

Personal Development Resources

Safeguarding - Domestic Abuse



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What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse, also known as domestic violence is defined as abusive behaviours by one or both partners in a relationship such as marriage, dating, family and friends.

A huge trait of domestic abuse is that the behaviour used is intended to show power and control of a relationship, with most forms of violence/abuse aiming to gain authority over the victim.



Types of domestic abuse

Physical violence – can involve hitting, shoving, shaking, restraining, choking, punching or using a weapon to inflict harm.

Sexual abuse – non-consensual sexual activity, including rape, sexual assault or refusing safe sex.

Emotional/psychological abuse – intimidation, social isolation, verbal abuse, humiliation, consent criticism, enforced trivial routines.

Verbal abuse – is a form of abusive behaviour involving the use of language.

Economic/financial abuse – is when the abuser has control over the victim's money and other economic resources. They could be stealing, depriving or taking control of money and running up debts.

Restricting a persons behaviour – controlling who you can see, where you go, what clothing you wear, forcing you to do something you don't want to.



Who can experience domestic abuse?

Historically the majority of domestic abuse involves males inflicting abuse on their female partners, but domestic abuse can happen in any relationship, such as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender relationships. It may also involve the female in the relationship abusing the male and it can occur when a grown up child or teenager abuses their parents or carers.

Domestic abuse is usually a pattern of abuse which is within a current or previous intimate relationship or a family relationship. Nine times out of ten the violence would never be a one off, the behaviours tend to increase and become more severe over time and can happen in new relationships as well as relationships that may have ended some time ago.



Indicators of domestic abuse

In households where domestic abuse may happen, children and adults at risk are most vulnerable to suffering from violent behaviours.

Some of the following things may happen to children and adults at risk in homes where domestic abuse occurs:

- They may be hurt while trying to protect their mother, father or sibling
- They could indirectly receive an injury, this might happen when items are thrown or weapons used
- They may take responsibility for the abuse that is happening
- They may develop low self-esteem and/or become socially isolated
- They may suffer physical complaints, eating and sleeping difficulties



Key facts and figures

The following statistics are taken from the **Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)** as well as **crime reporting figures for the year ending March 2019**.

(Source: Office for National Statistics)

- an estimated 7.5% of women (1.6 million) and 3.8% of men (786,000) experienced domestic abuse in the last year
- women aged 20 to 24 years were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year than women aged 25 years and over
- adults who were separated or divorced were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse compared with those who were married or civil partnered, cohabiting, single or widowed
- adults who lived in urban areas were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year (6.0%) than those who lived in rural areas (4.2%)
- People of Mixed ethnicity were more likely to experience domestic abuse than people of White or Asian ethnicity
- Those with a disability were more likely to experience domestic abuse than those without – by almost double
- Those living in a single-parent household were three times more likely to experience domestic abuse, than in a non single-parent household
- Unemployed people were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than those who were employed or economically inactive
- There were 17,616 offences of coercive control recorded by the police in the year ending March 2019, compared with 9,053 in the year ending March 2018
- There were 366 domestic homicides recorded by the police in England and Wales between April 2016 and March 2018. This represents 20% of all homicides where the victim was aged 16 years and over during this time period
- The police recorded a total of 1,316,800 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes
- 746,219 of these were recorded as domestic abuse-related crimes, an increase of 24% from the previous year
- The CSEW survey showed no change in the prevalence of domestic abuse, and so the increase in police recorded crime may reflect improved recording by the police and increased reporting by victims.



Safeguarding: What to do

Raise your concern to **t2's Safeguarding and Prevent Lead, Stacy Preston** on **07876 824157**

Further Support



National Domestic Violence Hotline – 0808 2000 247



Women's Aid – 0808 2000 247



Samaritans – 08452 60 44 60

Help for children and young people suffering or witnessing domestic violence



Family Lives – 0808 800 2222



Young Minds – 0808 802 5544