

DOMESTIC ABUSE FACTSHEET

Did you know?

A significant proportion of adults who need safeguarding support do so because they are experiencing domestic abuse e.g., more than 50% of disabled women may have experienced domestic abuse (1).

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of violence, abuse and controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour between those aged 16 or over who are (2) personally connected'.

ABUSE CAN BE:

- Psychological (coercion, manipulation)
- Physical (Hitting, strangling biting)
- Sexual (unwanted sexual activity)
- Economic (controlling finances, stealing)
- Emotional (Isolation, put downs, guilt trip)
- Controlling/ Coercive behaviours

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defined CHILDREN as victims if they experience the effects of the abuse on the adult carers/relatives.

Possible signs of Domestic Abuse

Be alert to signs of abuse this list is not exhaustive:

- Unexplained bruises/injuries
- Change of mood, low mood, feeling suicidal
- Unusually quiet or withdrawn, sad
- Having panic attacks, anxiety, apprehension
- Wears clothes that conceal body – even on warm days
- Anxious, about getting home/going anywhere
- Checking phone/or watch a lot without partner
- Increasingly being isolated, moved physically away, withdrawing from friends/family, withdrawing from activities
- Developing alcohol or drug problems as a coping mechanism

Report a Concern

If you believe someone may be at risk of domestic abuse or any other abuse/neglect raise a concern by completing a [referral form](#) or contact Knowsley MASH team on Tel: **0151 443 2600**.

If you believe a person is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police by ringing 999.

To speak to a Domestic Abuse practitioner for advice email safercommunities@knowsley.gov.uk

(1) Magowan, P. (2004) 'The Impact of disability on women's experiences of domestic abuse'

(2) Personally connected' includes intimate partners or ex-intimate partners and family members.