

# One Minute Guide

## Domestic Abuse



### What is domestic abuse?

*Domestic abuse is defined as: 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 include but is not limited to psychological; physical; sexual; financial; emotional; stalking and harassment and online or digital abuse. It also includes coercive and controlling behaviour, Forced Marriage and so called 'Honour' Based Abuse*

### Who can be a victim?

*Anybody can be subjected to abuse in their relationships and domestic violence and abuse is never acceptable. There are also some groups that have specific vulnerabilities or needs which may be at increased risk of abuse. Whilst not an endless list, these may include older people, adults with care and support needs, black, Asian, minority ethnic, refugees, men, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender.*

### Risk Assessment

*The Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification Assessment is used to assess the severity of the Domestic Abuse. High risk cases will be heard at MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) in order to safeguard the victim. Domestic abuse incidents attended by the Police, that involve children and are considered as medium or high risk to the victim, are shared with the Childrens Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) daily. The MASH will triage the concerns, consulting with parents/cares and discuss appropriate intervention for the family.*

### Children and Young People

*Children are often the hidden victims of Domestic Abuse, often witnessing abuse within family relationships. Living in a home where domestic abuse happens can have a serious impact on a child or young person's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as their behavior and this can last into adulthood.*

**If you think a child is at risk call 024 76 788 555**

### What support is available? Safe To Talk 0800 111 4998

*This is for victims (aged 16+) of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, including FGM, Forced Marriage and 'Honour' Based Abuse. The number gives those who need help a direct line to a range of support services from specialist providers including refuge and supported accommodation or additional home security. It is also open to victim's families or friends and professionals and helps people get to the right service as easily as possible.*

*For perpetrators (and those concerned about their behaviour towards partners and family members) you can also contact Safe to Talk for support.*

**For more information visit [www.safetotalk.org.uk](http://www.safetotalk.org.uk)**



**In an emergency always dial 999**

*If it's too dangerous to speak press '55' when connected and the operator will know you need help. You*