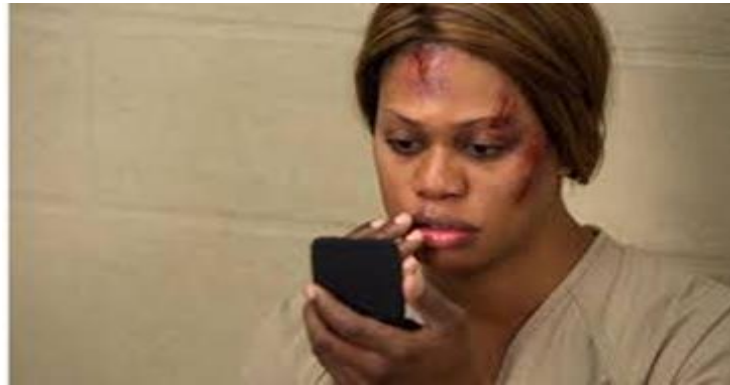


Wood End Park Academy

Child Protection Training: Domestic Violence 2022-23





Domestic Abuse

Statistically at least one child in every class will have experience of domestic abuse.

One in 5 children in the UK will have experienced domestic abuse by the time they reach 18.

[Home](#) [Local News](#) [Ballberges](#)
Lanarkshire charity in domestic abuse warning over coronavirus restrictions

Scottish Women's Aid has voiced concerns that the severity of domestic abuse is also likely to increase.

Domestic abuse reports to Crimestoppers surge by 50% during lockdown

[View 23 comments](#)

MURDERED IN LOCKDOWN The shocking rise in domestic violence sweeping UK as families isolate during the coronavirus pandemic

Current Government Definition

The current cross-government (non-statutory) definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, 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. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

psychological

physical

sexual

financial

Emotional

This definition, which is not statutory also encapsulates honour based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Domestic Abuse is split into two distinct areas, namely **(i) Intimate Partner Violence/Abuse** and **(ii) Intra-familial Violence/abuse**

Relationships

Relationships affected by domestic abuse:

(i) Intimate Partner Violence/Abuse - where both parties are aged 16 years or over

- ▶ Husband/Wife, Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Partners, Civil Partners and other intimate partner relationships involving Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) people

(ii) Intra-familial Violence/abuse – where both parties are aged 16 years or over

- ▶ Parents, Siblings, Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Grandparents including those in step or adoptive relationships

Domestic Abuse

- ▶ Honour Based Abuse / Violence
- ▶ Forced Marriage (FM) - Section 121 ASB, Crime & Policing Act 2014
- ▶ FGM [FGM Act 2003 (amended by Serious Crime Act 2015)].
- ▶ Abuse linked to Faith/Belief – Witchcraft, Spirit Possession – perception of difference e.g. mental health and epilepsy etc leading to so-called ‘unconventional’ behaviour / conduct and/or words.
- ▶ Other harmful practices e.g. Breast ‘Ironing / Flattening’
- ▶ Modern Day Slavery: Human Trafficking, Domestic Servitude and Forced Labour
- ▶ Domestic Abuse and – Older People, LGBTQ+, Disabled People

What does this mean in reality?

- **Coercive and controlling behaviour – see later slide**
- **Psychological and emotional abuse** - Shouting, name calling, blaming and shaming, isolation, intimidation, threats of violence (to the person and/or family members/pets)
- **Physical abuse** - Pushing or hair pulling, punching or slapping, biting, kicking, burning, broken bones, use of weapons, strangulation and choking
- **Sexual abuse** - Disclosure of rape, making the victim perform degrading sexual acts, sulking or punishing someone for not having sex.
- **Economic abuse** Rigidly controlling a victim's access to resources and money
- **Honour based abuse** - where people are punished for undermining a code of behaviour in their family community as well as female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage

Coercive and Controlling Behaviour

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

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.

[Section 76 Serious Crime Act 2015]

Coercive Control

Not only is coercive control the most common context in which [women] are abused, it is also the most dangerous”

Evan Stark (2007)

Listen to Professor Evan Stark talking about coercive control:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLIXXt6WNsM>

Activity: What behaviours would you associate with coercion or control in an abusive relationship?

Signs of Coercive Control

Behaviours associated with coercion or control in an abusive relationship include:

- isolating a person from their friends and family
- depriving them of their basic needs
- monitoring their time
- monitoring a person via online communication tools or using spyware
- taking control over aspects of their everyday life, such as where they can go, who they can see, what to wear and when they can sleep; depriving them of access to support services, such as specialist support or medical services

Signs of Coercive Control

- repeatedly putting them down such as telling them they are worthless
- enforcing rules and activity which humiliate, degrade or dehumanise the victim
- forcing the victim to take part in criminal activity such as shoplifting,
- neglect or abuse of children to encourage self-blame and prevent disclosure to authorities
- financial abuse including control of finances, such as retaining a person's wages, benefits or allowances
- threats to hurt or kill; threats to a child; threats to reveal or publish private information (e.g. threatening to 'out' someone by disclosing their sexual orientation)
- assault; criminal damage (such as destruction of household goods)
- preventing a person from having access to transport or from working

Offender Behaviour

Perpetrators often seek to 'down-play' the impact of their abuse and fail to admit or acknowledge the extent of the harm that they cause.

This can take many forms:

- Complete denial
- Inclusion (perpetrators include only abuse that has become public)
- Forgetting, blanking out and 'not knowing'
- Normalising (presenting behaviour as if it was not important)
- Using the children as part of coercive control
- Denying the impact on children (90 percent of domestic assaults, children are in the same or next room)
- Denying THEIR responsibility, instead blaming the victim or (substance misuse, stress, MH)
- In a HMIC review of 600 domestic assault case files, there was a counter-allegation made in 30% of the cases. Often the women the HMIC spoke to described how calm and plausible the perpetrator appeared to be on arrival of the police

What makes domestic abuse high risk?

1. Victim's perception of risk of harm: victims often underestimate their risk of harm from the perpetrators. However, If they say they fear further harm to themselves, their child(ren) or someone else this should be taken seriously
2. Separation (child contact): victims who attempt to end a violent relationship are strongly linked to intimate partner homicide. Many incidents happen as a result of child contact or disputes over custody.
3. Pregnancy/new birth: domestic abuse can start or get worse in pregnancy. Victims who are assaulted whilst pregnant, when they have recently given birth or who have young children should be considered as high risk.
4. Escalation – this includes repeated patterns, coercive control, increasing seriousness
5. Community issues/isolation: needs may differ amongst ethnic minority victims, newly arrived communities, asylum seekers, older people, people with disabilities, as well as Travelling or LGBT people.

What makes domestic abuse high risk?

6. Stalking
7. Sexual assault
8. Strangulation (choking/suffocation/drowning)
9. Credible threats to kill
10. Use of weapons
11. Controlling and/or excessive jealous behaviour
12. Child abuse
13. Animal/pets abuse
14. Alcohol/drugs/mental health
15. Homicide - Suicide

Identifying Signs



How to respond to domestic abuse

- Listen. Do not look shocked or disbelieving
- Respond to victims of DA in a supportive and sensitive manner
- Try and speak to them in private/offer private consultation room
- Ask open questions
- Do not be judgmental
- Empathise but don't tell them how they should be feeling
- Don't promise confidentiality
- Arrange a professional translator if needed, do not use children or family member
- Discuss immediate safety
- Record details given (threats made/injuries seen) – these may be important at a later stage
- Do not enter into joint discussion or dialogue with the perpetrator or family members
- Explain services and options available to client
- Discuss and make a referral to DV service.

Impact on Children



About 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse.

90% of children who live in a domestically abusive home will be aware of the violence.

- A child who witnesses or hears the harm of others is a child who is experiencing emotional abuse.
- Adoption & Children Act 2002 (sec120) extended the definition of 'harm' under the Children Act 1989 [sec 31(9)] to include '*impairment, suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another*'.
- Children witnessing domestic abuse and/or violence at home are considered to be in need of protection from harm.

► Domestic violence can impact on children immensely. Statistics show that:

- **62% of children exposed to domestic abuse were directly harmed (physical/emotional abuse & neglect)**
- **52% had behavioural problems**
- **39% had difficulties at school**
- **60% felt they were to blame**
- **25% exhibited abusive behaviour towards victim and siblings**



Child - Signs and symptoms of Domestic Abuse

- Physical Injuries
- Change in behaviour at school e.g. Decline in grades, attendance, participation in after-school clubs, getting into trouble e.g. arrests for shoplifting
- Aggression and/or anger towards parent(s), teacher, other students
- Over protective of a parent and/or younger sibling(s) / Hypervigilance
- Introversion, withdrawal, depression
- PTSD
- Self Harm

Going quiet or deflecting when asked questions about particular parent

Missing school, being late

Aggression or they may internalise distress and withdraw from others

Caring roles for siblings and/or non-abusing parent



Homework being late or not completed

Tummy aches and bed wetting

Staying on late after school

Behave as though they're much older or younger than their age

Activities at home (like play or study) being restricted, or having to stay quiet

High levels of compliance and fear of failure

Low sense of self worth

Nightmares or flashbacks

High levels of compliance and fear of failure

Ambivalence or anger towards abusive or non-abusive parent (for actions or failure to protect)

Being easily startled/on high alert

Anxiety or depression/low mood

Difficulty sleeping

Separation Distress

Worry that what they say or write might be overheard or read, often by a particular parent

The impact of domestic abuse for children and young people

Impact is **not** inevitable: supportive adults can make a difference

Feelings

Fear,
Powerlessness,
Depression or
sadness
Anger and guilt
Anxiety

Negative

impact on social
relationships,
educational
achievement
and family
relationships

Mental Wellbeing

Increased internalising and
externalising difficulties
Post –traumatic stress
Difficulty regulating
emotions
High separation distress

Physical health – links to obesity, asthma and bodily complaints

Effects of Domestic Abuse on Children - Distress

They may begin to self harm by taking overdoses or cutting themselves.

Develop eating disorders - control over their food intake.

Start to use alcohol or drugs.

Anxiety and depression.

Complain of physical symptoms - tummy aches.

Difficulty sleeping.

Lowered sense of self - worth.

Temper tantrums

Bed wetting

Nightmares / flashbacks

Behave as though they are much younger than they are

Truancy - acting out at school.

Internalisation of the distress and become withdrawn

Aggression

Hyper-vigilance

Impact on Education

- Being late / not attending (*especially if abuser attends same school*)
- Arriving early / staying late - to avoid abuser
- Disturbed sleep affecting concentration
- Lack of focus / preoccupation / worry in class
- Gendered expectations of career and achievement
- Feeling unsafe / afraid of being traced by abuser via school
- Appearing isolated and removed
- Worried everyone at school knows what is happening

Teen Survey - Impact on Primary School teaching

1 in 8 young men thought it would be OK to hit a 'nagging' woman

19% of young women & 34% of young men did not think that being forced to have sex constituted rape

One in five teenage girls have been hit by a boyfriend

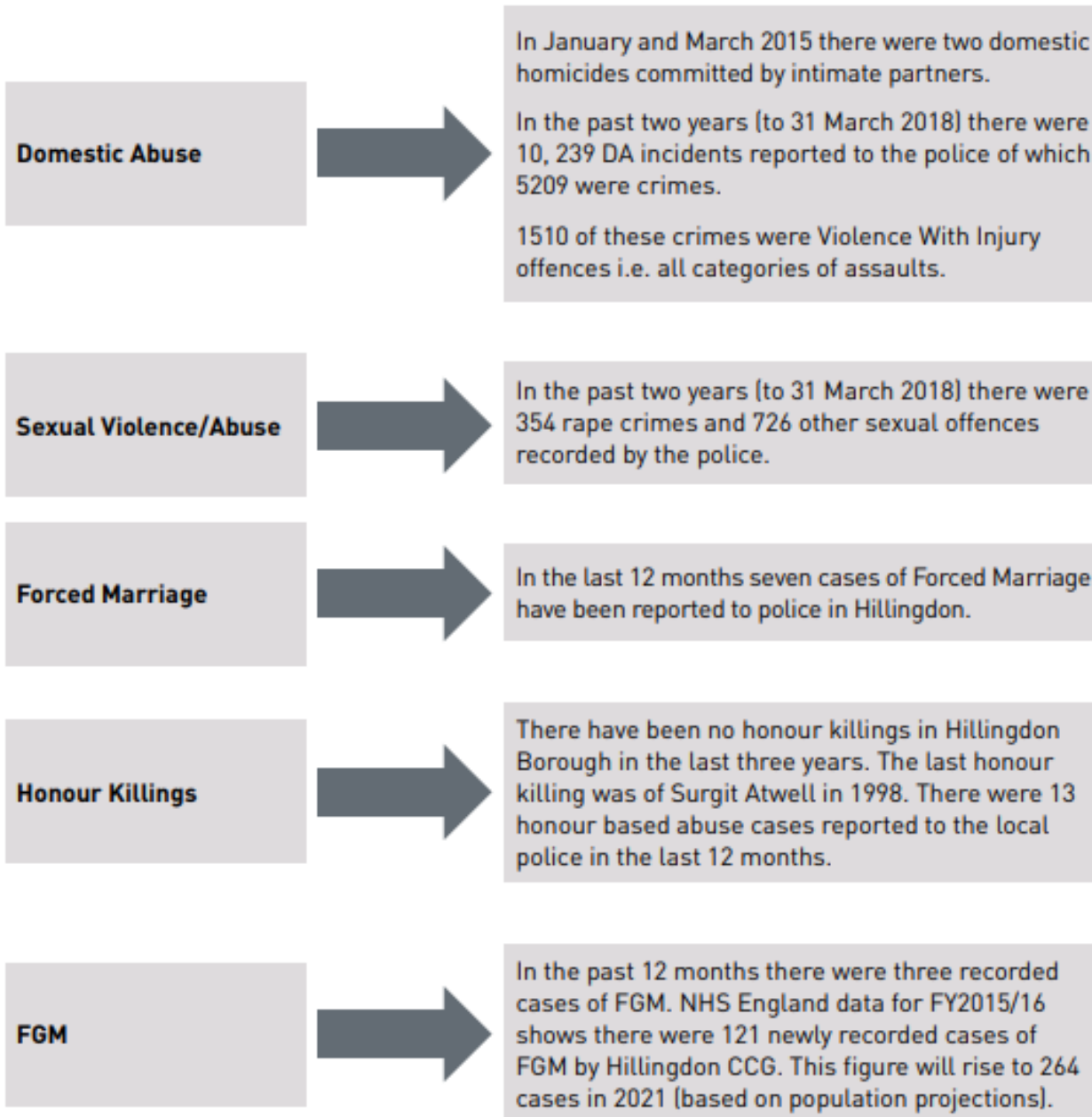
1 in 3 young men and 1 in 5 young women agree with the statement that *'some women deserve to be hit'*.

Over 40% of all girls said they would "consider giving a boy a second chance" if he hit them

6% have been forced to have sex by a boyfriend

31% of girls hit regularly by their boyfriends have seen their parents hit each other

Hillingdon Context – DA Strategy 2018-2021



How can we make a difference and support?

Talk - Ask a child what they are worried about

Express - Help a child to find ways to express their feelings
(eg drawing/journaling/art work/paly role play)

Stability - Provide lots of structure for daily activities (e.g meals, homework, bedtime) so a child knows what to expect and prepare them for any changes in routine.

Extra support - Help other caregivers to understand how trauma can affect a child and how to respond supportively.

Ongoing - Reduce exposure to violent media such as television, video games, and movies.

Maslow's Hierarchy of needs

