

What is Domestic Abuse – 7 Minute Briefing

1. What 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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?

6. 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 206 0604** or 0161 794 8888 (during the evening or at weekend)
- If you are concerned about a child, refer to the Bridge Partnership Tel: **0161 603 4500** or 0161 794 8888 (during the evening or at weekend)
- 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 [Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Policy](#), [Greater Manchester MARAC Policy](#) and [local supporting pathways](#).

7. Further information

Safe in Salford Domestic Abuse Service - 0161 793 3232

National Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 2000 247 (24 hours)

Greater Manchester Police - 101

Housing Advice - housing.advicecentre@salford.gov.uk

Salford City Council - 0161 793 2500 or 0161 794 8888 (During the evening and at weekend)

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 Phonenumber (for perpetrators) - 0808 802 4040

Respect Men's advice line (male victims) - 0808 801 0327

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

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

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