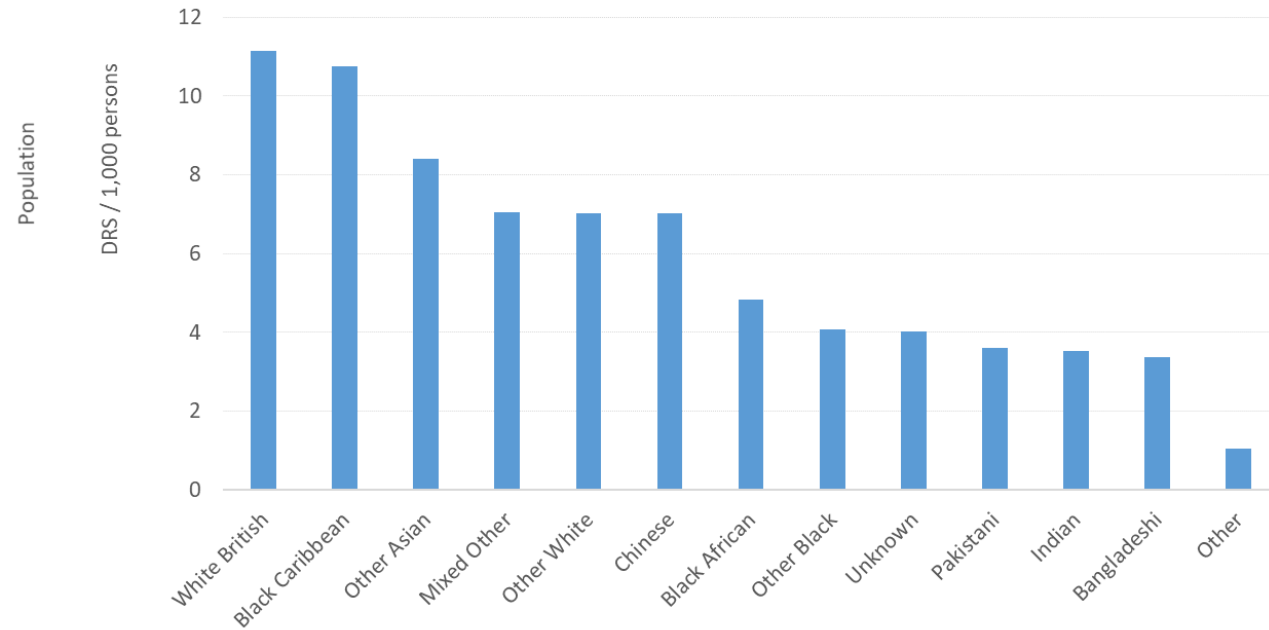
Lowest rates are seen amongst Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and White & Asian residents.

# Rate of contacts with safeguarding outcome: any age since 1 Jan 2023

## Number of contacts



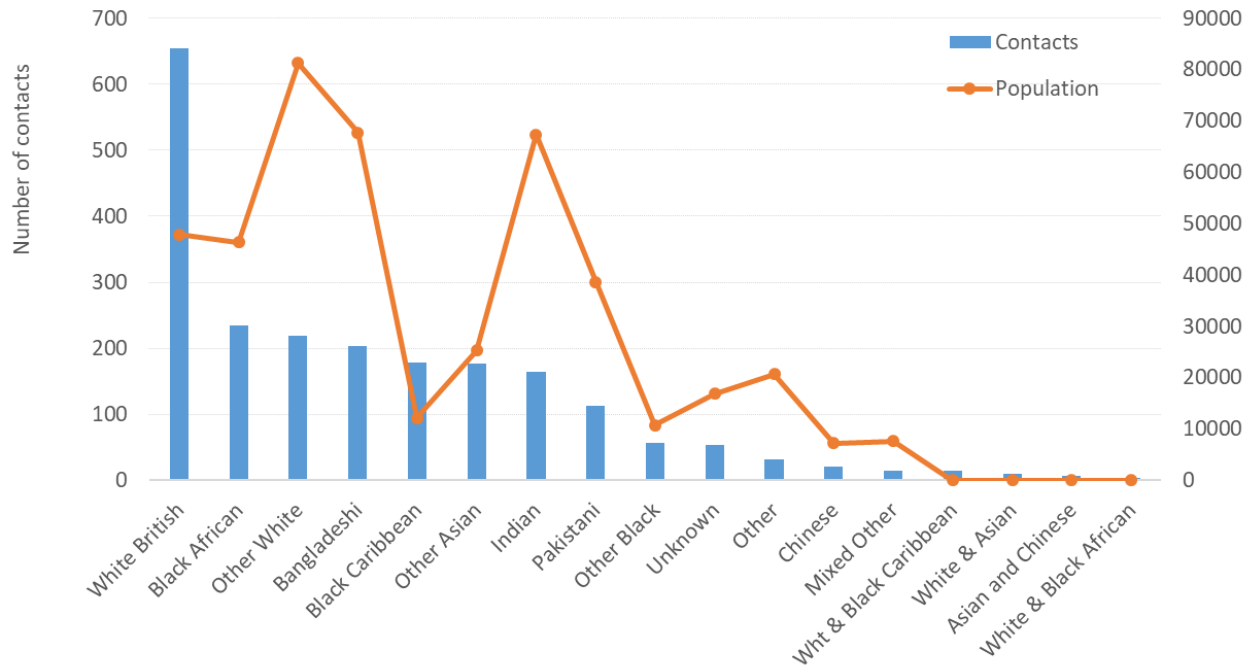
## Directly age standardised rate



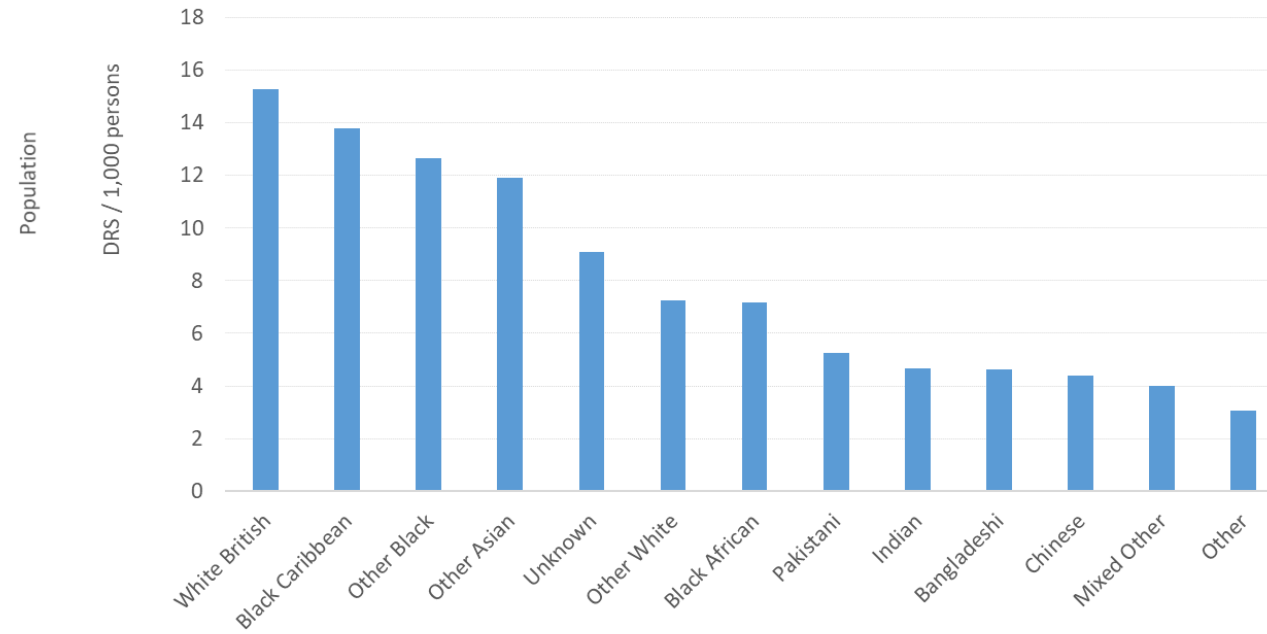
When accounting for population age structure the contact rate with outcome of safeguarding is the highest for White British and Black Caribbean residents. Lowest rates are seen amongst Gypsy / Roma, and some mixed ethnicity groups (White & Asian, Asian & Chinese, White & Black Caribbean residents).

# Rate of contacts with information outcome: any age since 1 Jan 2023

## Number of contacts



## Directly age standardised rate

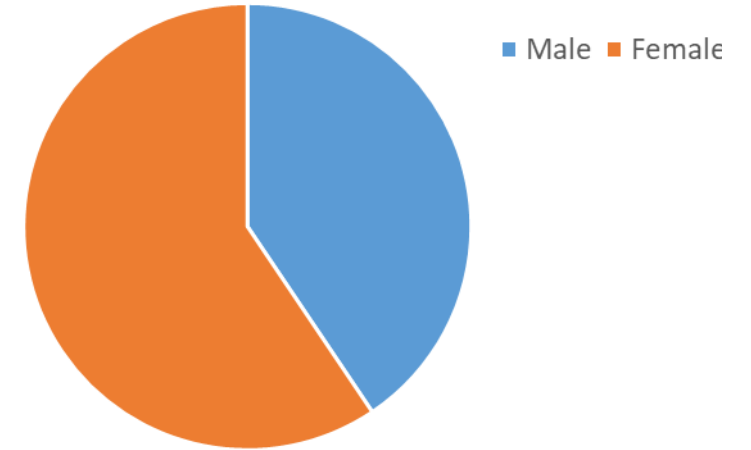
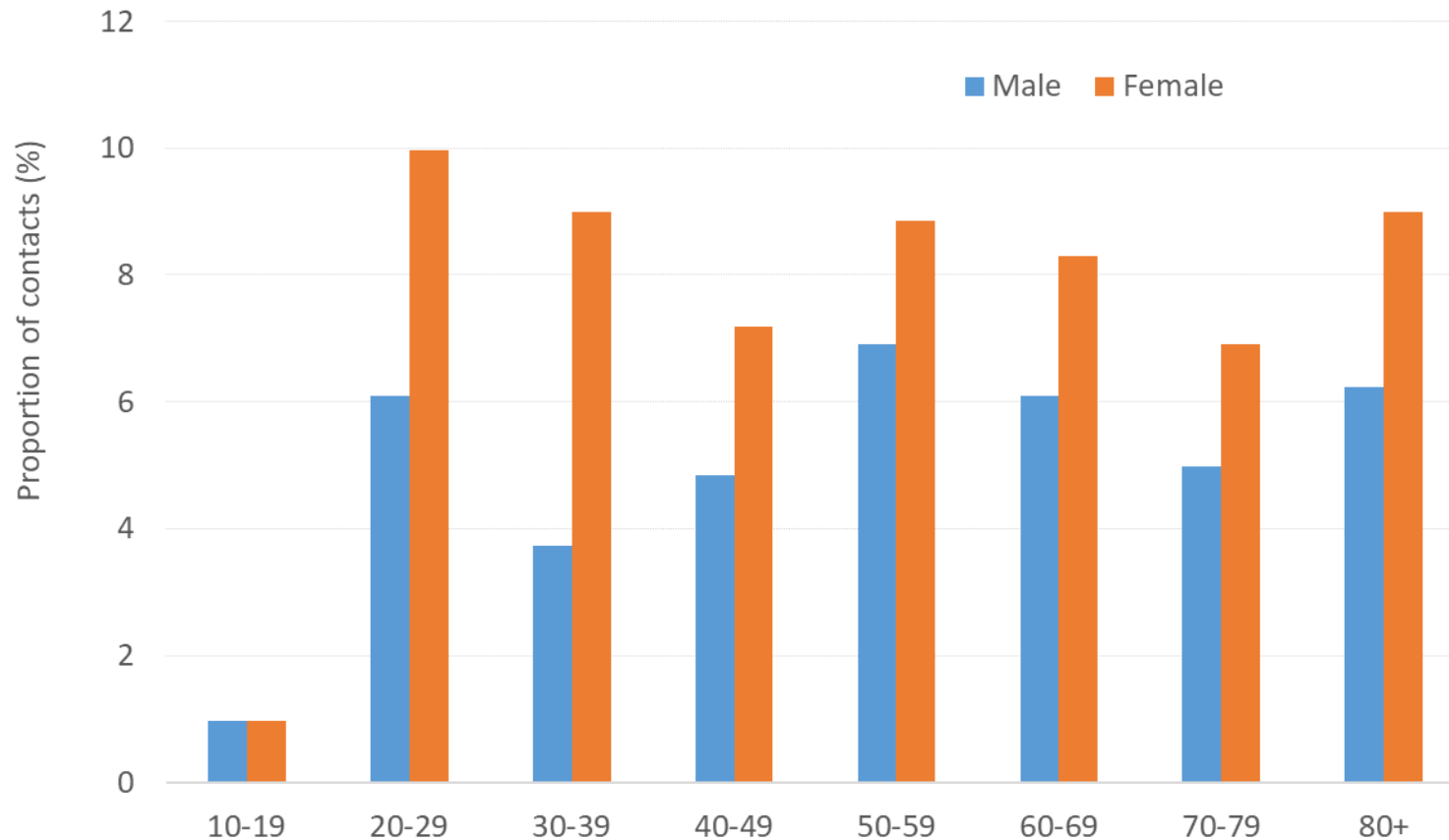


When accounting for population age structure the contact rate with outcome of IAG is the highest for White British and Black Caribbean residents. Lowest rates are seen amongst Gypsy / Roma, some mixed ethnicity groups (White & Black African, Asian & Chinese, White & Black Caribbean residents).

# Contacts with any outcome by sex since 1 Jan 2023

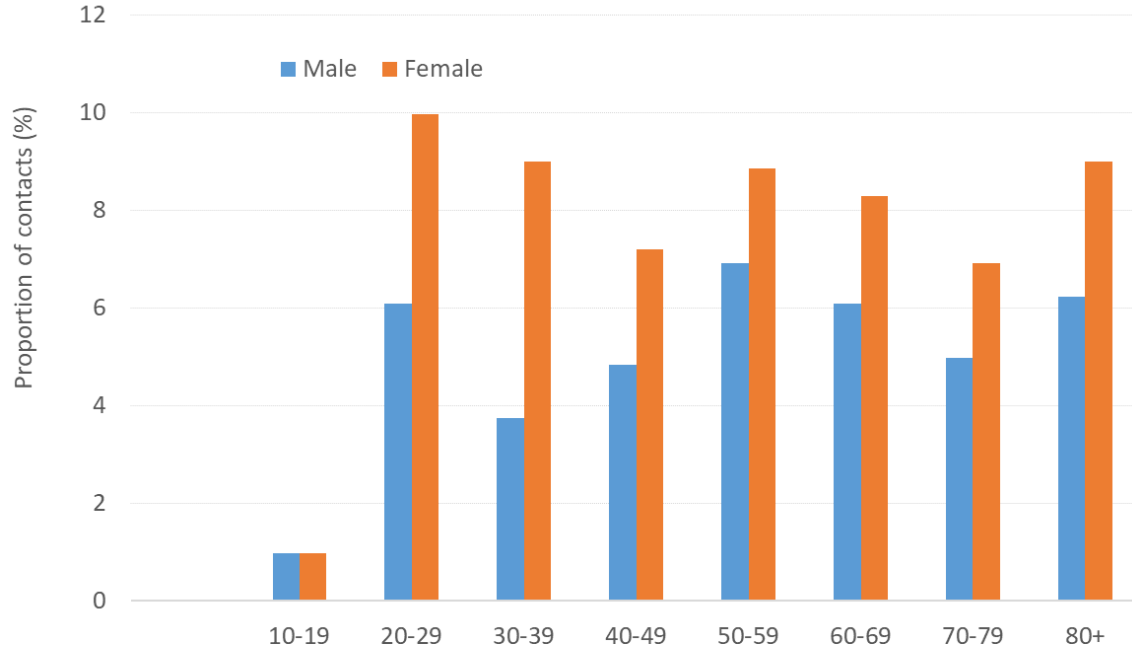
Female contacts account for 59% and male contacts account for 39%.

For 70-79 years male contacts are slightly more common than female otherwise female contacts are more common throughout all agebands.



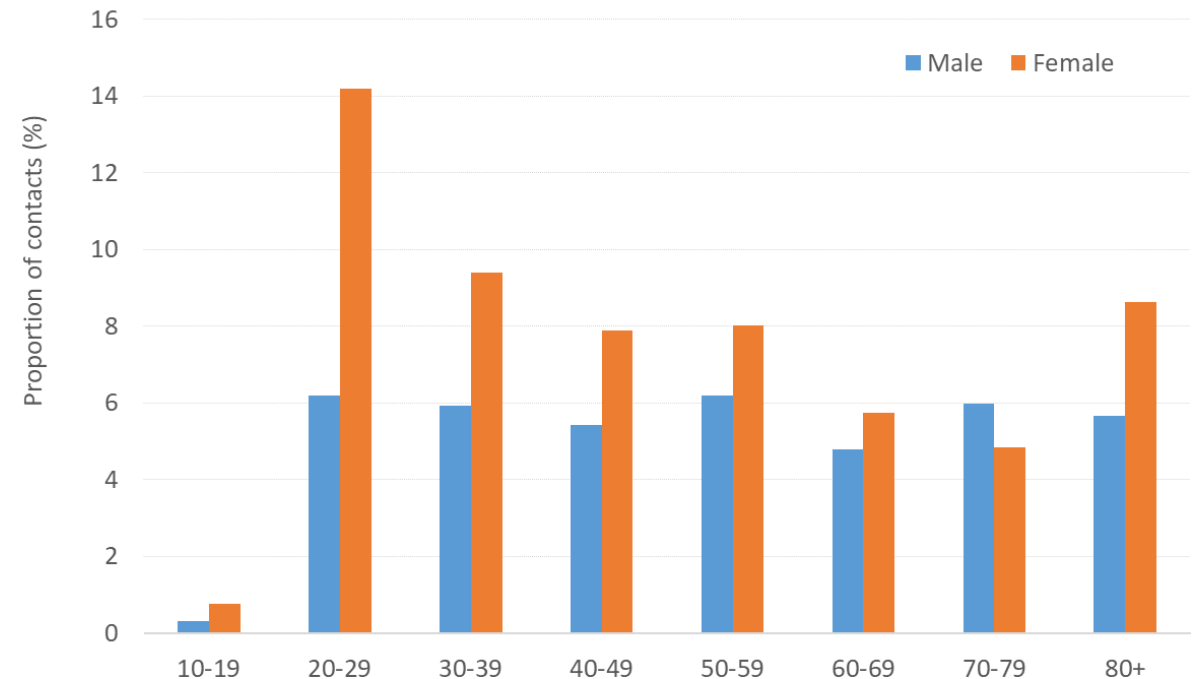
# Contacts with safeguarding or IAG outcome by gender since 1 Jan 2023

## Safeguarding / enquiry required outcome



For contacts with IAG outcome we can see the proportion of females aged 20-29 years is particularly high. Only for 70-79 years is the proportion higher for males than for females.

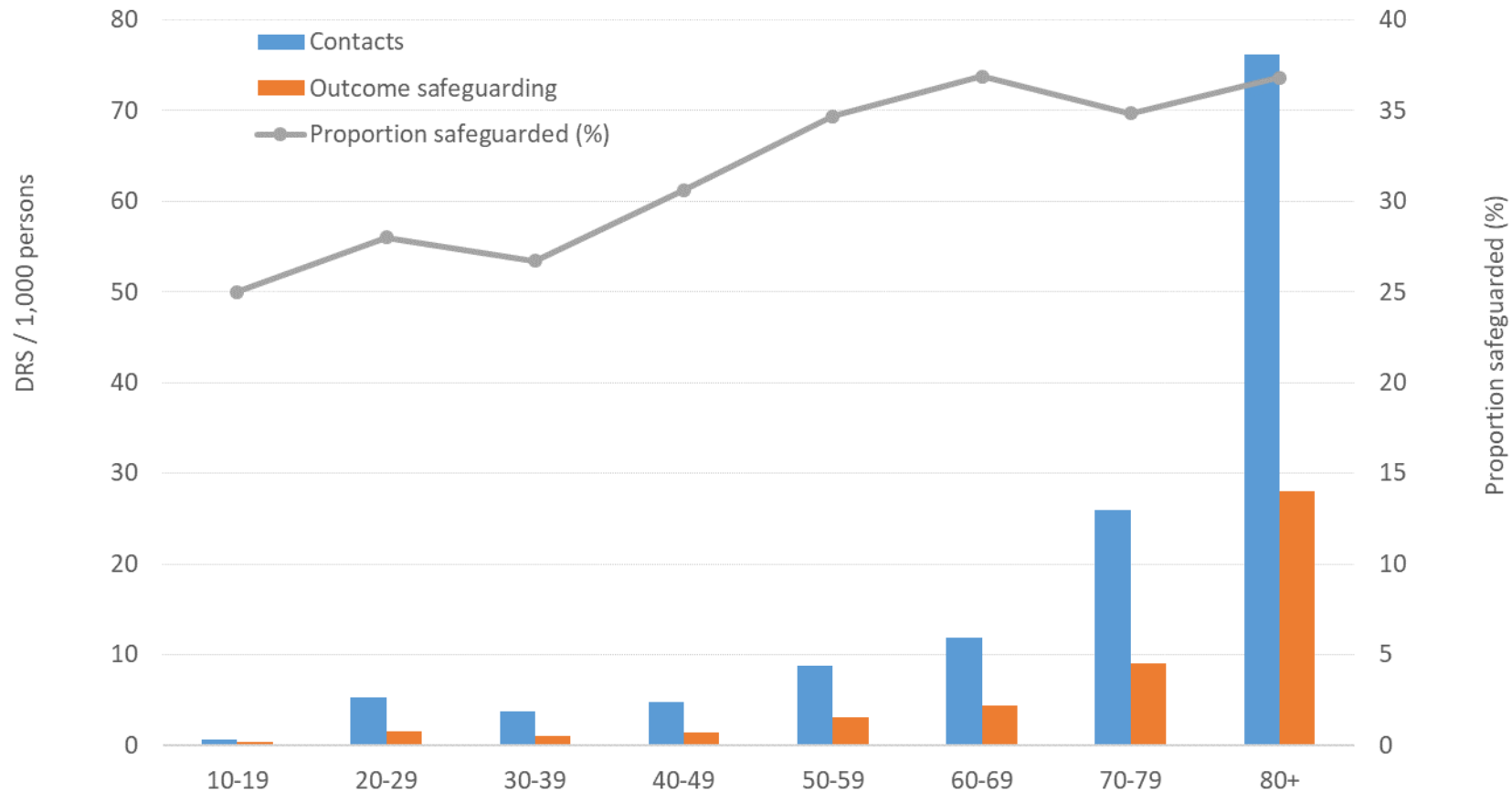
## IAG outcome



# Contact rates with any outcome cf. safeguarding since 1 Jan 2023

The contact rate for both any outcome and safeguarding outcome rises sharply with increasing age.

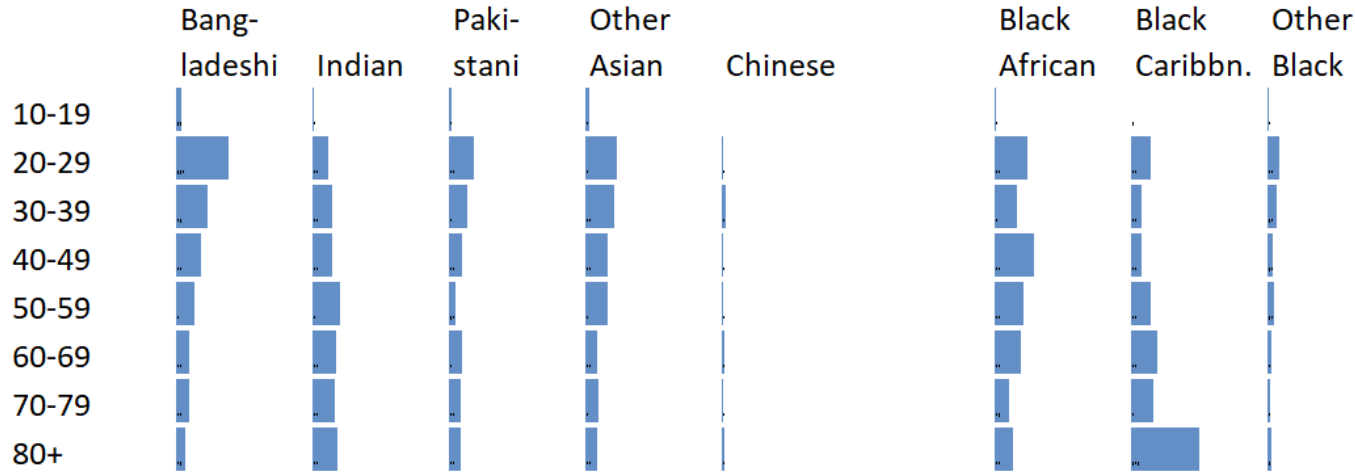
The proportion safeguarded tends to increase with age from a third of contacts at ages 20-29 years to nearly 40% of contacts at 80+ years.



# Counts of contacts: any outcome (n = 4,251 since 1 Jan 2023)



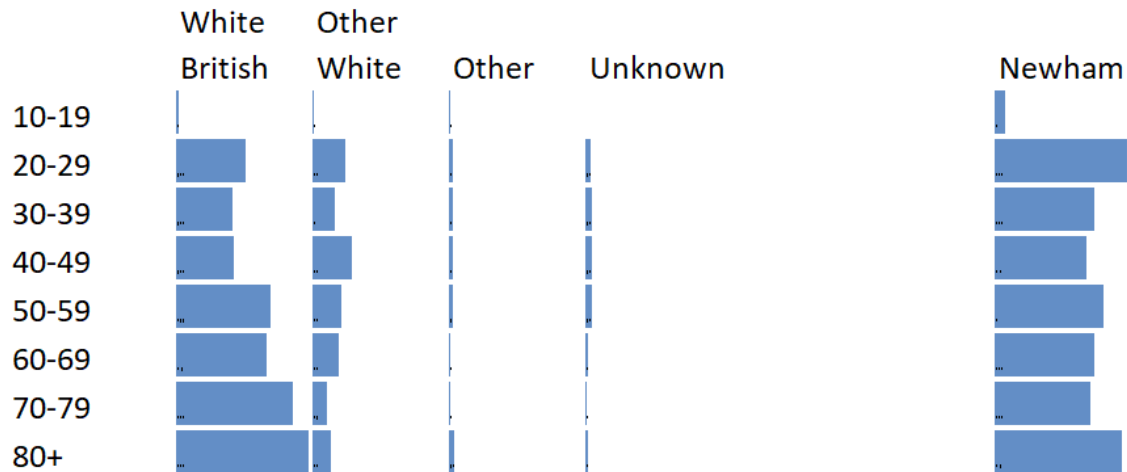
Blue bars are proportionate to counts



Most safeguarding contacts were for White British residents ages 80+ years.

Contacts for Bangladeshi and Pakistani residents were most common for 20-29 years rather than for older ages which is the opposite to the general trend.

Contacts are notably high for Black Caribbean residents aged 80+ years.

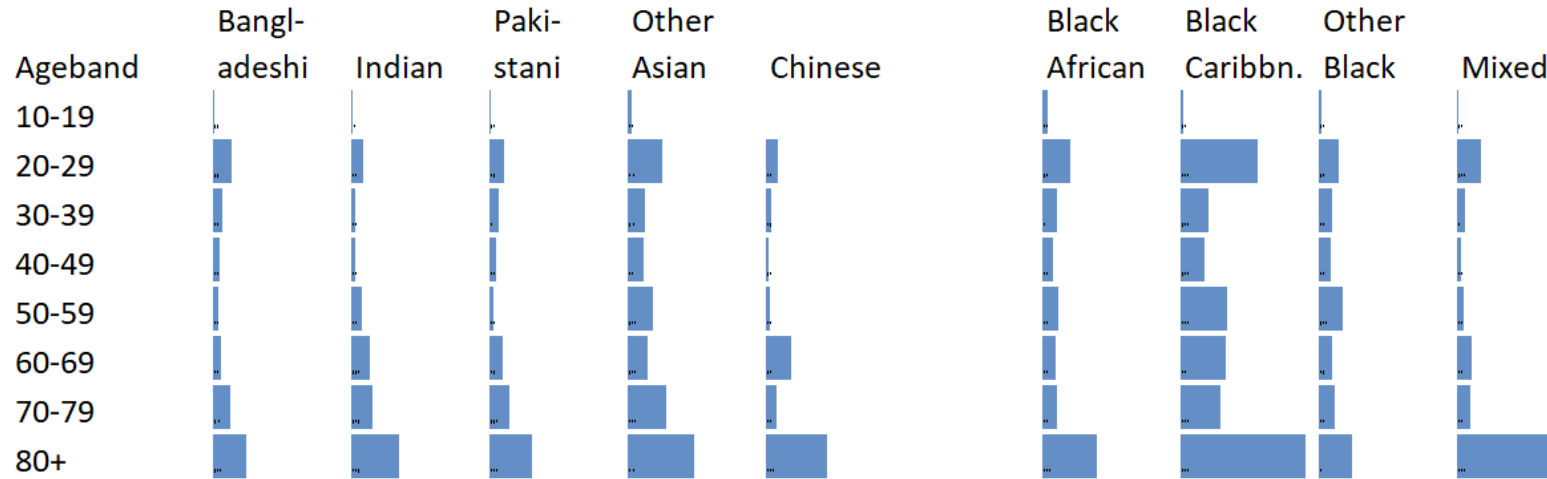


Note that counts of contacts vary due to the population sizes for agebands and ethnic groups.

**WE ARE NEWHAM.**

# Rate of contacts: any outcome (n = 4,251 since 1 Jan 2023)

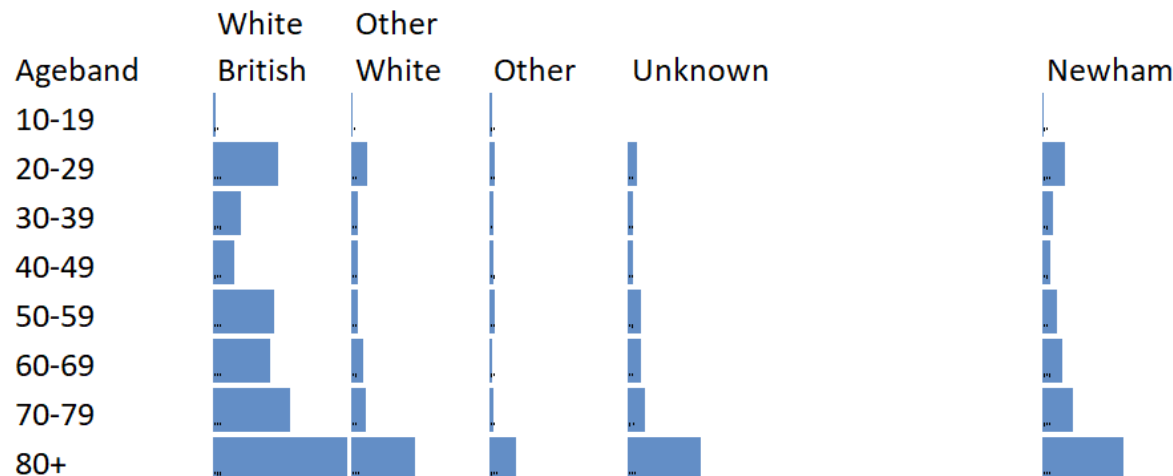
Blue bars are proportionate to rates



The rate of contacts tends to increase with age.

The highest rate of safeguarding contacts were for White British and Black Caribbean residents ages 80+ years.

The contact rates for Asian residents in general and for Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and Chinese residents specifically were generally lower compared to other groups.



Rates for Other White, Other and Mixed (except for 80+ years) ethnic groups also appear lower than for Newham as a whole.

# Referral source for all contacts since 1 Jan 2023



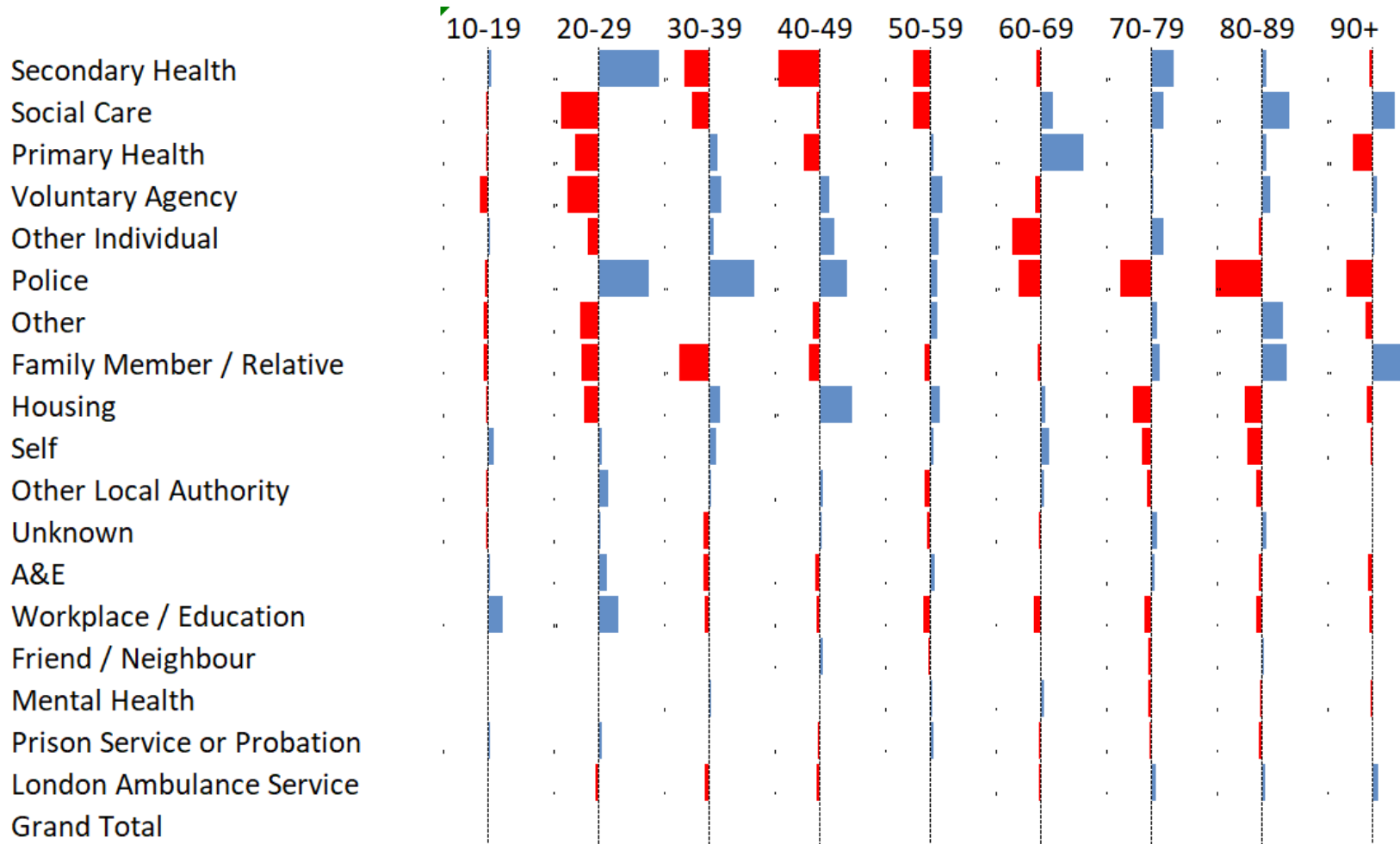
Referral source	Count	Proportion (%)
Secondary Health	1126	26.5
Social Care	528	12.4
Primary Health	487	11.4
Voluntary Agency	470	11.0
Other Individual	414	9.7
Police	404	9.5
Other	216	5.1
Family Member / Relative	150	3.5
Housing	145	3.4
Self	73	1.7
Other Local Authority	56	1.3
Unknown	54	1.3
A&E	38	0.9
Workplace / Education	28	0.7
Friend / Neighbour	18	0.4
Mental Health	17	0.4
Prison Service or Probation	15	0.4
London Ambulance Service	15	0.4
Total	4254	

Since 1 Jan 2023 there have been 4,254 referrals.

Secondary care made the most (1,126) followed by social care.

Altogether, 39% were made by NHS services.

# Referral source for all contacts by ageband since 1 Jan 2023



Observed compared to expected number of referrals

Blue: more than expected  
Red: less than expected

Family members, primary care, secondary care and social care tend to refer more older people and fewer younger people than expected.

Conversely, Police and Housing tend to refer more young people and fewer older people than expected.

Referral sources are ordered from most common (top) to least common (bottom).



# Referral source for all contacts by ethnicity: 70-79 years since 1 Jan 2023



Observed compared to expected number of referrals given Newham's population.

Blue: more than expected

Red: less than expected





# Referral source for all contacts by ethnicity: 40-49 years since 1 Jan 2023



Observed compared to expected number of referrals given Newham's population.

Blue: more than expected

Red: less than expected

# Referral source for all contacts by ethnicity: 30-39 years since 1 Jan 2023



Observed compared to expected number of referrals given Newham's population.

Blue: more than expected

Red: less than expected

# Referral source for all contacts by ethnicity: 20-29 years since 1 Jan 2023



Observed compared to expected number of referrals given Newham's population.

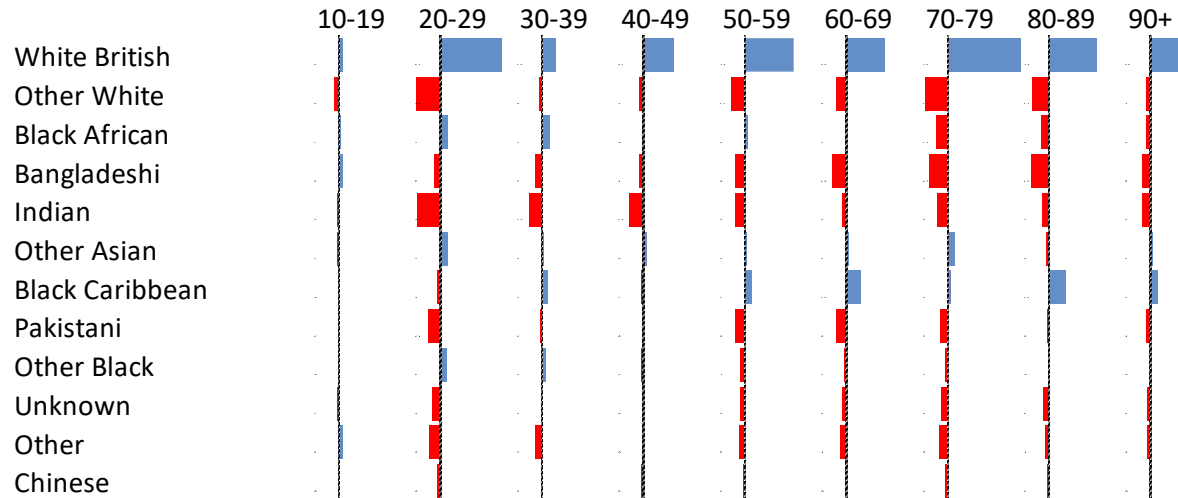
Blue: more than expected

Red: less than expected

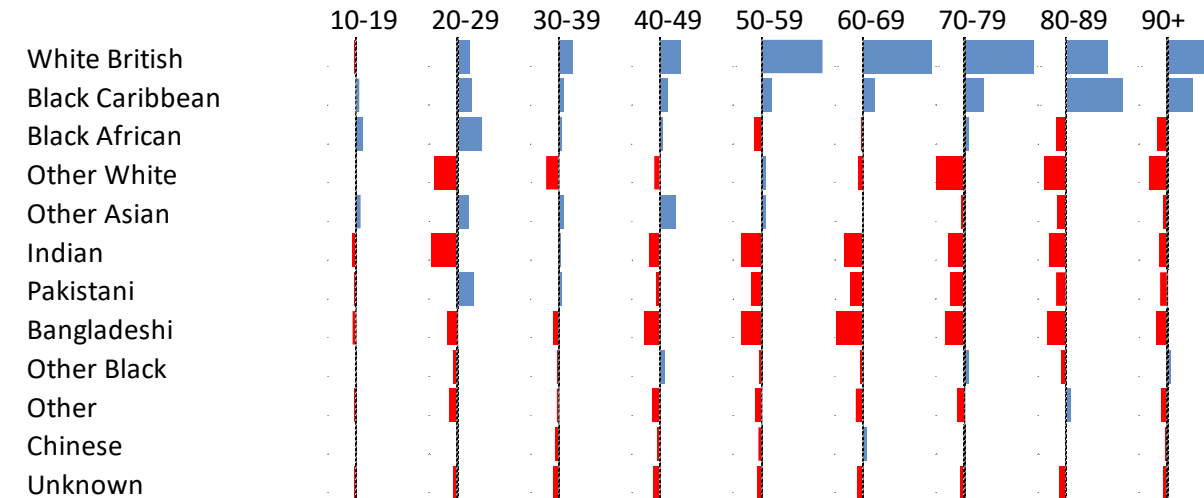
# Comparing referral sources by ethnicity and ageband since 1 Jan 2023



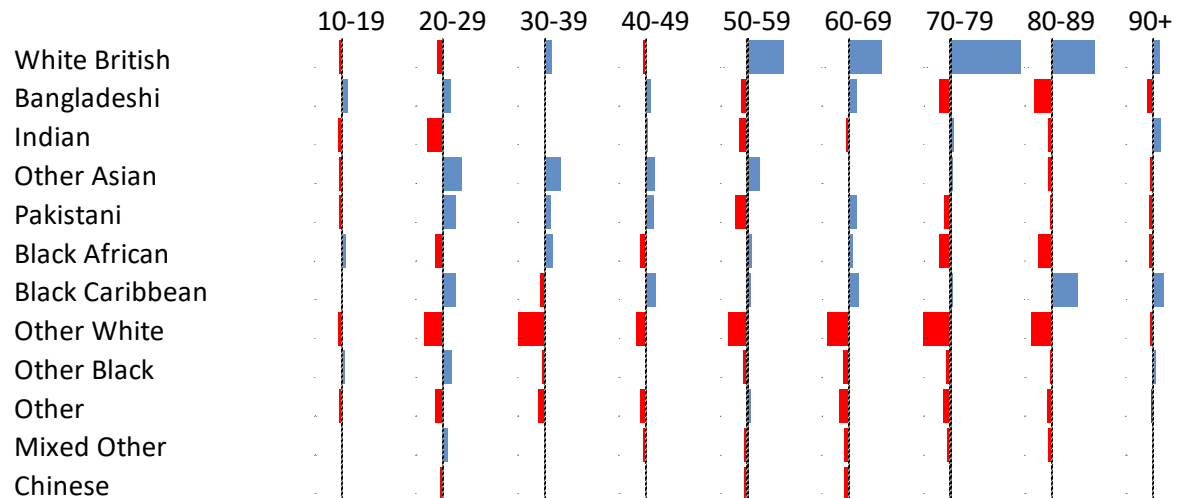
Referral source: secondary care



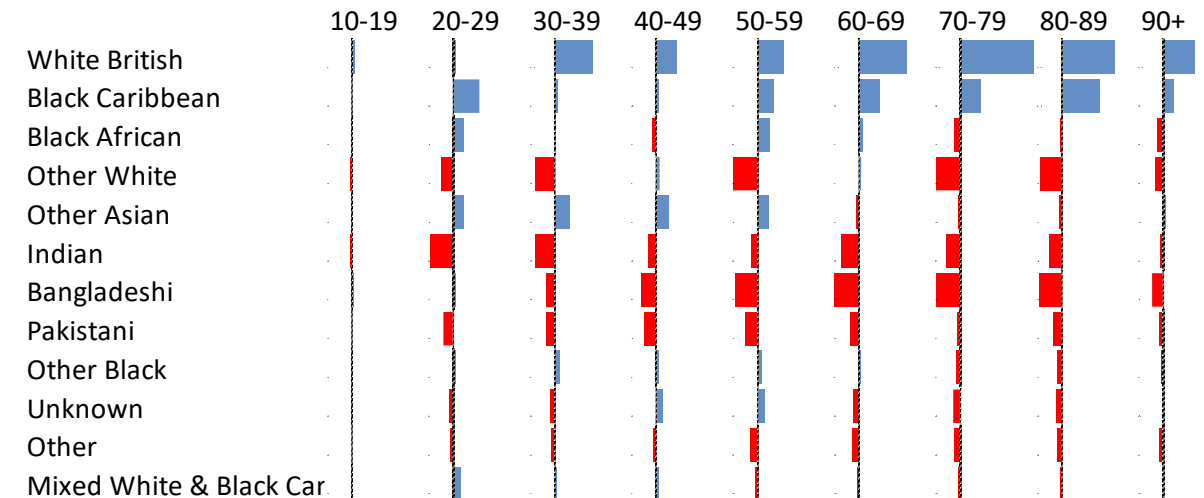
Referral source: social care



Referral source: primary care



Referral source: voluntary agency

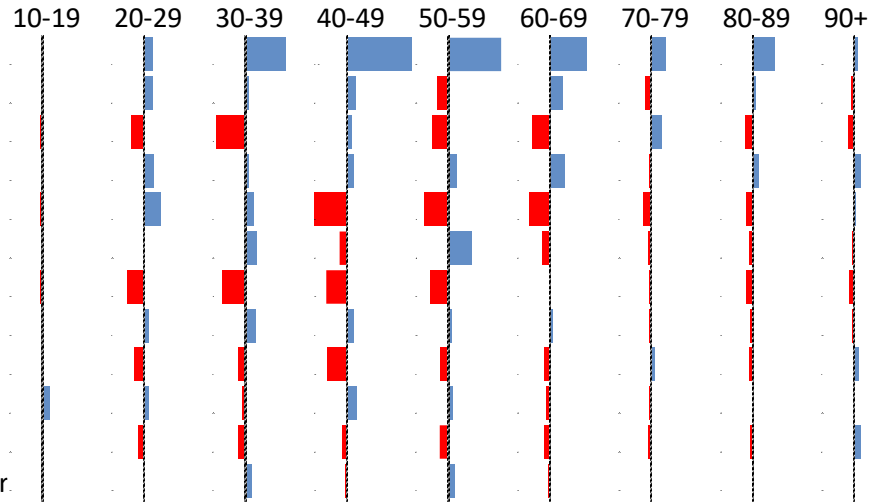


Blue = more referred than expected; red = less referred than expected given Newham demographics (not on the user profile for each referral source). For each referral source, ethnicity is ordered by descending frequency of referral

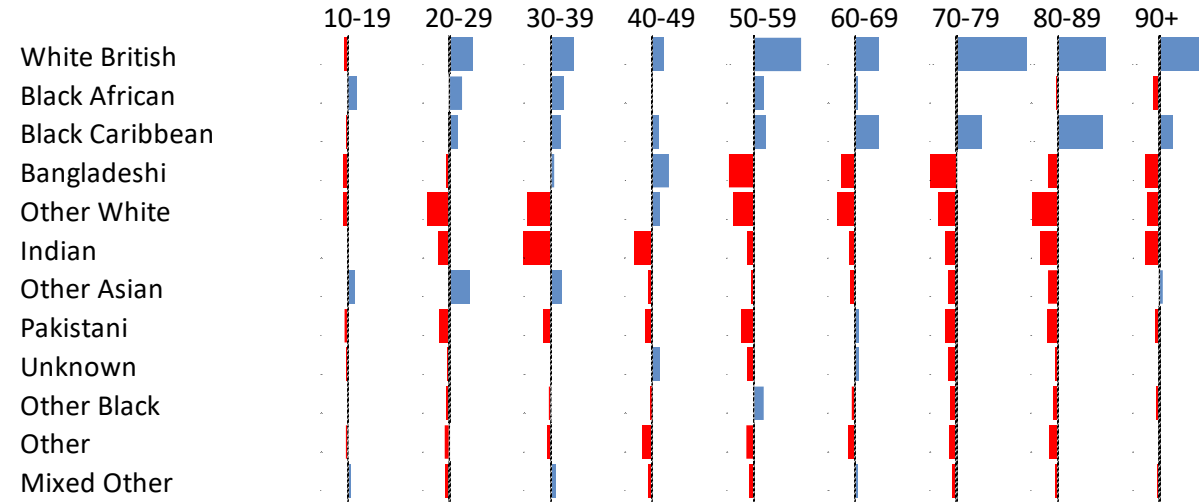
# Comparing referral sources by ethnicity and ageband since 1 Jan 2023



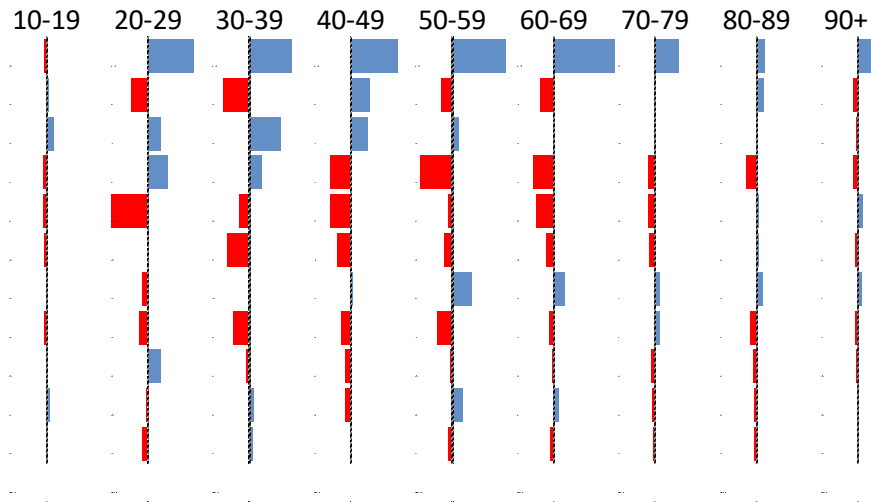
Referral source: Housing



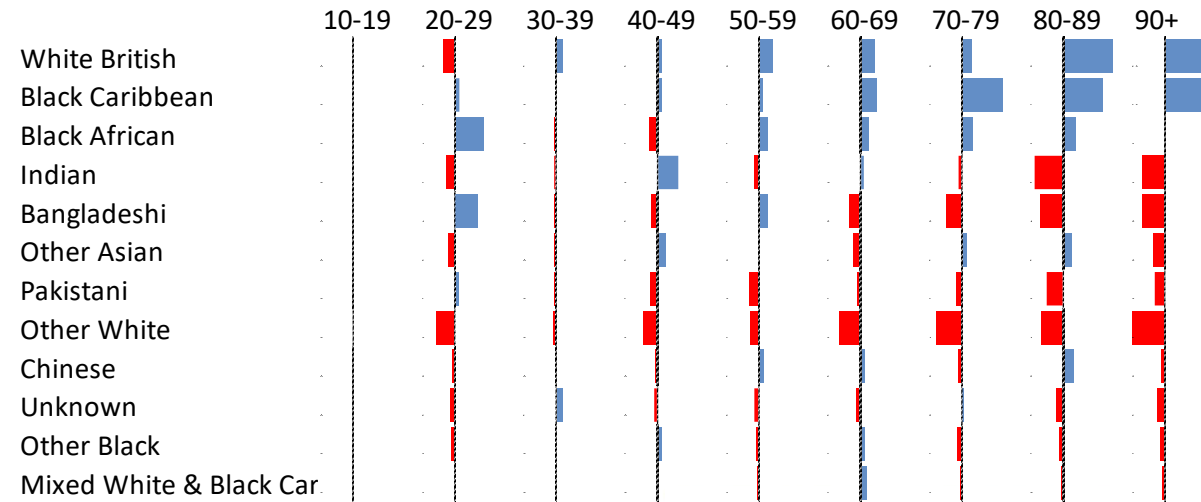
Referral source: other individual



Referral source: Police



Referral source: Family



Blue = more referred than expected; red = less referred than expected given Newham demographics (not on the user profile for each referral source). For each referral source, ethnicity is ordered by descending frequency of referral

# Comparing referral sources: summary of over / under referral since 1 Jan 2023



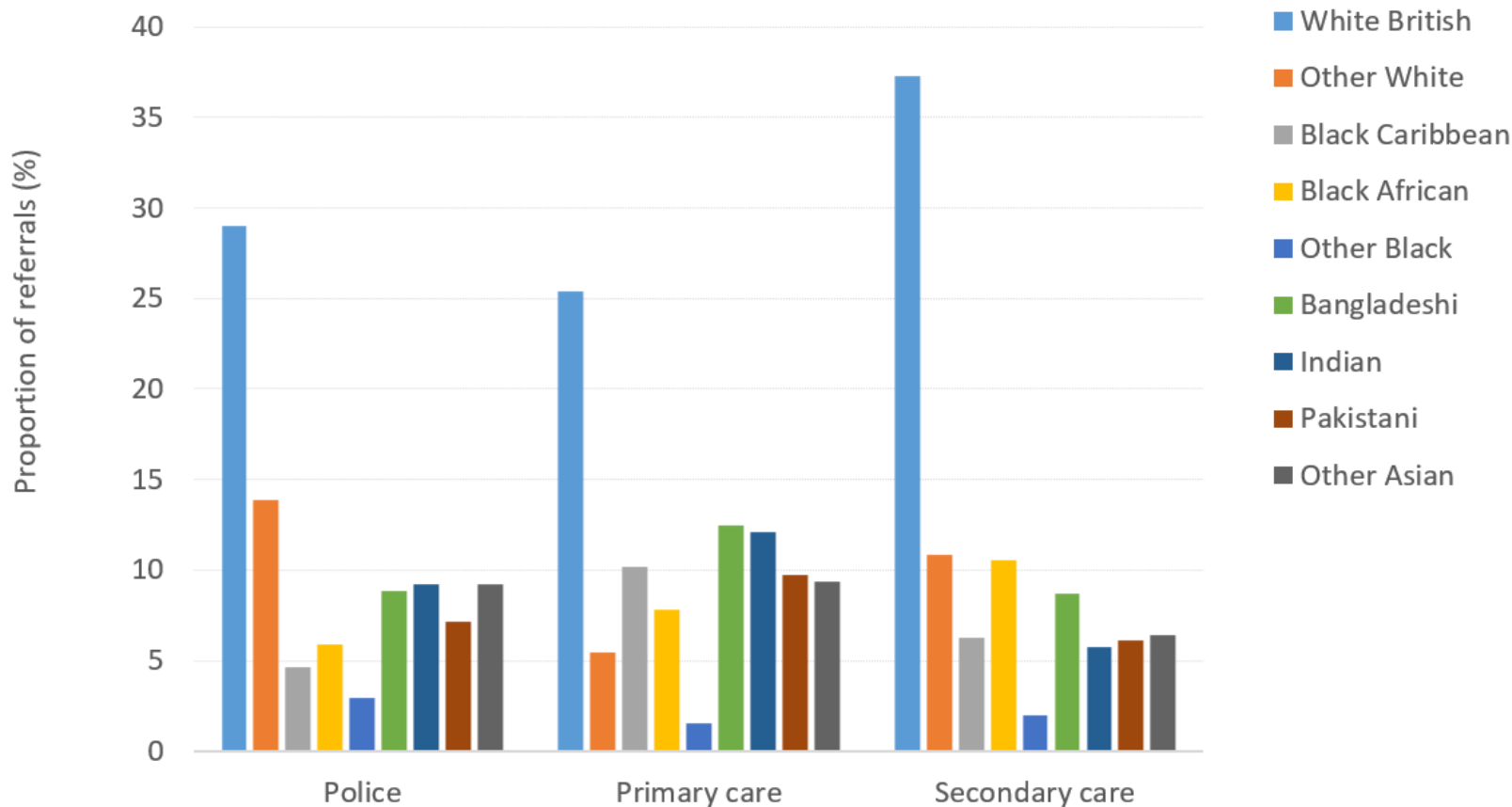
Source	More than expected	Less than expected	Source	More than expected	Less than expected
Secondary care	White British all ages Black Caribbean 60+	All other groups	Other individual	White British all ages esp. 70-79 yrs Black Caribbean all ages Black African all ages	Other White all ages Bangladeshi 50+ Indian all ages Pakistani all ages
Social care	White British all ages Black Caribbean all ages Black African 20-29 yrs	All other groups	Police	White British all ages esp. 20-69 yrs Other Asian 30-39 yrs	Bangladeshi 40+ Indian all ages Pakistani all ages Black African 30-49 yrs
Primary care	White British 50+ Black Caribbean all ages Other Asian 20-59 yrs	Other White all ages	Family	White British all ages esp. 80+ yrs Black Caribbean 70+ yrs	Other White 60+ yrs Bangladeshi 80+ yrs Indian 80+ yrs
Voluntary agency	White British all ages Black Caribbean all ages Other Asian 20-59 yrs	Other White all ages Bangladeshi all ages Pakistani all ages	Housing	White British all ages esp. 40-69 yrs	Other White 30-69 yrs Bangladeshi 40-59 yrs Indian 30-59 yrs

Expected is based on Newham demographics (not on the user profile for each referral source). For example, a source may have high referrals for a specific group as it has more service users of that group.

# Inequality in referral between Police, Primary and Secondary Care since 1 Jan 2023

There is a large variation in the proportion of received referrals between different agencies.

Because we don't know the proportions of residents who present to these agencies it isn't possible to determine the proportion referred from the agency perspective (issue of equity)



# Ratio of provision of information outcome to safeguarding outcome since 1 Jan 2023



Ethnicity	Ratio	
Unknown	4.9	
Mixed White & Asian	3.0	More likely to receive information
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	2.3	
Mixed Asian and Chinese	2.3	
Other	2.3	
Chinese	2.0	
Other Black	1.9	
Bangladeshi	1.9	
Other Asian	1.7	
Black African	1.7	
Other White	1.6	
Indian	1.6	
Pakistani	1.4	
White British	1.4	
Black Caribbean	1.2	
Mixed Other	1.1	More likely to be safeguarded
Gypsy / Roma	0.7	
Average	1.6	

- On average, there are 16 outcomes of information provision to every 10 outcomes of safeguarding.
- Residents of unknown and mixed Asian and White ethnicity were most likely to be provided with information as an outcome rather than safeguarded.
- Residents of Gypsy / Roma ethnicity were most likely to be safeguarded rather than given information.
- Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani residents are slightly more likely to be safeguarded rather than receive information compared to the Newham average.
- White British and Black Caribbean residents tend to have lower information provision and a greater chance of safeguarding

**WE ARE NEWHAM.**

# How has our safeguarding system changed over time?

The previous section looked at patterns in our system by analysing data since 1 Jan 2023.

Here we look at longer term historic changes since 2017 and analyse data since 1 Jan 2022 to identify important changes in how our system is working.

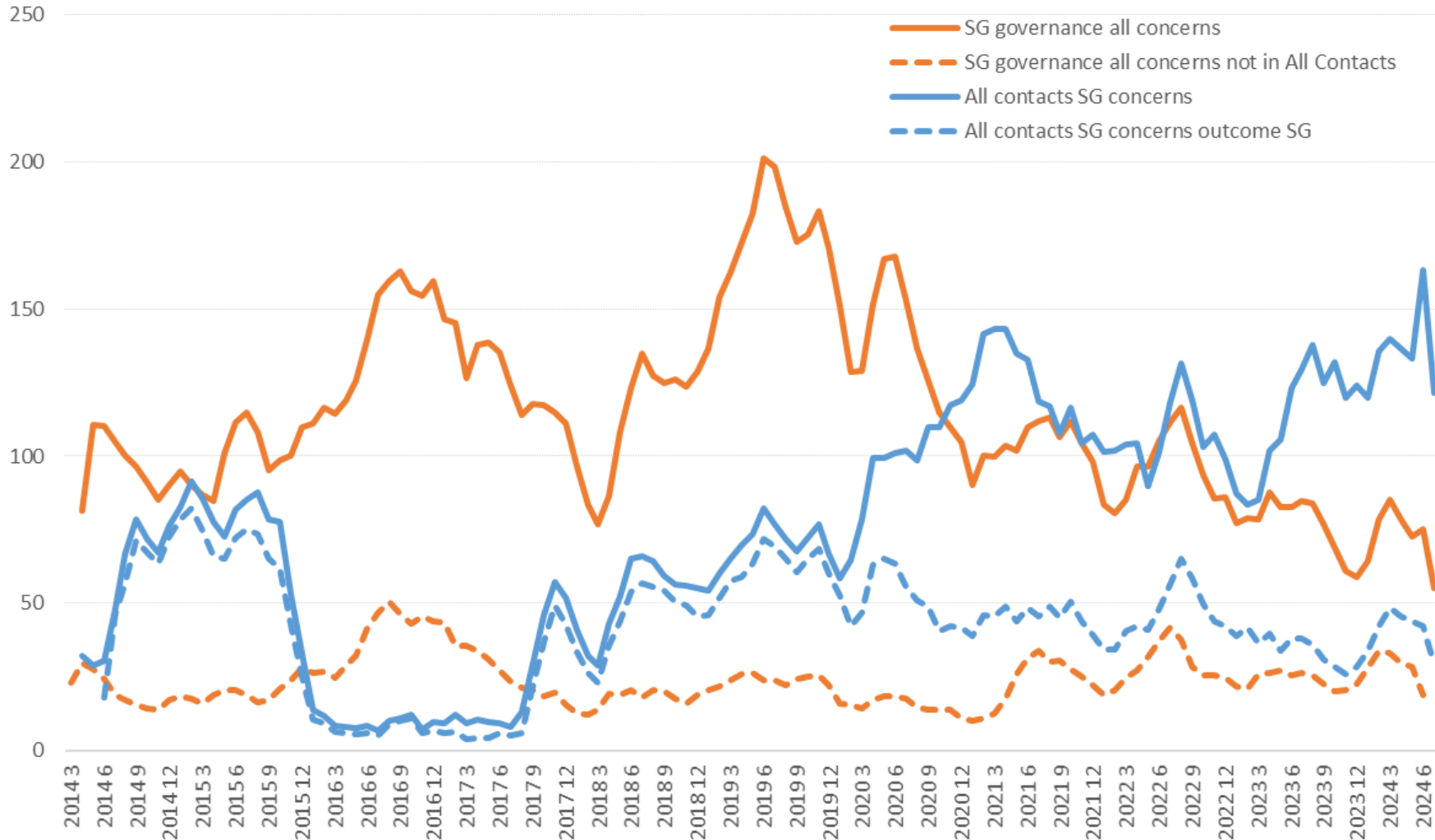
The analysis used here compares two time periods:

- 1 Jan 2022 to 30 June 2023 (Safeguarding or enquiry was more common than IAG)
- 1 July 2023 to 31 Dec 2024 (IAG was more common than Safeguarding or enquiry)

July 2023 marks the point in time when IAG overtook Safeguarding or enquiry as the most common outcome.

# How has our safeguarding system changed over time?

## Change in source of contacts over time



In Nov 2020 contacts through the front door (All contacts) overtook those raised through safeguarding governance.

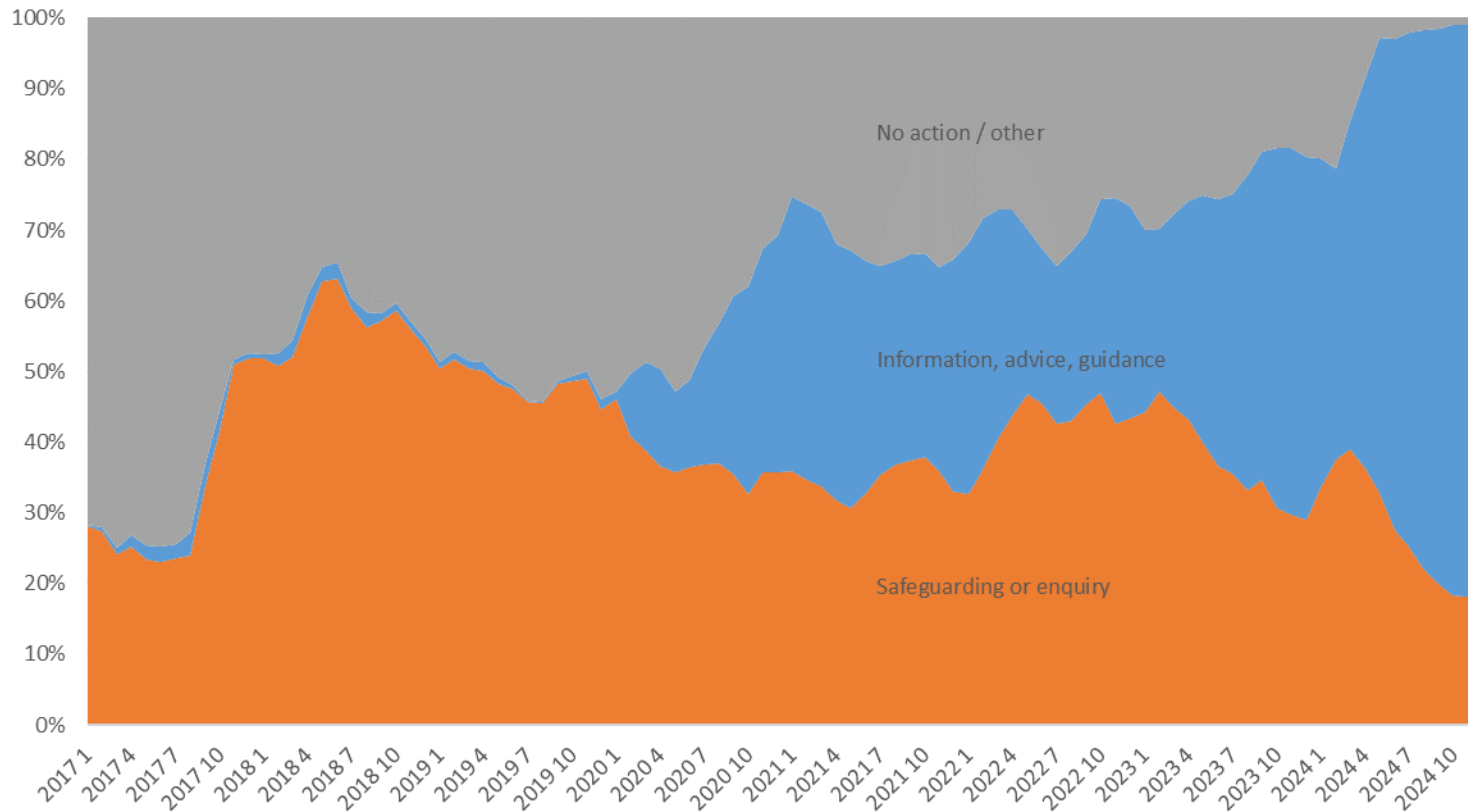
While front door contacts for safeguarding rose the proportion with safeguarding outcome did not rise.

At the onset of Covid-19 80% of contacts had a safeguarding outcome. Since then the proportion fell to 39% on average.

**WE ARE NEWHAM.**

# How has our safeguarding system changed over time?

## Change in the proportion of outcomes over time



Since 2017 there has been a significant change in outcomes.

In 2017 most referrals ended without action (outcome No action), and about a third were safeguarded (or enquiry).

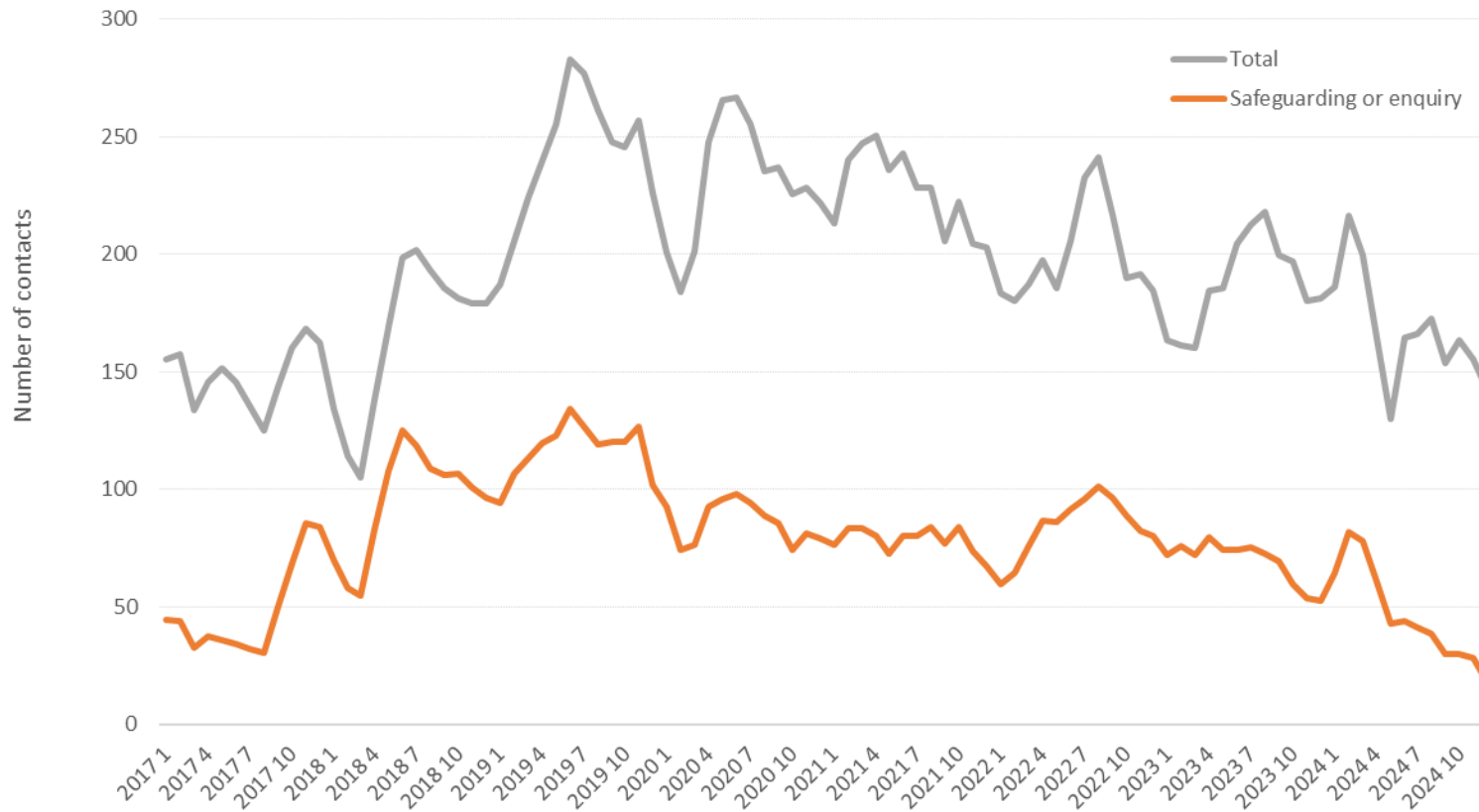
Since around 2020, Information, Advice or Guidance (IAG) became a more frequent outcome and increasingly replaced No action as an outcome.

Around Oct 2023 IAG became the most common outcome; safeguarding or enquiry made up nearly a third of outcomes at this time.

Safeguarding or enquiry has since fallen to around 20% of outcomes with IAG making up around 80% of outcomes by the end of 2024.

# How has our safeguarding system changed over time?

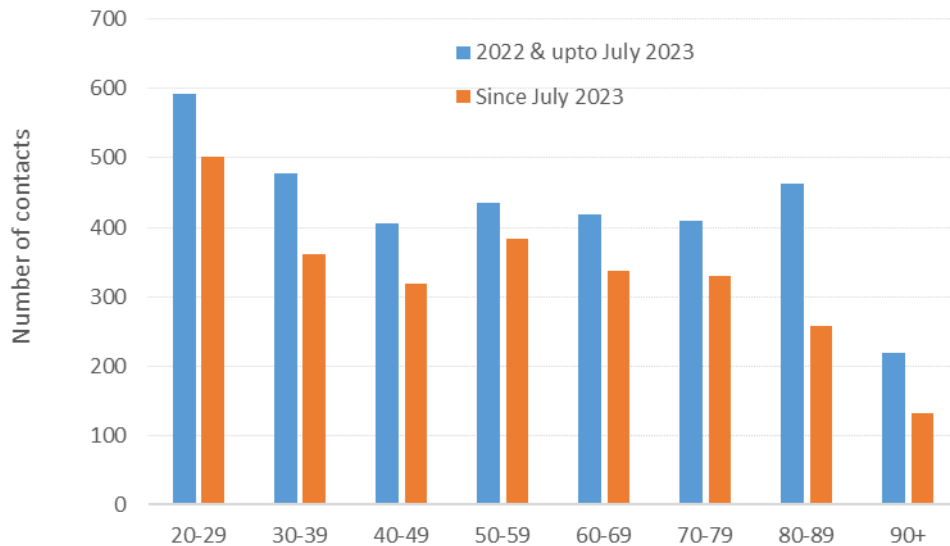
## Change in number of outcomes over time



The number of contacts peaked in June 2019 with 283 referrals / month and since then has showed a general downward trend. The monthly number of referrals is now similar to levels seen in 2017.

Similarly contacts with safeguarding or enquiry outcomes have fallen from their peak in 2017 (the low values seen in the latest few months might be the result of data record delays).

# Contacts with any outcome change since 1 Jan 2022

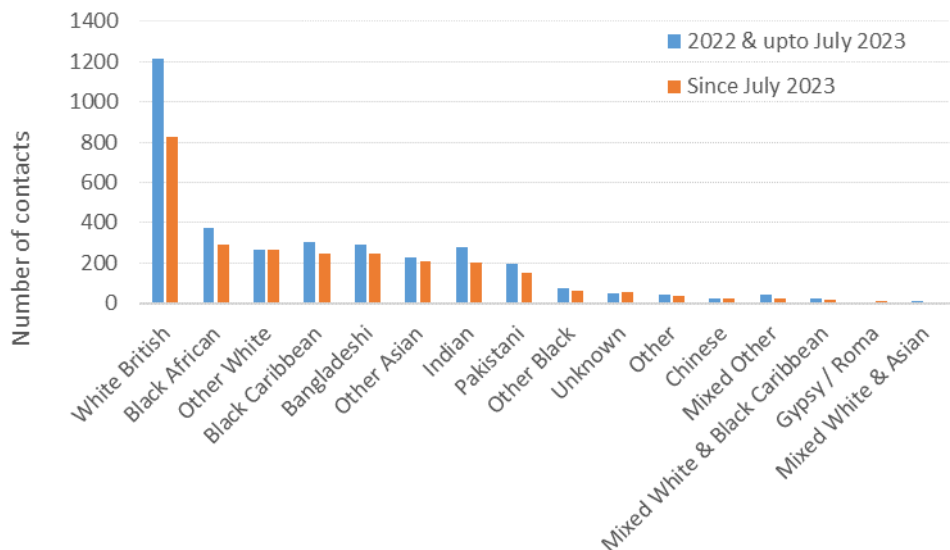


Comparing the two time periods, the overall reduction in contacts was by 22%.

## Agebands

Largest overall change in 80+ years where the reduction was more than 40%

- 12% reduction for 50-59 years
- 15% reduction for 20-29 years



## Ethnicity

While overall reduction was 22% for all contact outcomes, there was a 32% reduction in White British contacts and 28% reduction in Indian contacts.

Smaller proportionate reductions were seen in other ethnicities.

# Contacts with any outcome change since 1 Jan 2022

## Sex

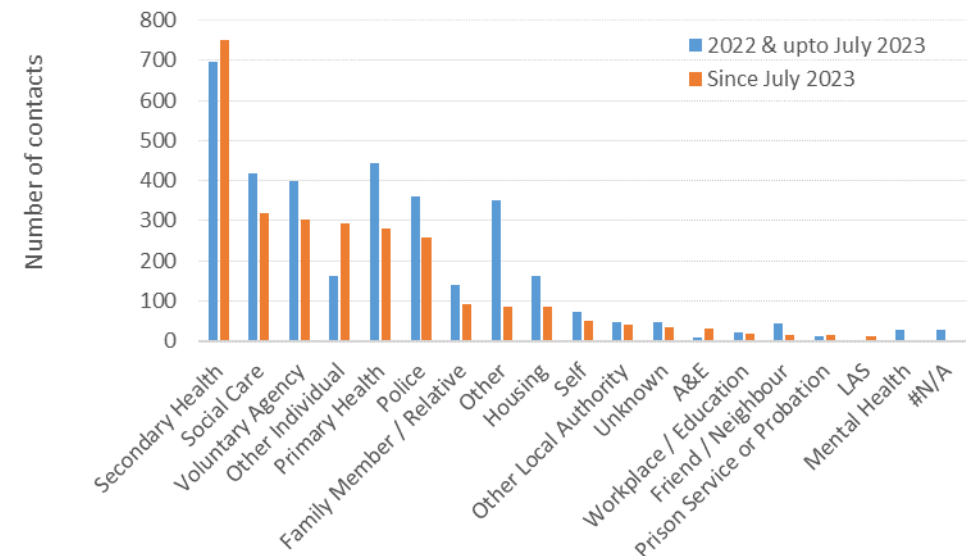
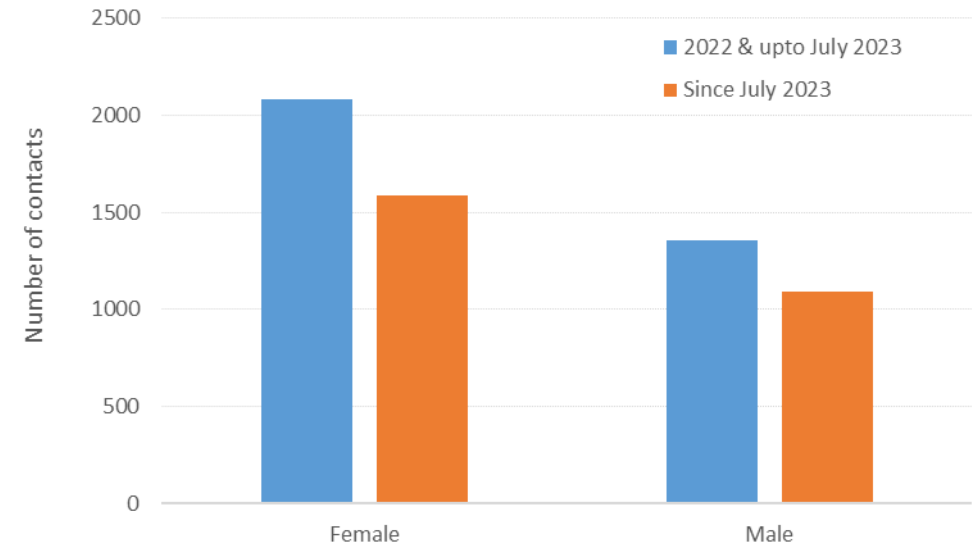
Overall, the proportionate reduction in contacts was slightly greater for females (24%) than for males (19%).

Since July 2023 there are still more females contacts than male but the ratio fell slightly from 1.5x higher to 1.4x higher since July 2023

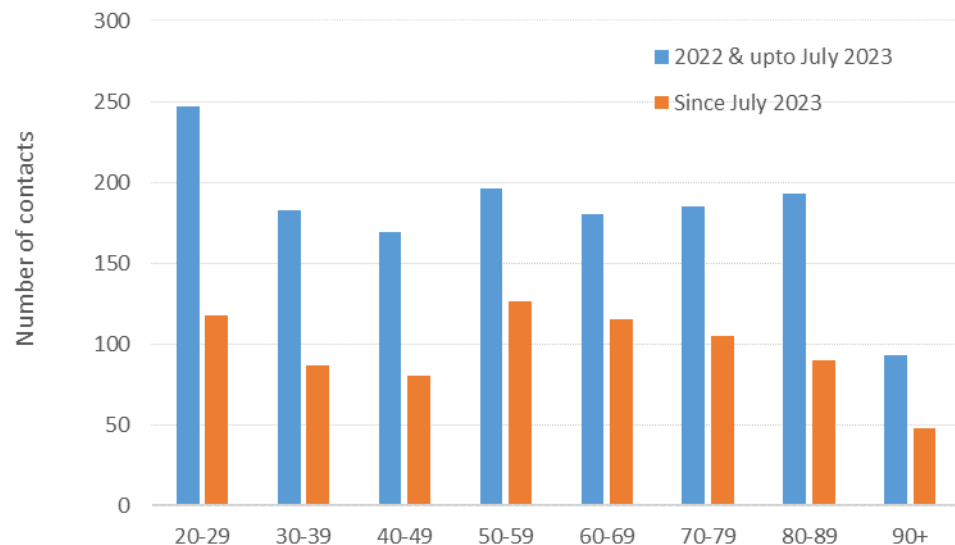
## Referral source

Although overall the total number of contacts (any outcome) fell over the period, contacts from secondary care increased by 8% so that these became more dominant, increasing from 20% to 28% of all contacts.

- Contacts from Other Individual rose from 163 to 292 (79% increase)
- Contacts from Primary Care and Police fell by 37% and 28% respectively
- Social care contacts fell by 24% and Housing contacts by 48%
- VCFS contacts fell by 24% and Family Member by 35%



# Contacts with safeguarding outcome change since 1 Jan 2022



Comparing the two time periods, the overall reduction in contacts with safeguarding outcome was by 46%.

## Agebands

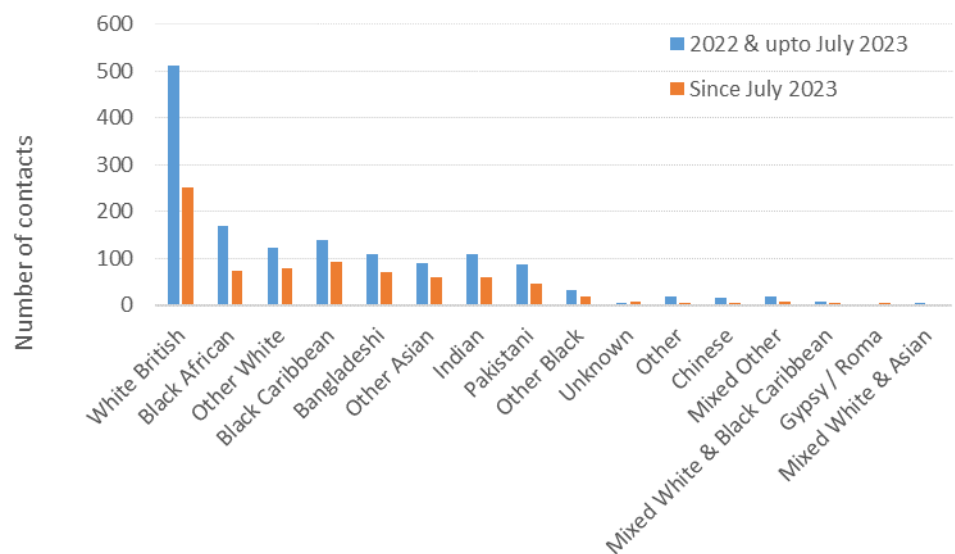
50-69 years showed the smallest reduction proportionally (36%). 20-49 years fell by 52%.

## Ethnicity

Contacts with safeguarding outcome fell by 46% on average over the period.

Greater reductions were seen amongst Black African (57%) and White British (52%) residents.

Smaller reductions around 33% were seen for Black Caribbean, Bangladeshi, Other Asian, Indian and Pakistani residents.



# Contacts with safeguarding outcome change since 1 Jan 2022

Comparing the two time periods, the overall reduction in contacts with safeguarding outcome was by 46%.

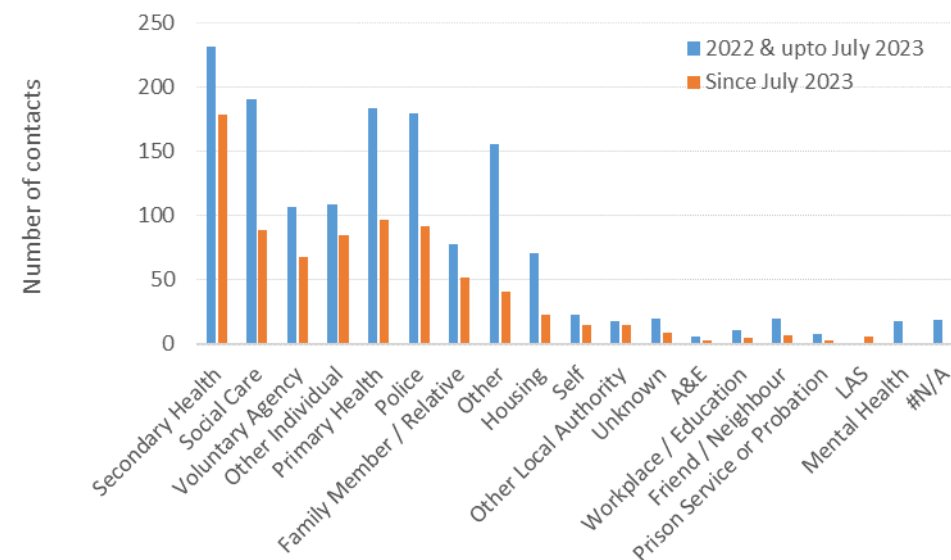
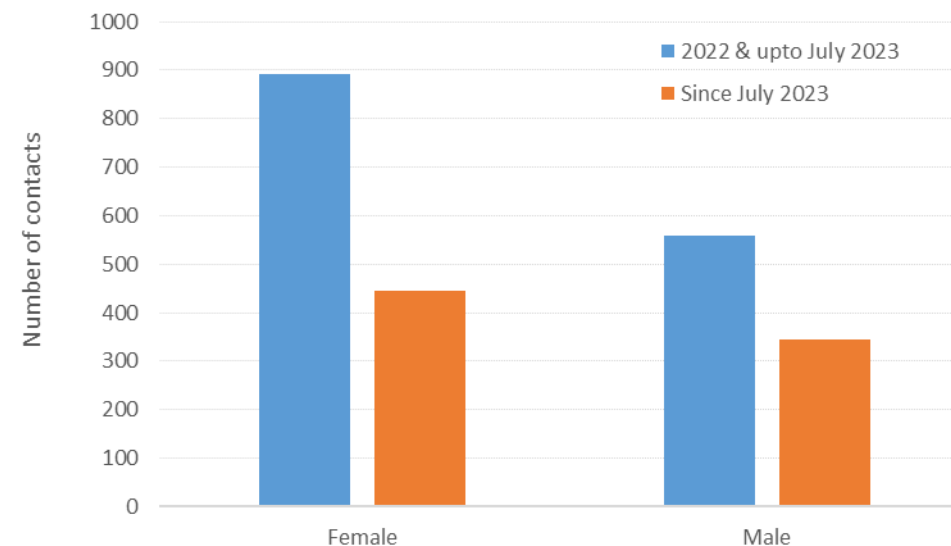
## Sex

Contacts with safeguarding outcome fell more for females (by 50%) than for males (38%) over the two periods.

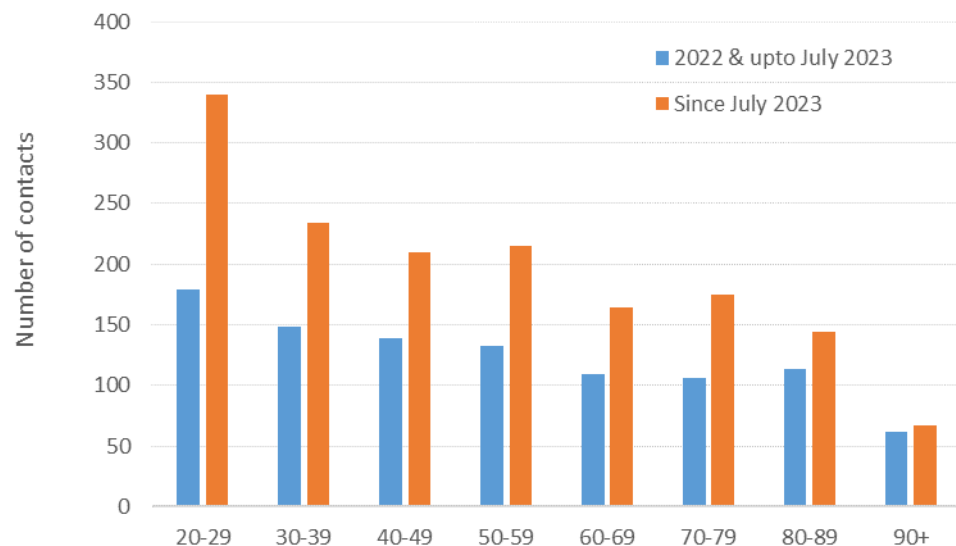
## Referral source

The largest proportionate reductions in contacts with a safeguarding outcome came from Housing (67%), Social Care (53%) and Other (74%).

The smallest reductions were in contacts from Secondary Care (23%) and Family Members (33%).



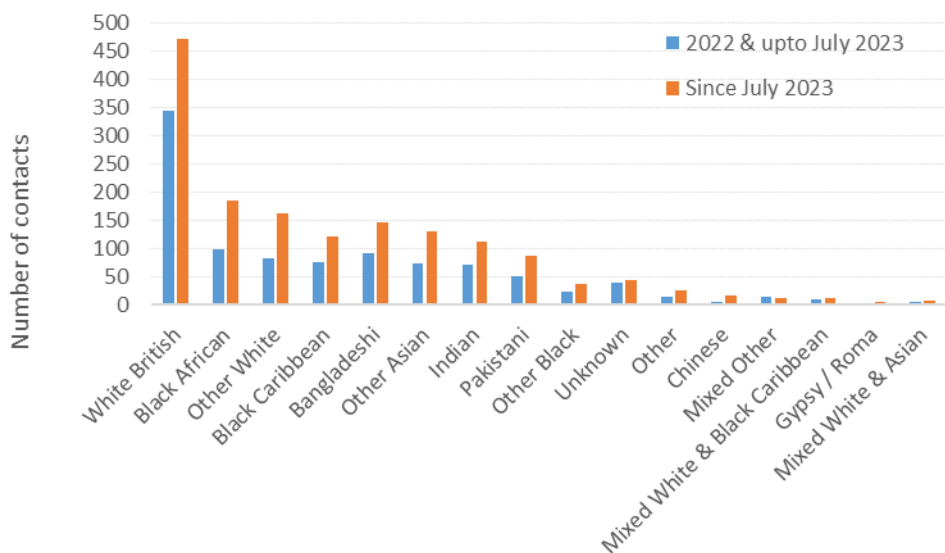
# Contacts with IAG outcome change since 1 Jan 2022



Comparing the two time periods, there was a 58% increase in contacts with IAG outcome.

## Agebands

The greatest proportionate increase was in 20-29 years (90%) and smallest was in 80+ years (around 15%). There were 56 more IAG contacts in 20-29 years after July 2023 than expected compared to the period before.



## Ethnicity

While contacts with IAG outcome increased by 58% over the period, they increased less for White British (36%). Increases were more than average for other ethnic groups eg 90% growth for Black African residents.

# Contacts with IAG outcome change since 1 Jan 2022

Comparing the two time periods, there was a 58% increase in contacts with IAG outcome.

## Sex

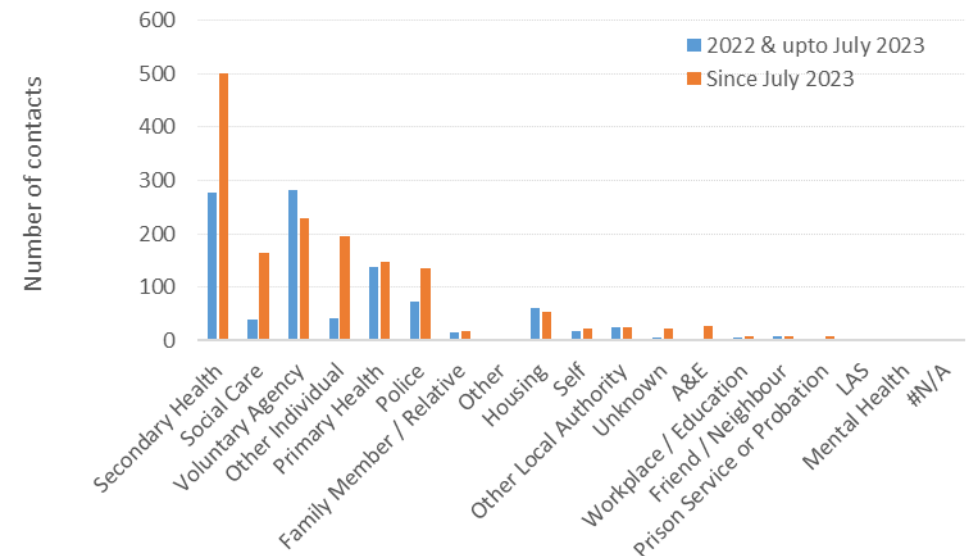
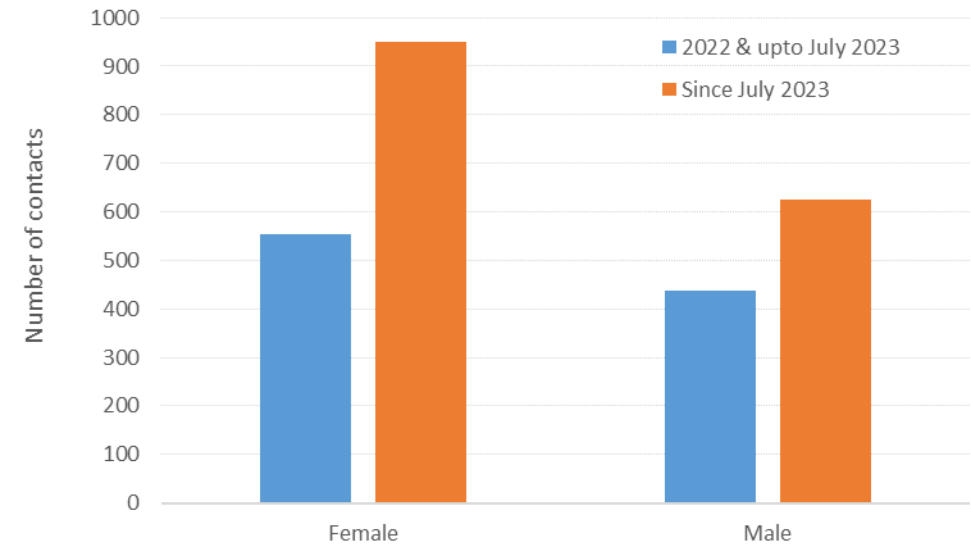
Contacts with IAG outcome increased more for females (by 71%) than for males (42%) over the two periods.

## Referral source

The largest proportionate increases in the number of contacts with IAG outcome were from Other Individual (380%), Social Care (320%), Police (89%) and Secondary Care (82%).

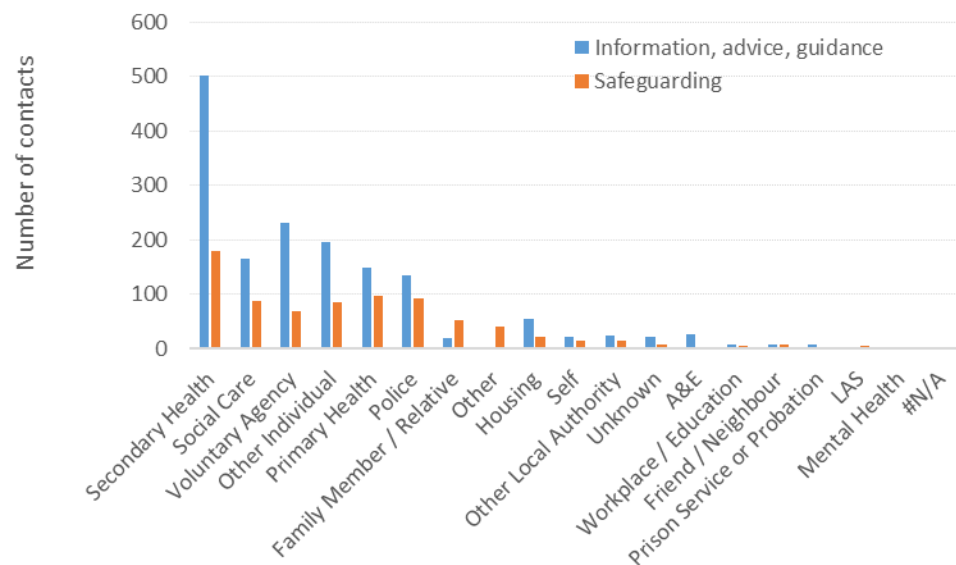
Small increases came from Family Member (19%), Primary Care (6%).

IAG contacts from VCFS fell by 18%.



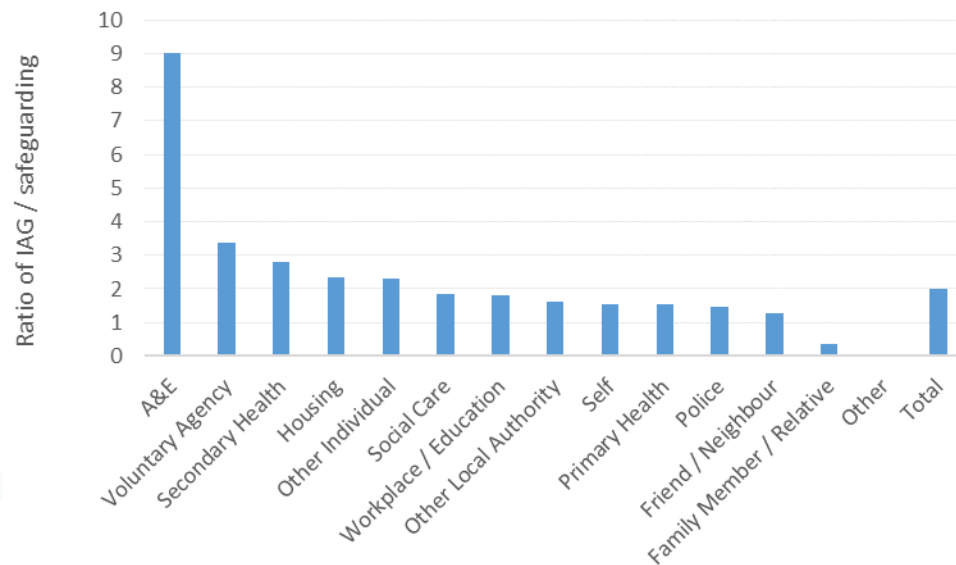
# Proportions of IAG and safeguarding outcomes since July 2023\*

\* the time from when IAG became more common than safeguarding



Secondary care and VCFS are the main source of contacts with IAG outcome.

Secondary care and Police are the main source of contacts with safeguarding or enquiry outcome.



Although low in volume, A&E makes 9 times more contacts with IAG outcome than contacts with safeguarding outcome.

Conversely, family members made 2.7 times more contacts with safeguarding outcome than IAG outcome.