

Welfare Questions about Domestic Abuse

Home should be a place of safety, but we know that this is not always the case and lockdown measures during 2020 and 2021, to prevent the spread of Covid-19 meant that victims of domestic abuse may have been trapped at home with abusive partners. This may have long reaching effects into the future.

Children are the silent victims of domestic abuse, with schools open to vulnerable and key worker children. Some children were also locked into situations with few opportunities to gain support.

Local agencies received less self-referrals and nationally domestic homicides increased. **It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard families; YOU may be a victim's only link to help and support.**

When disclosures are made, you are not expected to offer specialist DA support, there is a list of phone numbers at the end of this document that you can refer families to; or that you can ring if you feel somebody may be subjected to abuse.

Starting a conversation about welfare: We know that from time to time, life can feel stressful and difficult and we are asking everybody if they need any support. Is everything ok for you (and the children) at home?

N.B. Never tell or advise someone to leave a situation immediately (unless there is imminent danger). Planning to leave safely is essential to enable chances of escaping abuse, especially when children are involved.

Professionals may also be impacted by DA while working from home, experiencing abuse for the first time or living with ongoing abuse which may escalate due to a variety of additional pressures brought on by the pandemic and lockdowns..

If you have concerns ring a DA Agency for advice or 999 in an emergency.

For Support

In an emergency always, ring 999. Using a silent 999 call followed by 55 (or tapping/coughing into the phone) will enable police to respond.

National Domestic Abuse 24 hour Support Helpline: 0808 2000 247

RESPECT National Helpline, perpetrators (9am to 5pm) 0808 802 4040

Support directories:

<https://ehd.liverpool.gov.uk/kb5/liverpool/fsd/results.page?qt=domestic+abuse&term=&sorttype=relevance&sr=20>

<https://www.victimcaremerseyside.org/home/who-can-help.aspx>

<http://respect.uk.net/contact-us/>

Or ring:

Liverpool Domestic Abuse Services 0151 263 7474

Merseyside Domestic Violence Service 0780 272 2703

South Liverpool Domestic Abuse Services 0151 494 2222

Ruby Project 0771 428 9180

Savera UK (honour based abuse & harmful practice specialist) 0800 107 0726

Worst Kept Secret Helpline (Merseyside) 0800 028 3398

Support for children:

Young Persons Advisory Service (YPAS) 0151 707 1025

NSPCC

Support for men:

Men's Advice Line (Freephone)

0808 801 0327