

Safeguarding Factsheet 2: Domestic abuse

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.’

[Gov.uk Domestic abuse guidance - how to get help](#)

This can encompass but is not limited to:

- 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. [Kirklees Council : It's never ok!](#)

Information for professionals

The Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019-21 [Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy](#)

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) information and tools for high risk victims: [Kirklees website MARAC information](#)

Emergencies:

- Police 999
- Kirklees Children's Duty & Advice - 01484 414960
- Kirklees Gateway to Care / Emergency Duty - 01484 414933

Other contacts/signposting:

- Police 101 (non-emergency)
- [Kirklees Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership](#): 0800 0527222 (24-hour helpline)
- [Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#): 0808 2000 247 (run by Refuge)
- [Women's Aid online chat service](#) (open Monday-Friday 10am-12pm)
- [Men's Advice Line](#): 0808 801 0327
- [Respect helpline](#): 0808 802 4040 (for anyone worried that they may be harming someone else)
- [Galop](#): 0800 999 5428 (national helpline for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people experiencing domestic abuse)