

## 1 What is a domestic abuse?

Domestic Abuse is any behaviour which is violent, controlling, coercive or threatening to those aged 16 or over. There are many forms abuse can take including, but not limited to, any behaviour which damages a person's confidence and sense of wellbeing, intimidation, threats around revenge porn, isolation from family and friends, control over a person's finances and appearance, threats made about a person's loved ones or direct physical abuse. The abuser may be a partner, ex-partner, family carer or one or more family members, in an existing or from a previous domestic relationship.

## 2 Why is domestic abuse a concern?

Nationally, an average of just over 100 women and 30 men are killed by a current or former intimate partner each year. 30 women a day attempt suicide, and each week, 3 of these attempts are successful. Domestic abuse is a crime and has more repeat victims than any other crime – we all have a duty to act and help prevent the hundreds of domestic abuse related suicides and murders.

## 3 Who is affected?

Research suggests that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives. This means that during the course of your work you will encounter people who are experiencing domestic abuse. Remember, colleagues are not immune from Domestic Abuse either – any one of them may be experiencing domestic abuse of one form or another. Children in households where there is domestic abuse may carry the psychological scars for decades and where the behaviour is normalised, there may be a greater likelihood of them becoming perpetrators or victims in their teenage/adult life.

## 4 What to look out for

People affected by domestic abuse may exhibit one or more of the following signs:

- always checking in with their partner
- change in socialising and behaviours
- unexplained injuries
- financial worries
- become withdrawn, having low self-confidence and esteem
- changes in how they present themselves (clothes, hair, make up etc.)
- Repairs – have the Police asked for a lock change? Is there damage to internal walls and doors? (Especially bathroom/toilet doors)

## 5 What's my role?

If you work with the public, you are working with Domestic Abuse and doing nothing is not an option! Take the time to familiarise yourself with the information and training available to you.



**Are you worried about someone?  
Don't sit in silence!**

Please contact Family Connect on 01952 385385 or in an emergency call 999.



## 7 What happens if I make a report?

Your local domestic abuse champion or Safeguarding lead may ask you for more information. Details will be shared with the Police and other agencies who will decide on how best to respond. The fact that you made the referral will not be shared with any of the parties involved.

## 6 Resources

Clare's Law – this scheme gives any member of the public the right to ask the police if their partner may pose a risk to them. It is often called 'Clare's Law' after the landmark case that led to it.

[www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/alpha2/request-information-under-clares-law/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/alpha2/request-information-under-clares-law/)

[www.familyconnecttelford.co.uk](http://www.familyconnecttelford.co.uk)