Sutton Women's Safety Survey 2023

A report on how safety is perceived by women in the London Borough of Sutton

Commissioned by
Sutton Women's Centre and
Reclaim Sutton's Streets

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MAYOR OF LONDON
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Foreword

Susan Davis, Chair, Trustees, Sutton Women's Centre

Sarah McGuinness, Chair, Reclaim Sutton's Streets

This report was commissioned by Sutton's Women Centre and Reclaim Sutton's Streets in response to a startling increase in violence and abuse against women and girls across the borough. Reclaim Sutton's Streets are a group of local women whose aim is to combat violence against women and girls. The latest figures recorded by both our organisations show a more than 70% increase in violence and abuse since lockdown.

We wanted to understand what this behaviour looks like, to explore women's experiences in a multitude of settings and to use this information to start conversations and, more important, action, to build a safer Sutton for women and girls.

We wanted evidence to put before policymakers, police and politicians, to bring women's experiences front and centre when decisions are made about planning and design, policing, transport and education, and much more.

We know the information in this report will be vital to those discussions. It will be vital to those bringing up young girls, wanting women's business as part of both daytime and nighttime economies, those creating safe spaces to work and play and to travel.

This report will be launched at our 'Building A Safer Sutton for Women and Girls' conference on Thursday November 30, 2023 and we will be announcing a series of further events soon afterwards to maintain momentum.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Women in Sutton

On average, women make up 52% of the adult population of the London Borough of Sutton.[1] In the last 12 months there have been 1,863 domestic abuse counts, where the majority was categorised as a domestic abuse report, leaving 474 cases as 'reported' domestic abuse cases with violence with sustained injury.[2]

Figure 1. Number of usual residents per square kilometre as of the 2021 Census, showing population density by neighbourhood in Sutton. Source: ONS, 2022. Crown copyright 2023. OS 0100019252
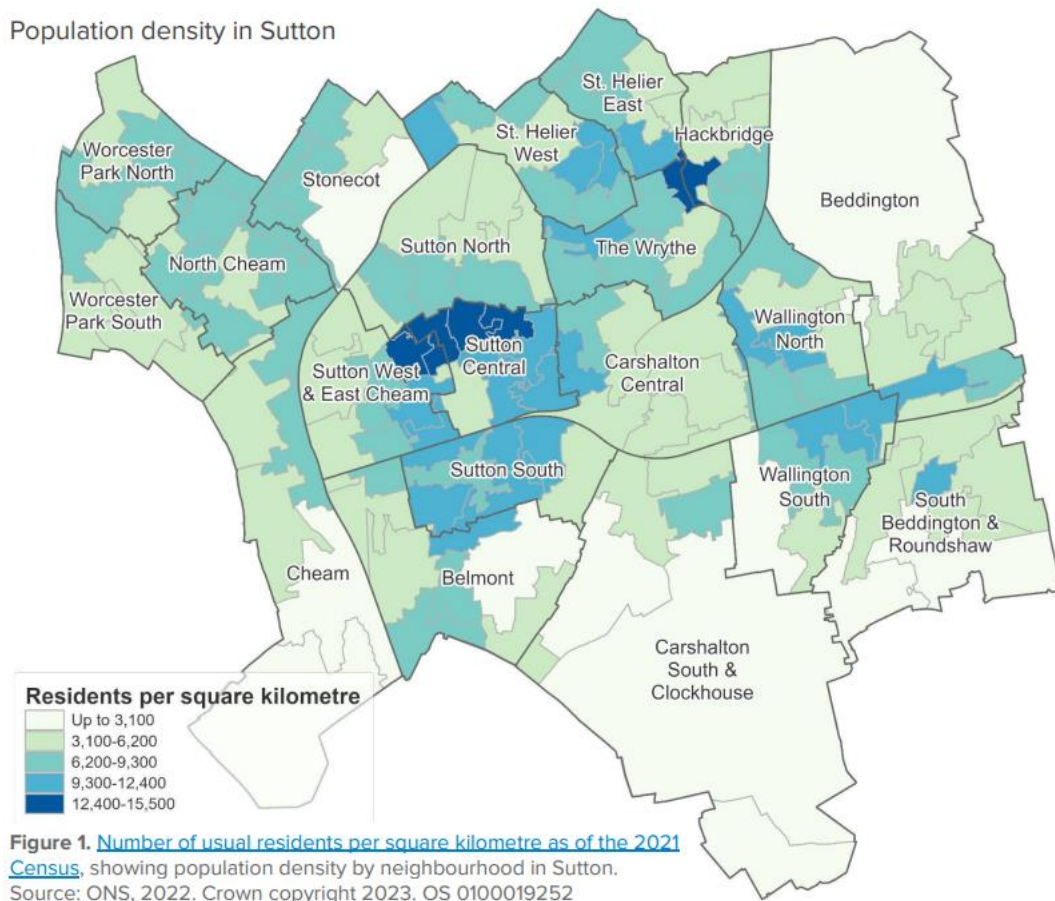
Figure 1: London Borough of Sutton Population density (2023)

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[1] Sutton Council, Key Data Sutton Data: Gender 2023 (accessed Nov 2023).
[2] Monthly Crime Data New Cats by Metropolitan Police Service (accessed Nov 2023).

Of interest is the distribution of black and minority ethnic groups across the London Borough of Sutton as this helps create a narrative around areas to target interventions to support women in specific regions.

Percentage of residents from Asian, Black, Mixed/ Multiple and White non-British ethnic backgrounds in Sutton, by ward
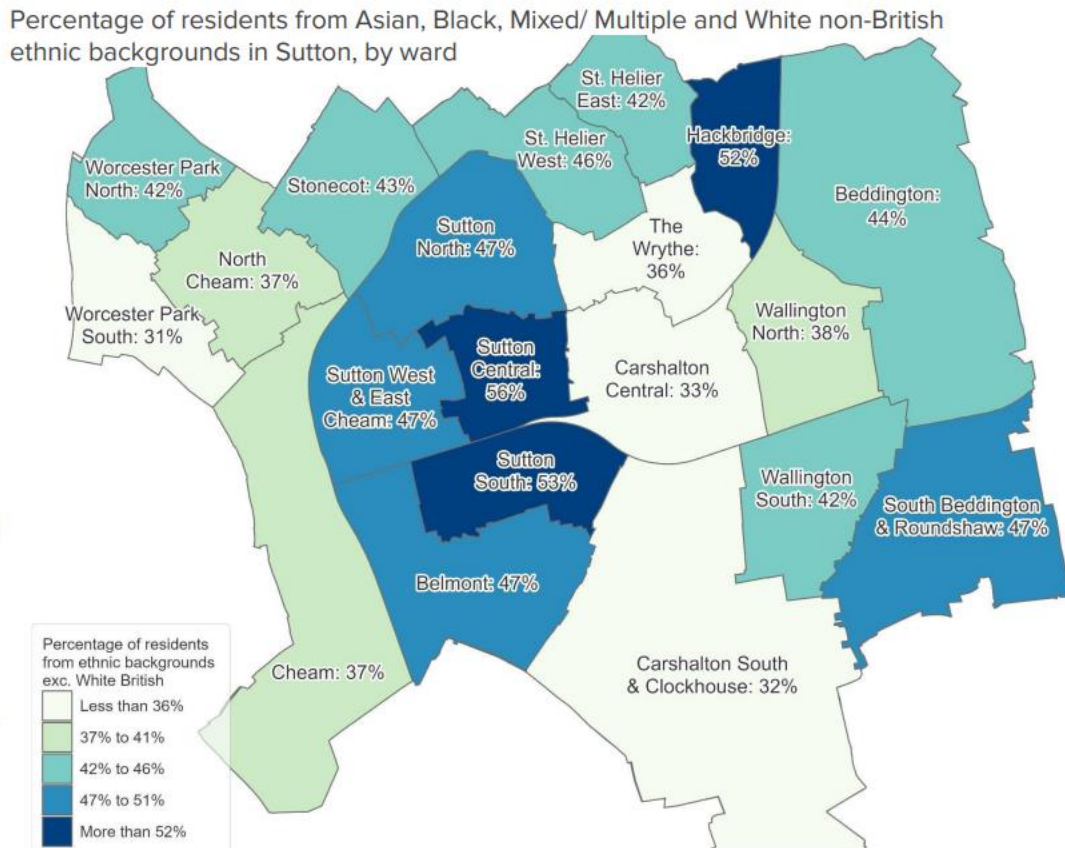
Figure 7. A map showing the percentage of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups by ward in Sutton as of the 2021 Census, Source: ONS, 2023.

Figure 2: Distribution of Population via Ethnic backgrounds excluding White

Trends in reported cases of violence and abuse

There were 1,863 domestic violence offences between 2022 to 2023 in the borough of Sutton. Offences are trending up, with peaks over the summer months. It is difficult to ascertain why and how these trends seem to increase in warmer weather.[3] Between 2018/19 and 2020/21, there were 250 hospital admissions for violent crime in Sutton

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[3] Monthly Crime Data New Cats, London Borough of Sutton, 2023

(42.1 per 100,000), comparable to the rate in London (44.3 per 100,000), and England (41.9 per 100,000).[4]

The London Borough of Sutton has, from July 2022 to 2023, a significant reporting of all those crimes related to violence and sexual offences.

Crime count by type for Sutton (Jul-22 - Jun-23)
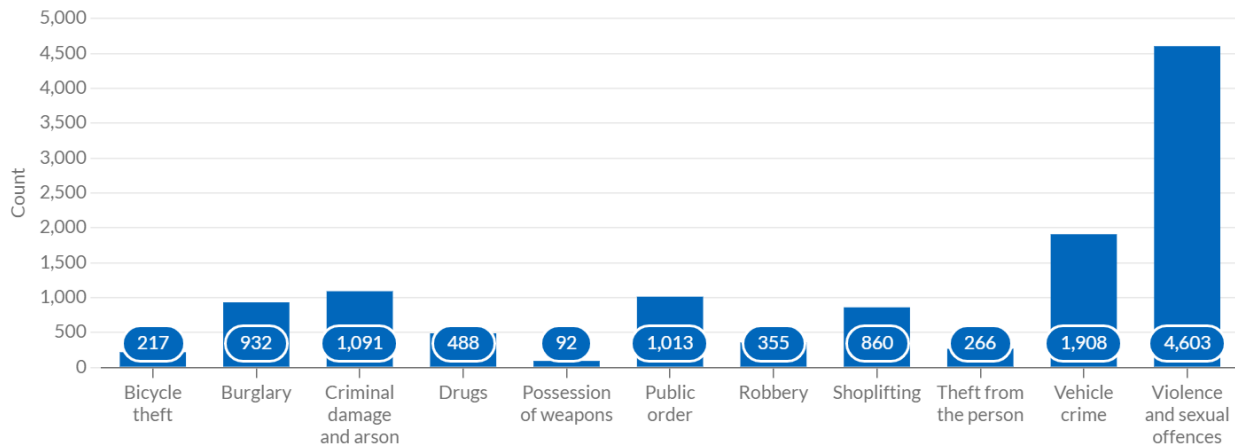
Source: data.police.uk

Figure 3: Crime Count by Region (London Borough of Sutton), 2023

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[4] Sutton Strategic Needs Assessment Borough Prodile, Wider determinants of health, pg. 30.

A. Survey Responses

There were 476 responses collected from July to November 2023 from respondents working and living around the London Borough of Sutton. The survey was designed in collaboration with Sutton Women's Centre and Reclaim Sutton's Streets, based on priority needs to understand (i) women's perceptions of safety in the London Borough of Sutton, (ii) safety at shops and facilities (both indoor and outdoor spaces), (iii) police presence that reinforces a sense of safety, (iv) types of harassment and offences that are less obvious reportable offences, and (v) current trends and behaviours women feel the need to take, inclusive of recommendations to promote greater awareness and security.

Sutton Women's Centre and Reclaim Sutton's Streets were responsible for the facilitation and promotion of the survey to the local community. The following is a summary of the demographic features which aggregate the characteristics of the respondents.

1. Age of respondents
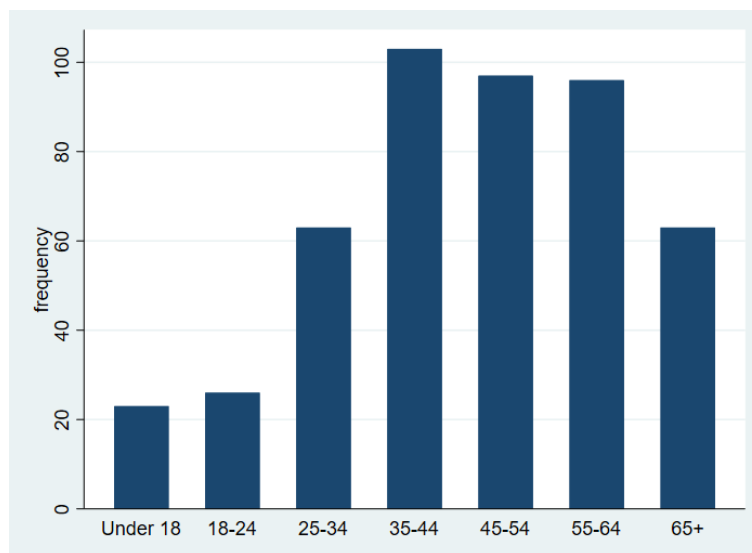
Most respondents came from women (adult to mature adult age groups) between 35 to 64 years of age.

2. Length of time being a resident in Sutton
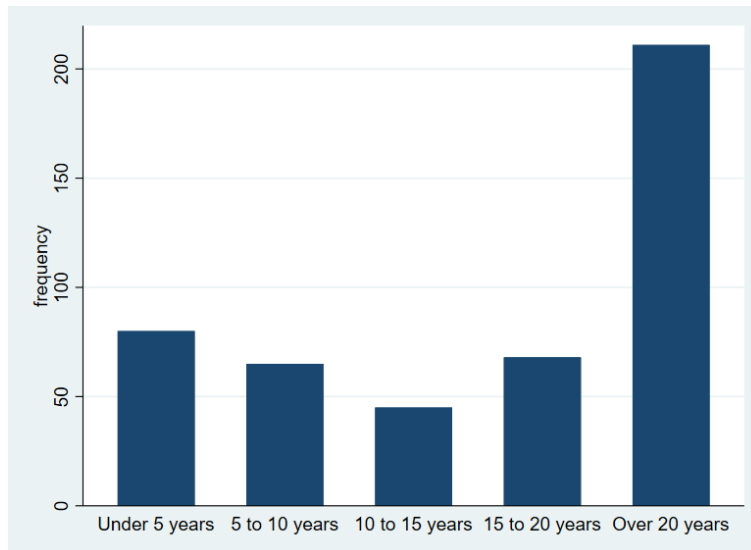
While respondents have been on average living in Sutton between 5 to 15 years, most responses came from women who have been living in the region for longer than 20 years.

3. Regional distribution of responses by current residents

Reponses to the survey were by public appeal based on local community areas, outreach services, partners of Sutton Women's Centre and Reclaim Sutton's Streets, Community Action, other charity and community organisations and public services. Therefore, the responses collected were not specifically targeted by the 20 wards or region or across the borough.
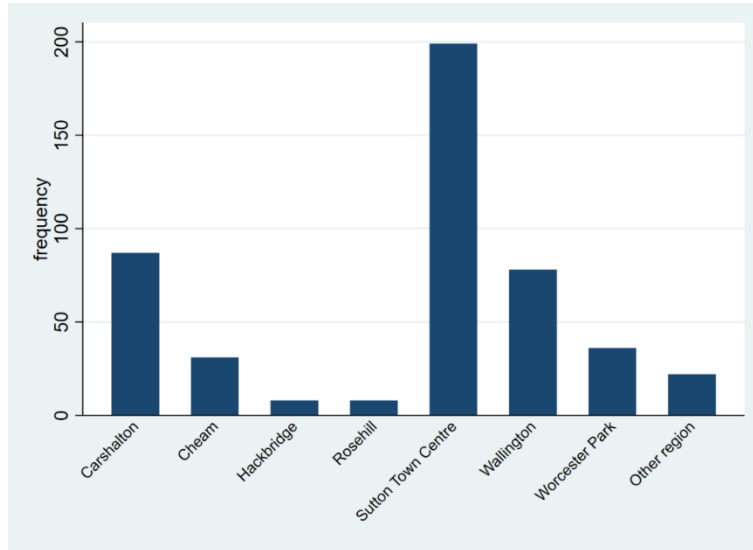
Some of the 'other' region responses included those from Belmont, Beddington, Stonecot and Sutton Common.

4. Regional distribution of responses by women (currently working) in Sutton

Almost 50% of the respondents did not work in Sutton. More than 30% of the respondents in the Sutton Town Centre and in Wallington worked locally in the region. For respondents from all the other wards, only 10% to 20% worked in the local area.
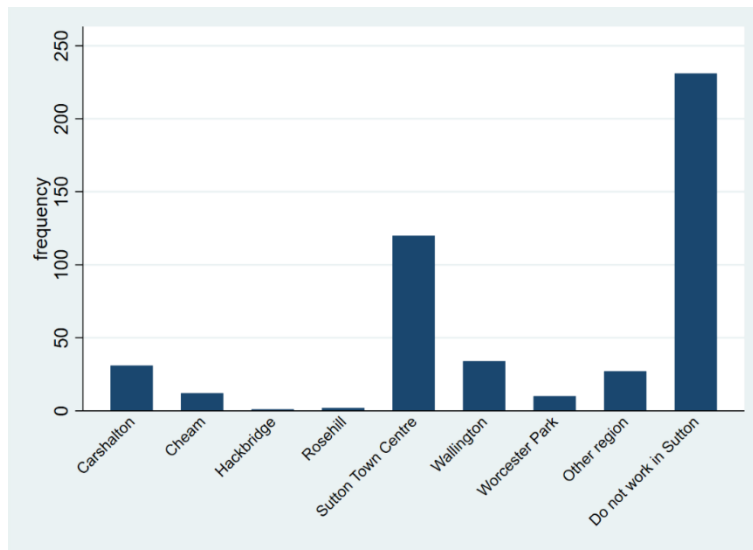
While the data is not identified in the diagram above, respondents were also asked to comment on common regions where they '*socialise or visit*' which are inclusive of all the wards in Sutton. Participants identified that some of the places they visit would include parks, shops and museums or local sites of interest.

5. Ethnicity of respondents
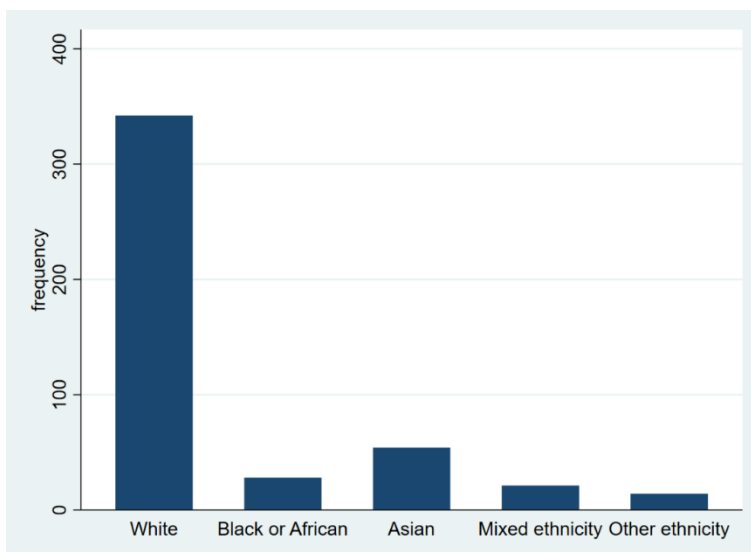
While the majority of respondents were from white backgrounds, the demographic splits have been able to indicate patterned responses from those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

6. Sexual orientation of respondents
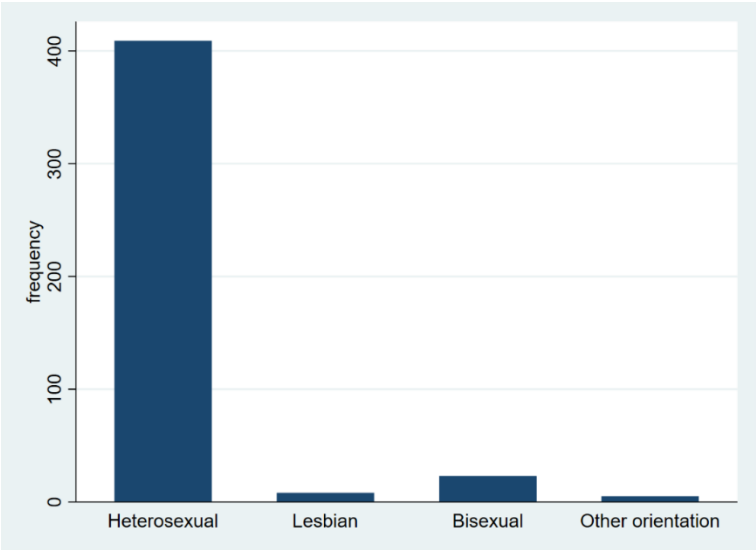
Most women were heterosexual; those who responded as 'other' identified as being pansexual or aro.

7. Respondents with a known disability
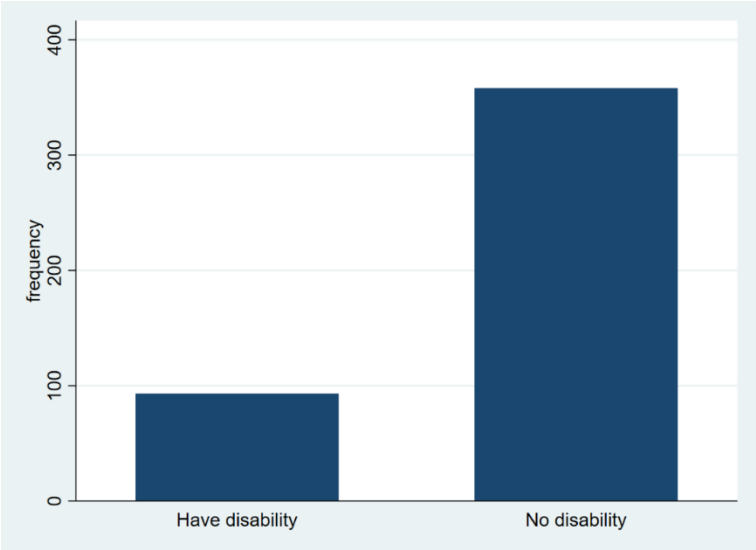
The majority of women responded as not having a disability or a known disability.

8. Respondents who are mothers
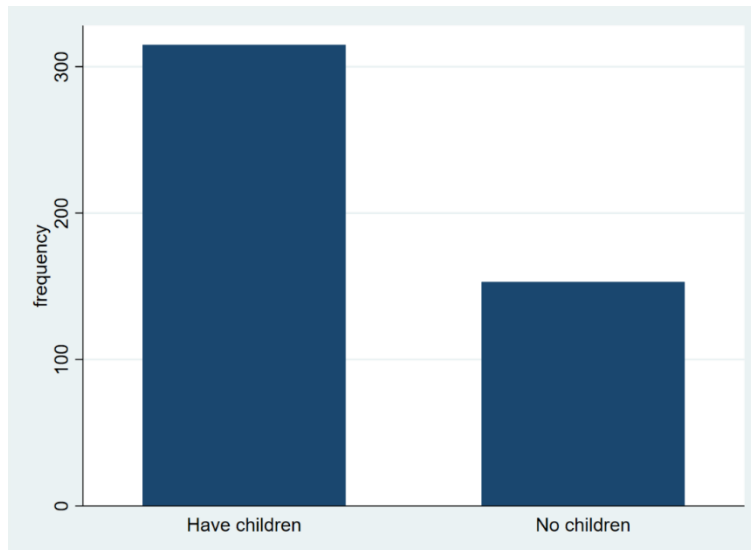
We were interested in understanding how perceptions of safety varied between respondents who were mothers and those who were not.

Overall, the above demographics have been used to help us analyse the responses the questions for the rest of the survey.

B. Perceptions of Safety

We were interested in understanding the movements of women across the local region which included how women spend their time during different parts of the day for different purposes. The following gives an overview of feelings of safety when related to time of the day or night.

9. Feeling safe where you live
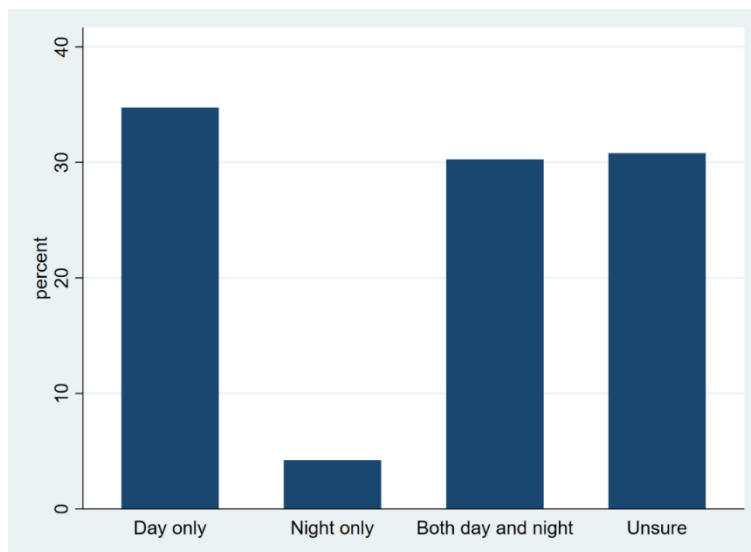
Responses from those who lived in their region, from where they based their responses, showed they felt that the area was more likely to be safe during the day and the night. There is a common assumption that familiarity with a region gives reassurances of safety. However, we found that women did not consistently feel this was the case depending on their activities (as in the facilities being accessed) and the time of day of the activities.

10. Feeling safe where you work
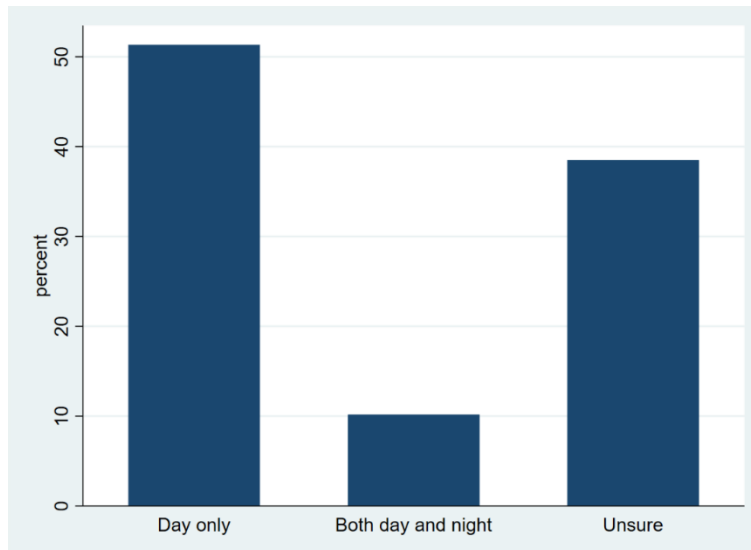
However, those who worked in Sutton wards found it to be mostly safe during the day but expressed less confidence in feeling safe about the same area at night. One can comment that familiarity with the area plays a strong role in terms of women feeling safe during the day and the night.

11. Feeling safe where you visit or socialise
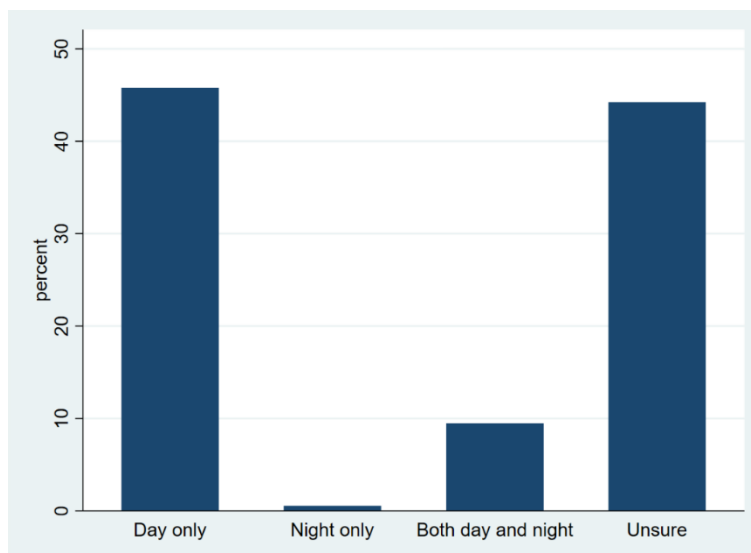
In common with the responses above, about women feeling safe where they worked, it seems that with regard to areas that are less frequented, or those that are visited for

recreational purposes, most respondents indicated feeling more safe during the daytime than at night.

C. Safety at shops and facilities

We asked women about safety when visiting shops and using local facilities they might access on a daily or regular basis. We were interested in understanding if some of these facilities posed unseen threats and if there were any underlying trends in terms of what these facilities were used for in relation to how safe a space they were perceived to be.

12. Indoor goods and services

Respondents found that facilities available in the spaces they *lived* were generally quite safe and they were largely comfortable in these areas. When compared to places respondents *visit* versus work, the places that were used for recreation were ranked as being more safe (for less frequent visits) than where people *worked*.

Indoor Goods & Services Facilities	Perceived Safety	Where respondents …		
		Live	Work	Visit / Socialise
Supermarkets	Very safe	73%	32%	49%
Restaurants		66%	27%	50%
Shopping Centres	Reasonably safe	59%	25%	42%
High Street Shops		59%	24%	41%
Libraries		60%	22%	35%
Gyms	Requires alertness	36%	12%	32%
Pubs		36%	16%	26%
Clubs	Requires caution	12%	4%	9%
Casinos		6%	1%	4%

On average women found the *safest* spaces to be **supermarkets**. This does indicate an area where women might feel most at comfort and ease. This was closely followed by **restaurants,** indicated as *very* safe spaces whether where women lived, worked, or visited. **Libraries**, **shopping centres** and **high street shops** were reported to be *reasonably* safe spaces. However, there was more hesitation about safety in gyms and pubs or bars which require more *alertness*, with respondents feeling relatively less safe in those areas where they worked than where they lived or visited to use these services.

The places that raise most anxiety, or where women felt the need to have the most *caution* were **clubs** and **casinos** where women expressed views across the board that they did not feel safe in any of these spaces where they lived, worked, or visited.

13. Outdoor facilities and services

We asked about outdoor facilities and services that might be used during both day and night times to gain a sense of how safety varies between times of the day.

Outdoor Spaces (Daytime)	Perceived Safety	Where respondents …		
		Live	Work	Visit / Socialise
Bus Stops	Reasonably safe	70%	31%	45%
Streets		66%	31%	41%
Rail Stations	Requires alertness	63%	29%	39%
Parks		61%	26%	41%
Alleyways	Requires caution	19%	4%	10%

During the day, bus stops were considered reasonably safe areas by comparison to other facilities. This was closely followed by streets, which were still considered safe during the day even for those respondents who were visiting an area. Women found that alertness was required during the day at rail stations and parks. Alleyways were considered areas of danger which require caution even in spaces that were quite familiar and frequented by women.

Of interest is how these spaces were perceived as being safe during the night. For instance, no areas were identified as being reasonably safe at night. Women found areas that required attention were rail stations, bus stops and streets, which means bus stops moved from being a position of reasonably safety during the day to not as safe during the night.

Outdoor Spaces (Night)	Perceived Safety	Where respondents …		
		Live	Work	Visit / Socialise
Rail Stations	Requires alertness	32%	12%	17%
Bus Stops		32%	12%	14%
Streets		35%	9%	14%
Parks	Requires caution	14%	2%	8%
Alleyways		9%	2%	5%

Women found that parks and alleyways were areas that required more caution and were not safe during the night regardless of how familiar they were with the area (live, work or visit).

D. Police presence to reinforce safety

We were interested to know, in the last 12 months, how police presence played a role in making women feel safer in the Sutton region, and, if yes, how would this presence need to present to bring about a better sense of safety.

14. Number of officers

Women generally found police presence in pairs to be deemed as reinforcing general safety. Of interest is that one officer presence did not bring a sense of more safety compared to that of multiple or up to 5 officers.
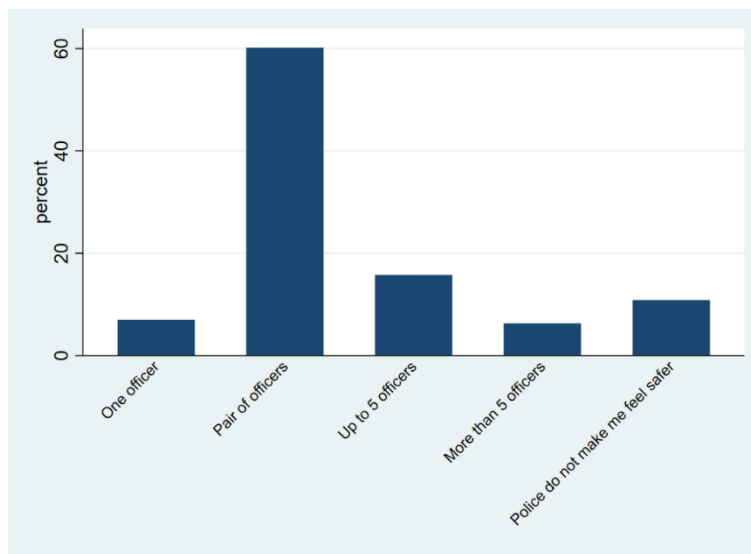
It is worth noting across wards that preferences of police numbers differed, for instance comparing responses from women based in Wallington to those in Carshalton. The Wallington responses show more general variance about having police presence (in general).

Wallington Responses:
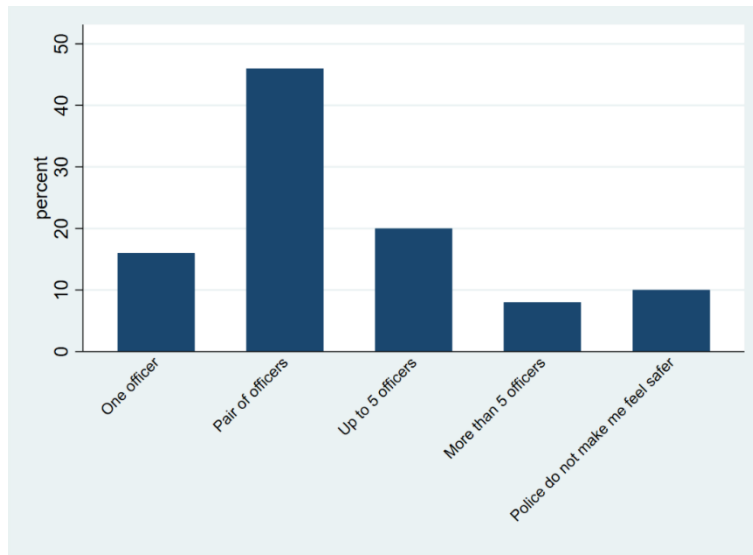
When this is compared to the responses from women based in Carshalton, it is evident that respondents feel safer with officer presence in pairs.

Carshalton Responses:
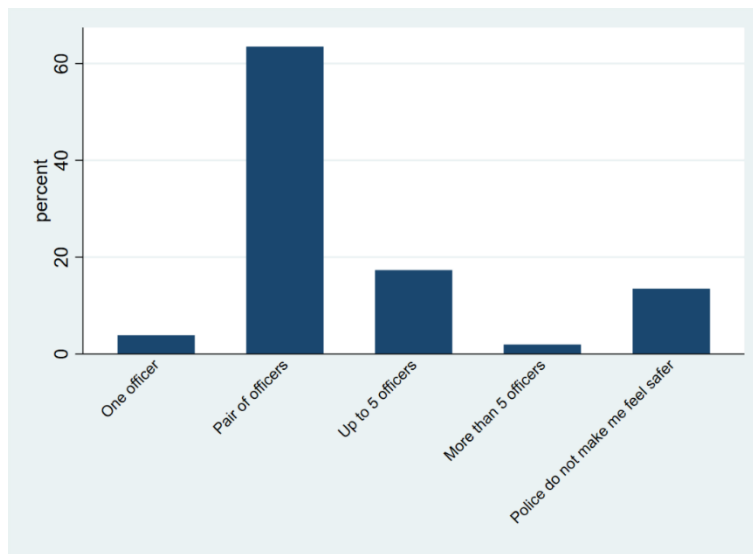
Given the facts about the London murder of Sarah Everard in a public space with a perpetrator with links to the police force[5] we have decided to also ask about safety in regard to police numbers but also police gender.

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[5] Metropolitan Response to issues raised by the crimes of Wayne Couzens: https://www.met.police.uk/notices/met/our-response-to-issues-raised-by-the-crimes-of-wayne-couzens/

15. Gender mixture of officers

Women responded that overall, a mixture of male and female officers was preferred to bring about a greater feeling of safety in the community.
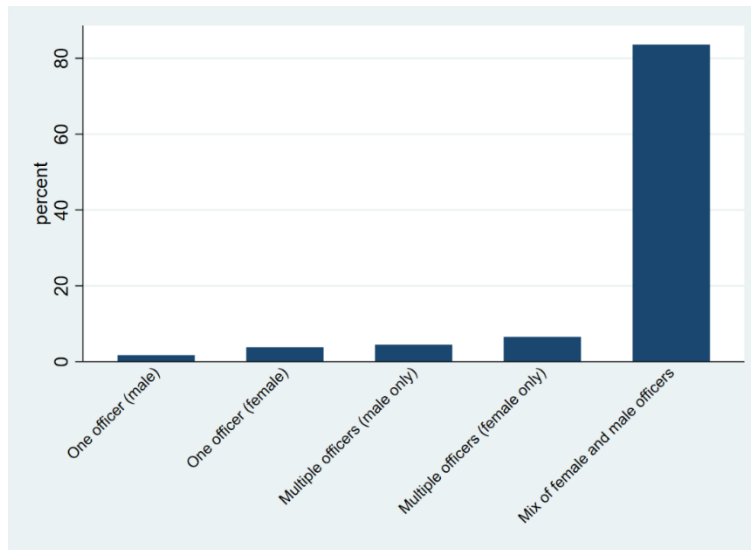
However, within these responses there were some variations from women who were non-white minority ethnic, who seemed to show greater preference for multiple female officers only, when compared to responses from white female respondents.
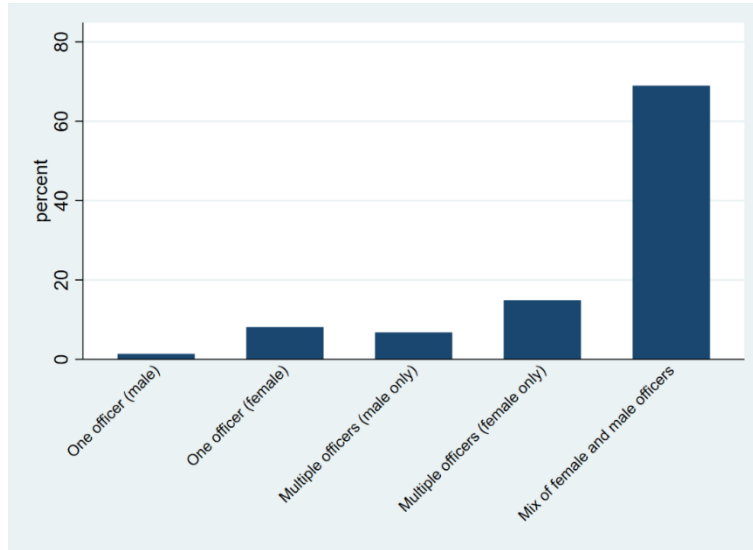
Of further interest, was the response given by women who were not mothers. They seemed to prefer having police presence that was multiple police officers and *females only*. Those who were mothers showed a preference for the presence of mixed officers (but in pairs or more).
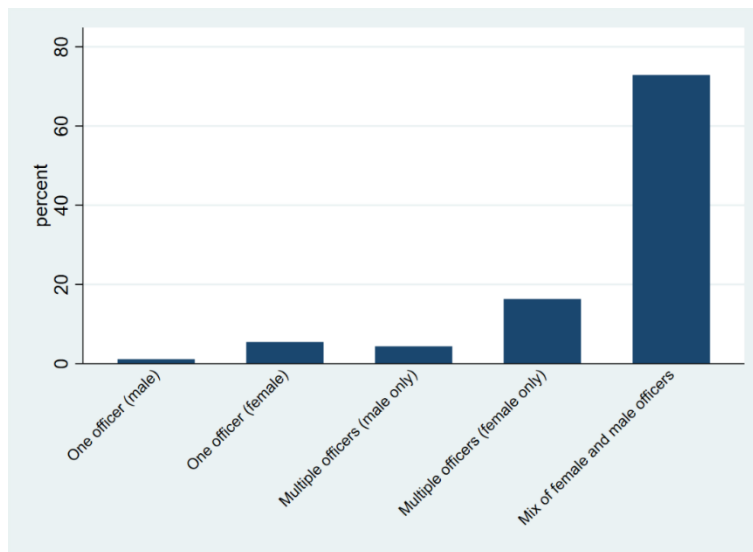
E. Types of Harassment

We were interested in understanding harassment as women have experienced it. We also wanted to understand what actions women took; whether women were aware of what forms of harassment were reportable offences, and what might have encouraged or dissuaded them from reporting forms of harassment or assault. We limited the range of harassment and types of offences and focused only on those that were not most obvious offences. We are aware that these types offered are not a full representative list of all forms of harassment or abuse that might be experienced by women in the London Borough of Sutton.

16. Harassment types encountered by age and ethnicity

We asked women to recall their earliest memory of experiencing harassment/ assault/ victimisation and if they recollected any of these experiences. Of the nine harassment/ assault/ victimisation types offered for consideration, the table below indicated the numbers of times women have encountered this type of harassment. For instance 18 women have indicated a memory of being cat-called or whistled at as a child (up to 12 years).

Women in their teenage and adult years recounted highest numbers of more physically noted forms of harassment (inclusive of grievous assault and rape). The table does indicate that as young girls, our respondents recalled significant numbers of cases of being flashed.

Harassment / Assault / Victimisation Prevalence	Child (early memory - 12)	Teenager (13-19)	Adult / Middle-aged (20-50)	Mature / Elderly (50+)	Total
Cat-called / whistled at	18	158	89	4	269
Leered or stared at	13	140	117	6	276
Followed or stalked	14	84	91	11	200
Unsolicited touching / rubbing / groping	27	78	105	1	211
Inappropriate sexual jokes / comments	13	90	147	6	256
Photos / video taken without consent	4	19	26	3	52
Photos / video shared without consent	2	19	30	4	55
Being flashed (indecent exposure)	29	76	39	1	145
Sexually assaulted / raped	25	54	41	0	120
Total	145	718	685	36	**1584**

The survey indicated a total number of 1584 recollected forms of harassment from 301 survey participants.

The below table represents the same information but shows the relative percentage of these offences in relation to each other to help us understand how the harassment is relative to the age group of the women. An interesting comparison is between teenage and adult years, where women as teenagers experienced relatively more instances of cat-calling and leering compared to women in their more adult years who reported experiences of inappropriate sexual jokes and leering.

Harassment / Assault / Victimisation Prevalence	Child (early memory - 12)	Teenager (13-19)	Adult / Middle-aged (20-50)	Mature / Elderly (50+)	Total
Cat-called / whistled at	12%	22%	13%	11%	17%
Leered or stared at	9%	19%	17%	17%	17%
Followed or stalked	10%	12%	13%	31%	13%
Unsolicited touching / rubbing / groping	19%	11%	15%	3%	13%
Inappropriate sexual jokes / comments	9%	13%	21%	17%	16%
Photos / video taken without consent	3%	3%	4%	8%	3%
Photos / video shared without consent	1%	3%	4%	11%	3%
Being flashed (indecent exposure)	20%	11%	6%	3%	9%
Sexually assaulted / raped	17%	8%	6%	0%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

There might be some inferences in terms of how women have been forced to learn to deal with unwanted advances and inappropriate behaviours but this was not data that was collected in this survey.

The table below shows harassment reported by non-white respondents only. This information shows that for women from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in the younger years sexual assault is more prevalent experience as a child. Also for women in the older agegroups, there are higher accounts of being cat called, and leered at in addition to stalking or followed.

Harassment / Assault / Victimisation Prevalence	Child (early memory - 12)	Teenager (13-19)	Adult / Middle-aged (20-50)	Mature / Elderly (50+)	Total
Cat-called / whistled at	19%	19%	12%	22%	16%
Leered or stared at	12%	18%	18%	22%	18%
Followed or stalked	12%	11%	13%	22%	12%
Unsolicited touching / rubbing / groping	8%	13%	13%	0%	12%
Inappropriate sexual jokes / comments	4%	14%	19%	11%	15%
Photos / video taken without consent	4%	4%	6%	11%	5%
Photos / video shared without consent	4%	4%	7%	11%	5%
Being flashed (indecent exposure)	12%	9%	7%	0%	8%
Sexually assaulted / raped	27%	8%	6%	0%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

17. Reporting and types of harassment

In this section we were interested to learn if women had been a victim of harassment or assault, who they were most likely to report to or tell about this experience. The first table gives an account of the number of offences that have been shared with particular groups (family member, friend (specially non-relative), police or an official in authority and public service, hotline or charity. Aside from the collated number of instances, it is of interest to look at the patterns of which types of harassment women chose to disclose with which groups.

Harassment / Assault / Victimisation Prevalence	Family member	Friend (non-relative)	Police or someone in authority	Public service hotline or charity	Total
Cat-called / whistled at	55	92	7	0	154
Leered or stared at	41	99	6	0	146
Followed or stalked	56	55	39	2	152
Unsolicited touching / rubbing / groping	29	82	18	3	132
Inappropriate sexual jokes / comments	26	112	7	0	145
Photos / video taken without consent	7	19	5	1	32
Photos / video shared without consent	9	18	5	1	33
Being flashed (indecent exposure)	34	47	31	1	113
Sexually assaulted / raped	16	31	29	6	82
Total	273	555	147	14	**989**

For the first five offences (cat called, leered at, followed or stalked, rubbing, groping or inappropriate jokes) women indicated likeliness of discussing them more with family and friends than reporting the event to an official organisation.

When examining the relative responses below, it is interesting to note the percentage patterns where (as indicated above) the first few offences would be discussed with family or friends. However, sexual assault was more likely to be raised with a public service, hotline or charity than directly with someone in authority (police or other official).

Harassment / Assault / Victimisation Prevalence	Family member	Friend (non-relative)	Police or someone in authority	Public service hotline or charity	Total
Cat-called / whistled at	20%	17%	5%	0%	16%
Leered or stared at	15%	18%	4%	0%	15%
Followed or stalked	21%	10%	27%	14%	15%
Unsolicited touching / rubbing / groping	11%	15%	12%	21%	13%
Inappropriate sexual jokes / comments	10%	20%	5%	0%	15%
Photos / video taken without consent	3%	3%	3%	7%	3%
Photos / video shared without consent	3%	3%	3%	7%	3%
Being flashed (indecent exposure)	12%	8%	21%	7%	11%
Sexually assaulted / raped	6%	6%	20%	43%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	**100%**

Of interest is also the trend of the technologically based forms of abuse (photos, videos taken or shared without consent). It is difficult to ascertain whether more support and

signposting needs to be put in place to inform women about actions they can take in regards to these types of offences.

18. Ranking offences

We removed offences that were more obviously reportable like that of rape or sexual assault and provided a shorter list of offences (six only) and asked women to rank them in order of greatest harm to least harm. We were interested to learn more about how women would rationalise harm as emerging from within this short listed group of offences.

Harassment / Assault / Victimisation Harmfulness	Ranking (1 = most harmful; 6 = least harmful)						Average Rank
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Cat-called / whistled at	7%	8%	8%	13%	25%	40%	4.6
Leered or stared at	6%	11%	15%	30%	26%	12%	3.9
Inappropriate sexual jokes / comments	7%	10%	15%	27%	24%	19%	4.1
Being flashed (indecent exposure)	36%	17%	23%	14%	5%	5%	2.5
Photos / video taken without consent	20%	37%	20%	5%	15%	4%	2.7
Photos / video shared without consent	24%	18%	20%	11%	6%	21%	3.2

Adding to the table above about reporting of technology-based offences (taking and sharing photos without consent). It is interesting to note that women reported being flashed / indecent exposure and the sharing or taking of videos/ photos without consent as being a harmful offence.

19. What is a reportable offence?

Of considerable interest is understanding what women perceive as a 'reportable' offence. By reportable, we mean information that would be disclosed to police officials or an offence that is or should be punishable by law.

Harassment / Assault / Victimisation Actionability	Can police take action?		
	Yes	No	Not sure
Cat-called / whistled at	10%	62%	29%
Leered or stared at	10%	60%	30%
Inappropriate sexual jokes / comments	19%	53%	28%
Being flashed (indecent exposure)	87%	4%	10%
Photos / video taken without consent	78%	9%	13%
Photos / video shared without consent	88%	4%	8%

Unsurprisingly, given the responses to the offence levels of being flashed and the taking and sharing of photos and videos without consent – the women surveyed felt flashing should be a chargeable offence. It is interesting to note that for harassment like cat-calling, leering or inappropriate jokes it was not clear to women who responded to our survey whether these were forms of harassment that could be reported or charged.

20. Why would you not report harassment or assault?

While some of the reasons for not reporting offences have been cited in scholarship or are well-established, it was interesting to note that women strongly felt, of the choices we provided, that either the police would not be able to act on their report or that they (the women) were too ashamed to report or share their experiences of the assault or harassment.

Barriers to Reporting	Ranking (1 = greatest concern; 6 = least concern)						Average Rank
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Police / authority won't act on it	69%	18%	6%	5%	2%	0%	1.5
Feeling ashamed to report or share	15%	37%	28%	9%	5%	6%	2.7
Impact on current situation (home)	6%	9%	28%	23%	25%	9%	3.8
Impact on current situation (work)	1%	5%	8%	29%	31%	27%	4.7
People will think you are lying	4%	18%	18%	23%	22%	15%	3.8
Unclear reporting procedures / contacts	6%	14%	11%	11%	16%	42%	4.4

Fewer concerns were raised about the impact reporting would have on women's own work situation or about unclear procedures or contacts for following protocols. Women were not asked to identify where issues of harassment might occur, so this does not specifically account for harassment in the workplace or not.

21. Likeliness of being harassed because of personal characteristics

We are keen to understand how women perceive their vulnerabilities or are sensitised to their personal characteristics, which they believe to increase their chances of being targeted for harassment or abuse.

On average women felt they had a higher likeliness of being targeted because of their religious attire or appearances. This was closely followed by their ethnic background or being from a black or minority ethnic group. Third was body shape or physical appearance.

Harassment / Assault / Victimisation Likelihood due to personal characteristics	Ranking (1 = most likely; 6 = least likely)						Average Rank
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Religion (e.g. religious garments)	28%	22%	26%	13%	10%	0%	2.6
Black or minority ethnic background	17%	29%	24%	23%	7%	0%	2.7
Being foreign (e.g. speak with an accent)	8%	12%	26%	20%	34%	0%	3.6
Body shape / form (e.g. plus size, petite)	23%	19%	16%	29%	13%	0%	2.9
Age	24%	18%	8%	15%	35%	0%	3.2

Of interest are the least likely reasons which were age and being foreign or speaking with accents. This shows more sensitivities around lifestyle choices and ethnic backgrounds.

F. Current Trends and Behaviours

We were interested in understanding more about how women take preventitive measures to keep themselves safe, and how aware they are of services and support available for them from both law enforcement and the local community. In this section of the survey we have more qualitative responses and a sample of grouping and statements will be provided to detail examples given by respondents.

22. Additional actions taken for personal safety

Women were asked to identify what personal actions or behaviour changes they have made to be safe. Respondents identified three types of safety actions (i) defence, (ii) avoidance, and (iii) deception.

Additional actions taken for safety	%	Type of action
Avoided certain places / areas (day or night)	87%	Avoidance
Planned routes in advance with safety in mind (well lit areas, busy travel times)	52%	Avoidance
Walked fast from place A to B	35%	Avoidance
Carried keys in hand, or hairspray, alarm (for protection)	47%	Defence
Made pretend phone-calls in spaces where felt unsafe or lonely	28%	Deception
Kept messaging friends to keep company while out alone	22%	Deception
Changed my appearance to conceal body	13%	Deception
Avoided drinking to get home safely	14%	Avoidance
Crossed the road to avoid groups or certain persons	59%	Avoidance
Learned self-defence or watched videos online	6%	Defence

There seemed to be a natural tendency to pick a 'type' of action and stick to it. For instance, women who chose avoidance actions for safety were less likely to also choose defence or deception. And vice versa, those who chose deception actions were less likely to use defence or avoidance. Whereas there was consistency of behaviour within categories, e.g., those who changed appearance were also more likely to message friends or make pretend calls.

23. What safety apps you have heard about?

We specifically asked for the awareness of these three apps to gauge how familiar or well utilised these apps are for women in the London Borough of Sutton. While respondents seemed more aware of 'Ask Angela' they were less aware of the other two apps.

	Ask Angela	Ask Annie	StreetSafe
Not aware of the service	97	235	232
Aware of it (but have not used it)	190	46	50
Have used the service	3	1	1
No response	186	194	193

Very few respondents have made use or activated these apps in the past. There might need to be more feedback for piloting an app or promoting an app to women. Some of the participants told us they do not have smartphones and therefore are not able to access these tools.

24. What features should a Sutton Safety App have?

Participants were asked to make three recommendations of features they would like a local Sutton App to have. These responses were open-ended and a summary of the answers are given below based on the popularity of the request and have been summarised for the purposes of this report.

The top features could be collated into actions of (i) immediate or imminent need or help, (ii) assistance for better planning and logistics of movement across the region and (iii) a community space for sharing stories of triumph and empowerment for women to feel confident and safe in their local region. Some of the specific advice includes:

(i) Immediate of imminent need or assistance
- Number to call for walking home
- Live chat
- Touch alarm system to signal distress call
- Nearest police station / safest place to go

- Faster access call for emergency services (perhaps directly related to women in distress)

(ii) Planning and logistics
- Information to report a crime
- Map for walking safely (or with better lit street options)
- Emotional support for survivors
- Safe travelling tips
- Bars and social areas that are more attentive/trained to listen and react to women patrons

(iii) Community programmes for empowerment
- Survivor stories where perpetrators were caught and held responsible
- Self-defence tips or community classes

25. Recommendations to make Sutton safer?

Recommendations are collapsed into items here for consideration. The highest requests were regarding (i) increased police presence, but not of lone officers or officers in larger groups and (ii) better lighting for several areas across the borough. In addition to these some of the other recommendations are:

- More safe spaces for women and other members of the community and support groups in the community working together to create change
- Actively monitored CCTV in less well-used areas
- Safety alarms in the borough's main centres for women
- Frequent buses at night with staff trained to respond to specific incidents around women's safety
- Better education for boys through the borough's schools on their behaviour towards women
- More transparency around what is a chargeable offencefrom police authorities

26. Other schemes to share with us?

Most of the women did not have additional schemes or ideas to share, some of them avoided providing options saying there was a lot of signposting already existing for women's support. However some of the statements of support are provided below:

- *"I have never used any safety apps or am aware of any schemes. The only thing I have heard of is to carry a whistle. I don't carry one but perhaps my daughter should carry one since she is the one that uses public transport late at night. One thing I am thinking of is <u>Knowing What To Do</u>, should it happen to you. How should we behave? Is it advisable to react?"*

- *"I wasn't but have just looked some up. Silent Beacon and Walk Safe"*

- *"Peoplesafe - but relies on signal One you had to shake - but would not be very good if being attacked as would not be shaking a phone!"*

- *"No, although I saw in Epsom at a bar the girls had covers on their drinks. This should be make borough wide and I feel the council / local police force should fund it . I have been spiked and this measure would have prevented it"*

- *"Hollie Guard"*

- *"I use one for work called Red Alert and Orbis. Red alert is a phone app tracker that monitors my movements for lone working and has an emergency button on the phone app which can be pressed. Orbis is carried on my lanyard and it tracks me and can press a button to alert the centre if I am in danger, We can also use it outside of work hours and we will receive help"*

G. About the Researcher

Dr Melissa Jogie is the Institutional Research Culture Lead at the University of Roehampton, where she designs and delivers on university wide initiatives to develop a research and knowledge exchange culture for both staff and post-graduate students. As a researcher she currently holds two prestigious fellowships as a UKRI Policy Fellow with the Centre for Homelessness Impact and the College of Policing and is also a British Academy Innovation Fellow, working collaboratively with Sutton Night Watch Homeless Charity on 'Footprints in Sutton'.

As an Early Career Researcher, in the last five-years she has successfully led on 19 research grants (total research income capture over £570K). A few of these funded projects focus on violence against women and girls (VAWG) with particular emphasis on policy support on training resources for professional services and how VAWG reporting practices can be changed through visual media and reporting.

Melissa balances her research career with holding several leadership roles across the sector. Her commitment to working on EDI in the sector includes her current role as a Director of the Diversifying Leadership Programme for Advance HE, where she works with black and minority ethnic staff across Higher Education Institutions across the UK, to help guide vision and nurture leadership mindsets. Melissa completed her PhD in comparative education systems at the Australian National University (Dec 2017), and during this time held a Visiting Fellowship at the Centre for Comparative and International Education, University of Oxford (2015).

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We would like to thank all those who understood the importance of this piece of work and worked with us to distribute the survey, to ensure we have the evidence to create meaningful change.

Collectively we would like to warmly thank the 476 women who took the time to generously share their thoughts of safety and in instances disclose their experiences with harassment and assault. We appreciate you speaking out and hope the knowledge we now have will make our Sutton borough safer for women and girls.

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[6] BIG South London Partnership (Funder), Webpage: https://southlondonpartnership.co.uk/economy/big-south-london/
[7] BIG Design Lab Project, Webpage: https://big-knowledge.co.uk/programmes/design-lab/