

1. Background

Domestic abuse/violence (DAV) is not just about violence, it includes a range of other coercive and controlling behaviours, including sexual, economical, verbal, religious, emotional and psychological abuse, stalking and harassment, honour based violence and forced marriage.

2. Definition of Domestic Abuse

The definition of domestic abuse or domestic violence is *'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality.'*

3. Who is affected?

Men and women can suffer domestic abuse at some point in their lives, however children who live in households where there is domestic abuse may carry the psychological scars for decades and where the behaviour is normalised, there may be a greater likelihood of them becoming perpetrators or victims in their teenage/adult life.

7. Report a Concern

During office hours you can report work or non-work-related concerns through the Prevention Locality Safety Manager (LSM) or in their absence the DGM (This process is outlined in the policy on the intranet and in Corp docs #232.)

If it is personal issue and you do not want to report via work, you can do this via the Adult Social Care Team within the Local Authority of

6. What happens if I make a report?

As an employee of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service there is a duty of care to report Domestic Abuse situations. Obtain as much information as you can whilst with the person. Details will be shared with the Police and other relevant agencies, however the fact that you made the referral will not be shared with any of the parties involved.



4. What are the signs of Domestic Abuse

People affected by domestic abuse may exhibit one or more of the following signs – low self-confidence and esteem, always checking in with their partner, change in socialising behaviours, unexplained injuries, financial worries, become withdrawn in how they present themselves (clothes, hair, make-up etc.), damage to external doors and walls.

5. Why is it important?

- One in four women and one in six men suffer from domestic abuse in their lifetime.
- 62% of children in households where domestic abuse is happening are also directly harmed.
- Two women are killed each week by a current or former partner in England or Wales.
- Nearly half of male victims (49%) fail to tell

7 Minute Briefing

