

The Impact and Dynamics of Domestic Abuse

To be used at Team Meetings – 7 MINUTE BRIEFING

Prevalence of Domestic Abuse in the UK

- Each year approximately 1.3 million women and 600,000 men will experience domestic abuse.
- Women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to MARAC or accessing an IDVA service are women
- Police receive a call about domestic abuse every 30 seconds.
- 62% of children living with domestic abuse are directly harmed by the perpetrator

Safeguarding

- If you have a concern that an adult or child is at risk you can share information without consent.
- Follow your organisations safeguarding policy or contact the Children's Services below for advice and guidance.
- If you are supporting someone experiencing domestic abuse ensure you engage in self care and do not put yourself in risky situations.

Respond/Refer

Reassure: support is available and that victims are not to blame
Reinforce: the perpetrator is responsible for the abuse
Risk assess: to uphold safety, safeguarding, and protect
Record: all contacts and actions accurately and factually
REFER: to Children's Services where safeguarding concerns arise, or Police in an emergency. Contacts and Referrals
REFER: support victims to seek help of specialist domestic abuse services via one of the established pathways

Dynamics of abuse

Coercive Control is the most dangerous context in which domestic abuse happens. Behaviours commonly used by abusers include, isolation, exhaustion, threats, displays of power, distorted perspectives, humiliation, trivial demands and occasional indulgences. These dynamics commonly seen in abusive relationships were originally identified as tactics used to brainwash prisoners of war.

Statutory definition of domestic abuse factsheet

Routinely ask

Due to the insidious nature of coercive control individuals do not always recognise that they are victims of abuse so safe routine enquiry can be useful. Talk to them in a private, quiet space, on their own. Ask open, non-judgmental questions. Frame your concerns as a routine enquiry if that is helpful

Risk

On average in the UK, two women are murdered every week and 30 men per year in the context of domestic abuse. It is crucial that a risk assessment is carried out by a trained professional. However, it is useful for all professionals to be aware of the high risk factors listed in the link:
[One Page High Risk Factor Definitions for Domestic .pdf](https://dashriskchecklist.co.uk)
(dashriskchecklist.co.uk)

Responding to a Disclosure

Victims: Ensure safety, validate the individual's experience with phrases like 'I believe you' or 'This is not your fault.' Ask about any support they have and what support they might need.
Perpetrators: Try to engage them, encourage responsibility and respond to motivation to change. Adopting a stance of neutrality, that is neither colluding or accusatory, is generally likely to be more constructive

