

Two Page Guide

Domestic Abuse

What is Domestic Abuse?

The definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

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. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.

Examples of physical abuse include slapping, shaking, beating with fist or object, strangulation, burning, kicking and threats with a knife. Sexual abuse includes coerced sex through threats or intimidation or through physical force, forcing unwanted sexual acts, forcing sex in front of others and forcing sex with others.

Psychological abuse involves isolation from others, excessive jealousy, control of his or her activities, verbal aggression, intimidation through destruction of property, harassment or stalking, threats of violence and constant belittling and humiliation.

(Home Office 2013)

Controlling behaviour

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour – See [guide](#)

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

(Home Office, 2012)

Who faces abuse?

Men, women and children can all be victims of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse occurs amongst people of all ethnicities, sexualities, ages, disabilities, immigration status, religions or beliefs, and socio-economic backgrounds. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) recognises domestic abuse differs in severity between incidents, and more often than not, will increase in frequency and seriousness, having a cumulative impact on the victim/complainant.

The definition includes ['honour' based violence](#), [female genital mutilation](#) (FGM) and [forced marriage](#), and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

What should practitioners do?

Domestic abuse is a crime and should be reported to the police – there are also other partner agencies listed below who can offer you help and support.

Any Children and Families worker can seek consultation with DAST in respect of any family that are currently open to Warwickshire Children & Families. Details of the consultation will be recorded on the child(ren)'s MOSAIC record.

To seek consultation, the worker should email DAST@warwickshire.gov.uk requesting the service giving the details of the children (including MOSAIC id's), a brief summary and a contact number. The duty DAST worker will call the referrer back within a maximum of three working days.

See [DAST Guide](#)

Key contacts and more information

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub:

MASH@warwickshire.gov.uk or 01926 414144 (out of hours tel: 01926 886 922)

Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse Helpline:

www.talk2someone.org.uk or call 0800 408 1552

Refuge Domestic Violence Service Warwickshire

<https://www.refuge.org.uk/> or 0808 2000 247 or visit www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk
(access live chat Mon-Fri 3-10pm)

Help is also available from the following organisations which can be accessed via the links below:

- [National Centre for Domestic Violence](#) (NCDV) – providing legal assistance to obtain civil orders/injunctions
- [GALOP](#) – supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people experiencing domestic violence and abuse
- [Mankind](#) – supporting male victims of domestic violence and abuse
- [Karma Nirvana](#) – aiming to stop forced marriage and honour based violence
- [Women's Aid](#) – national charity for Women and children working to end domestic abuse
- [Family Intervention Counselling Service](#) – funded by the PCC, FICS is a team of dedicated and qualified therapists, working in Warwickshire and the West Midlands with families who have or are experiencing domestic abuse.
- [Domestic Abuse Counselling Service](#) (DACs) – provides counselling services for both female and male victims of domestic abuse.

The DAST can be emailed at DAST@warwickshire.gov.uk. We aim to respond to emails in 3 working days. Rachel Watt is the Operations Manager for DAST and Caring Dads and contactable via RachelWatt@warwickshire.gov.uk
[Caring Dads Two Page Guide](#)