



THE SOURCE

The Source Academy Safeguarding Newsletter

October 2017

WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

In September 2017, the Sheffield Star reported that nearly 23,000 cases of domestic abuse were reported to South Yorkshire Police last year. In 2016 there were 22,974 domestic abuse incidents reported to the force, with 10,122 logged as crimes. The incidents involved 25,971 females and 7,121 males, with some having more than one victim. ***Domestic abuse is still a hidden crime.***

Domestic violence (also named domestic abuse, battering, or family violence) is a pattern of behavior which involves violence or other abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation. The cross-government 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*

Domestic Abuse Facts and Figures:

- It's estimated that the Police receive a domestic related emergency call every 30 seconds
- Domestic crimes account for 10% of all crime
- Stalking accounts for 14% of domestic abuse reports
- Assaults account for 47% of domestic abuse reports

Nationally, it's reported that 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic violence and that a third of children witnessing domestic violence also experience another form of abuse. Another disturbing fact is that 1 in 5 teenagers have been physically abused by their boyfriends or girlfriends.

The NSPCC reports that domestic abuse can include:

- sexual abuse and rape (including within a relationship)
- punching, kicking, cutting, hitting with an object
- withholding money or preventing someone from earning money
- taking control over aspects of someone's everyday life, which can include where they go and what they wear
- not letting someone leave the house
- reading emails, text messages or letters
- threatening to kill or harm them, a partner, another family member or pet.

What can you do about domestic abuse?

If someone confides in you that they're suffering domestic abuse:

- listen, and take care not to blame them
- acknowledge it takes strength to talk to someone about experiencing abuse
- give them time to talk, but don't push them to talk if they don't want to
- acknowledge they're in a frightening and difficult situation
- tell them nobody deserves to be threatened or beaten, despite what the abuser says
- support them as a friend – encourage them to express their feelings, and allow them to make their own decisions
- don't tell them to leave the relationship if they're not ready – that's their decision
- ask if they have suffered physical harm – if so, encourage them to take someone with them
- help them report the assault to the police if they choose to
- be ready to provide information on organisations that offer help for people experiencing domestic abuse

For more information:

- <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/abuse/Pages/domestic-violence-help.aspx>
- <http://www.southyorks.police.uk/help-and-advice/z-crime-types/domestic-abuse>
- <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/crime-info/types-crime/domestic-abuse>
- <http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk/>
- <http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/get-help/support-for-women/>

If you have any concerns about a learner or a colleague please follow the safeguarding reporting procedure found on the I drive / Safeguarding and speak to the Safeguarding Officers:

- ☐ **Andy Womble on 0114 263 5638 / 075843981447**
- ☐ **Helen Lee on 0114 263 5619 / 078278552504**