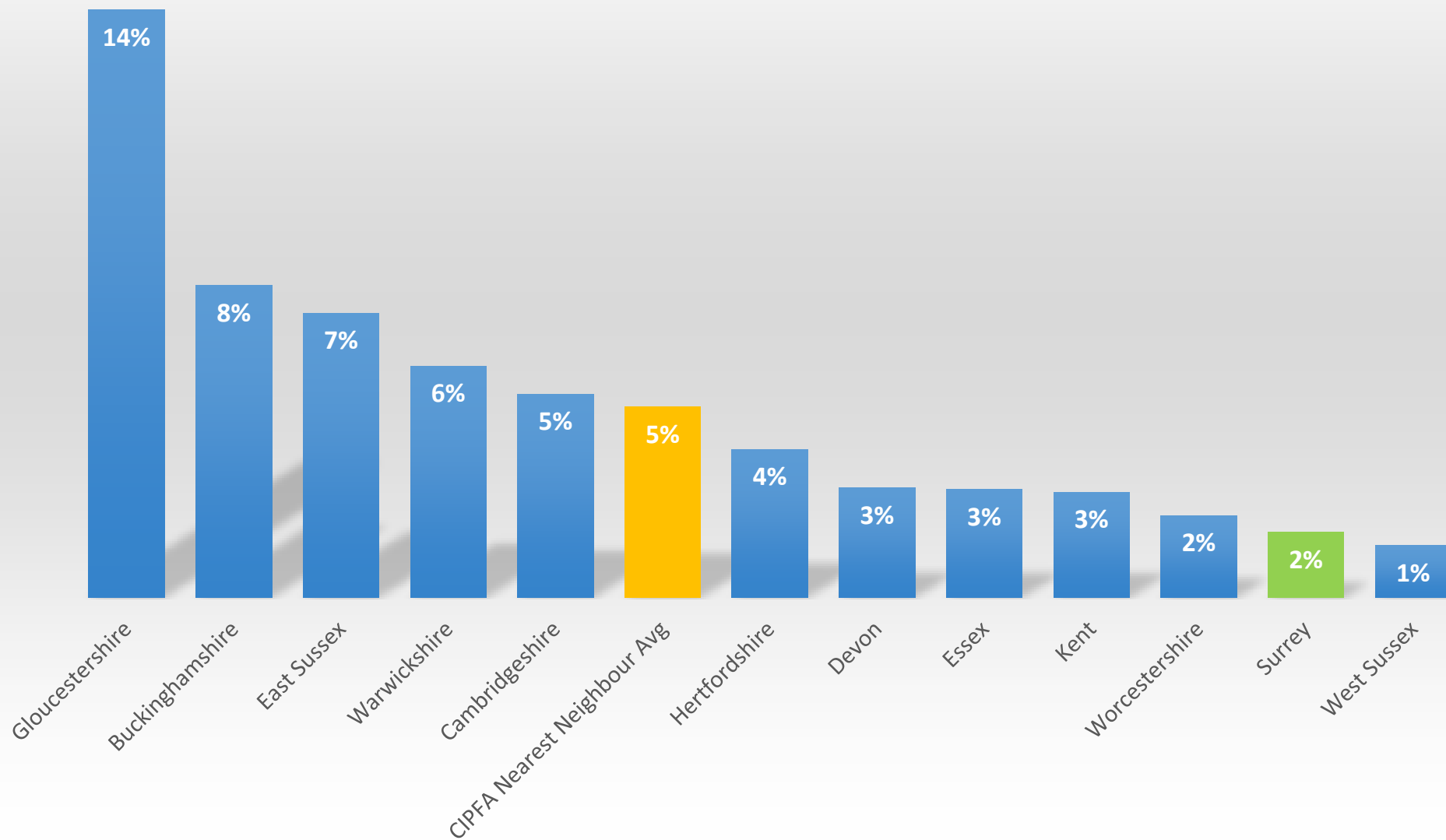


Adult Social Care Domestic Abuse and Adult Safeguarding

Findings from a Quality Assurance audit Spring /
Summer 2018

Rebecca Berry, Safeguarding Advisor, Runnymede
Locality Team

Proportion of adult safeguarding enquiries relating to domestic abuse 2016/17



Two elements

- Adult safeguarding work where domestic abuse had been identified
- Adult safeguarding work where domestic abuse had not been identified but appeared likely
 - Categories of abuse include any of “Physical”, “Sexual”, “Sexual Exploitation”, “Emotional / Psychological” or “Financial and Material; and
 - “Person thought to be the cause of risk is “Partner” or “Other Family Member”; or
 - “Is the person alleged to pose risk the main carer” has been answered “Yes

Findings

- Domestic abuse is often not recognised in our adult safeguarding work
- Concerns about domestic abuse are too often not leading to enquiries when they should
- The quality of our enquiries concerning domestic abuse is lower than our average

Not recognising domestic abuse

- Mrs Smith has a hereditary genetic condition which impacts her cognition and mobility
- Mrs Smith has said
 - Since her disability benefit payment was stopped cannot get out to the shops or go on trips.
 - Her husband controls her Employment and Support Allowance. She does not know the amount she receives or even what account it goes into.
 - There is a history of him having restrictive control over her money
 - In the past arrangements were in place for an independent organisation to manage her money because of the concerns about this

Decision not to have a s42 enquiry

Mrs Smith "appears to have mental capacity to understand the reasons for concerns raised. She is able to take actions to protect herself, however she stated in the meeting clearly that she did not want to antagonise her husband and definitely would not do anything to undermine their marriage. Mrs Smith is aware she is the only source of income for the couple and is happy to allow her husband to continue manage her finances."

What difference does naming domestic abuse make?

- Incidents vs Patterns
- Understanding risks, and the impact of intervention on those risks
- Avoid confusing choice with coercion
- Understanding the abuse and holding the abuser to account

Next steps

- Domestic Abuse Management Board to oversee a programme of work to address the issues identified, and report to SSAB
- Programme of work to be developed and delivered by the Domestic Abuse Delivery Group, and linked to work on SSAB Strategic Plan
- ASC to undertake another audit in 12 months

Proportion of adult safeguarding enquiries relating to domestic abuse

