



Safer Seven

Your 7 minute safeguarding bulletin



1. What is Domestic Abuse?

The Home Office (2013) defines Domestic abuse as: *Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.*

The abuse can include but is not limited to: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; emotional; stalking & harassment and online or digital abuse. It also includes coercive and controlling behaviour, forced marriage and honour based abuse

2. Who can be a victim of Domestic Abuse?

Anybody can experience abuse in their relationships and while research shows that victims are more likely to be women than men, this does not mean that men cannot be victims.

There are also some groups that have specific vulnerabilities or needs which may exacerbate the abuse. Whilst not an endless list, these may include: older people, individuals with disabilities, those in the LGBT community, BME groups and young people.

3. What are the signs and indicators?

- Physical signs of injury/illness
- Withdrawal, passivity, being compliant
- Changes in mood and personality
- Alcohol or other substance misuse
- Isolation from friends and family
- Frequent texts/calls from partner / having to answer contacts
- Depression / Self-harm/suicidal thoughts
- Eating or sleeping disorders

This is not an endless list

4. Children and Young People

Children are often the hidden victims of domestic abuse, often witnessing abuse within family relationships. They may also experience abuse within their own intimate relationships.

If you think a child is at risk **call 0300 555 0050**

To access support for 12 – 17 year olds in abusive relationships, contact Dudley's Adolescent Response Team: arteam@dudley.gov.uk or call 01384 815676

5. Risk Assessment

The Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification Assessment is used to assess the risk of Domestic Abuse. High risk cases will be heard at MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) in order to safeguard the victim. Domestic abuse incidents attended by the Police, that involve children, are shared with the Childrens MASH daily. The MASH allocate a social worker or screen the case through the DART (Domestic Abuse Response Team) as appropriate. Where applicable, following screening, the child's school will be notified of the incident as part of 'Operation Encompass'

6. What support is available?

Dudley Single Point of Contact (SPOC): 01384 455411

The SPOC is a single point of contact for Dudley victims (aged 16+) of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, including Forced Marriage and 'Honor' Based Abuse. The number gives those who need help a direct line to a range of support services offered by specialist providers including refuge accommodation or additional home security. It is also open to victim's families and professionals and helps people get to the right service as easily as possible as and when support is needed.

7. What to do next

For more information visit <https://www.dudleysafeandsound.org/domesticabuse>

For help and support call the borough's **single point of contact 01384 455411**

In an emergency dial 999 - if it's too dangerous to speak press '55' when connected and the operator will know you need help. You can also use West Midlands Police online **LiveChat** service. You can chat to a call handler between 8am – midnight 7 days a week.

Visit our Learning Zone to see our selection of briefings and more [HERE](#)