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What is Domestic Abuse?

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 created a new legal definition of domestic abuse (DA) as:

Abusive behaviour of one person towards another, where the two people are over 16 and personally connected. Personally connected includes being or have been married / civil partners / in an intimate personal relationship or relatives.

Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following: physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour; economic abuse; psychological, emotional or other abuse.

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Who is affected?

Whilst domestic abuse can affect anyone, statistics show that women are disproportionately affected.

- It is estimated that 1.6million women and 786,000 men experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year in England and Wales.
- Police recorded over 1.3 million domestic abuse related incidents/crimes in the last year (year ending March 2019)
- In 75% of domestic abuse related crimes recorded the victim was female.
- Adults aged 16-74 with a disability were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than those without.
- In the UK, on average 2 women are killed each week by a current or former partner.

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Domestic abuse also affects 1 in 5 Children:

Children are often in the **same or next room** when domestic abuse happens.

In Salford, there were 786 children in need and 538 children on child protection plans (June 2020) due to domestic abuse.

It can cause significant harm such as:

- Impact on development and emotional wellbeing;
- Harm to unborn children
- Suffer physical assaults
- Cause distress by witnessing physical and emotional suffering of parent or family member.

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Coercion and Control

In 2015, it became a criminal offence to use coercive or controlling behaviour in an intimate or family relationship.

This is a **purposeful pattern of behaviour** over time and includes: isolating someone, monitoring what they do; controlling where they go / who they see; enforcing rules; depriving them of support; humiliating and frightening them. See [Statutory Guidance](#) for more information.

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Further information?

[Safe in Salford Domestic Abuse Service](#)

0161 793 3232

[National Domestic Violence Helpline](#)

0808 2000 247 (24 hours)

[Greater Manchester Police](#)

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[Housing Advice](#)

housing.advicecentre@salford.gov.uk

[Salford City Council](#)

0161 793 2500 / 0161 794 8888

(Out of hours)

[St. Mary's Sexual Assault Crisis Line](#)

0161 276 6515

[Greater Manchester Victim Support](#)

0300 303 0162

[Talk Listen Change \(TLC\)](#)

enquiries@talklistenchange.org.uk

[Respect Phoneline](#) (for perpetrators):

0808 802 4040

[Respect Men's advice line](#) (male

victims): 0808 801 0327



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Recommendations

If an adult or child is in **immediate danger** call **999**

If you are worried about an **adult** with additional care and support needs, please contact **Adult Social Care**: 0161 631 4777

If you are concerned about a **child**, refer to the **Bridge Partnership** Tel: 0161 603 4500
Outside of office hours please ring 0161 794 8888 for concerns about adults and children
Complete an initial risk assessment using the [DASH](#).

Refer high risk cases to [MARAC](#)
Encourage anyone affected by domestic abuse to access specialist [support available](#).

See the [GM Domestic Abuse Policy](#), [Greater Manchester MARAC Policy](#) and [local supporting pathways](#).

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Things to consider

Be curious...

Do you know what could be an **indicator** of domestic violence or abuse?

Do you routinely **ask** or consider domestic abuse? Would you know how to ask?

If you suspected an adult or child was experiencing domestic abuse, what would you do?

Are you clear about your **responsibilities**?

Do you make sure you hear the **voice of children**, including providing tools and using language to enable this?

Do you know that support is available for perpetrators to help them change their behaviour?

Additional Information:

Visit: <https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/> (Children)

Or <https://safeguardingadults.salford.gov.uk/> (Adults)

Email: SACP@salford.gov.uk (Children) or SSAB@salford.gov.uk (Adults)