

Safeguarding Factsheet 2

Domestic abuse

A collaborative piece of work produced by Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB), Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)

THIS FACTSHEET WILL INFORM YOU ABOUT:

- 1 The basics
- 2 Domestic abuse and child abuse
- 3 Domestic abuse and adult safeguarding
- 4 The Kirklees perspective
- 5 Information for professionals

*Each year an estimated
1.9m people in the UK
suffer some form of
domestic abuse*

*Source: ONS (2016), March 2015
Crime Survey for England and
Wales (CSEW)*

The basics

The Home Office (March 2013) defines domestic abuse as:

‘Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or 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.’

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- Emotional
- Female genital mutilation
- Financial
- Forced marriage
- ‘Honour based violence’
- Physical
- Psychological
- Sexual

Domestic abuse and child abuse

There is a strong, evidence-based link between domestic abuse and child abuse. Exposure to domestic abuse is **always** abusive to children, although the impact on them may vary.

The change to the definition of domestic responded to awareness that young people in the 16 to 17 age group can also be victims of domestic violence and abuse within their relationships as well as being exposed to the violence of parents and carers. By including this age group the government hopes to encourage young people to come forward and get the support they need as both victims and perpetrators.

Domestic abuse and adult safeguarding

The Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act, published in October 2014, states that adult safeguarding ‘means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect’ (Section 14.7).

Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has a need for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs) is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from wither the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect (Section 14.2)

It states that when abuse occurs between partners or by a family member, it is often called domestic violence and abuse.

The Kirklees perspective

Domestic abuse is a priority for Safer Kirklees and has been identified as a key theme in the Safer Kirklees Partnership Plan. Local partners have adopted an integrated approach to implementing strategies to address domestic abuse and linked areas of work around forced marriage, child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Information for professionals

The Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015-18:

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/adult-social-care-providers/pdf/kirklees-domestic-abuse-strategy.pdf>

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) tool for high risk victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse DVA:

<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/adult-social-care-providers/multi-agency-risk-assessment-conference.aspx>

Kirklees Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Tel: 01484 456848

Worldwide, almost one third of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner

Source: World Health Organisation (WHO) 2013

More information is available [Domestic Abuse - It's never ok!](#) on the Kirklees website:
