

Early
Help



One
minute
guide

Domestic Abuse and Children's Services

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic Abuse refers to 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 sexual orientation. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- Psychological,
- Physical,
- Sexual,
- Economic and
- Emotional forms of abuse.

Controlling behaviour can be described as a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

An act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten the person.

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

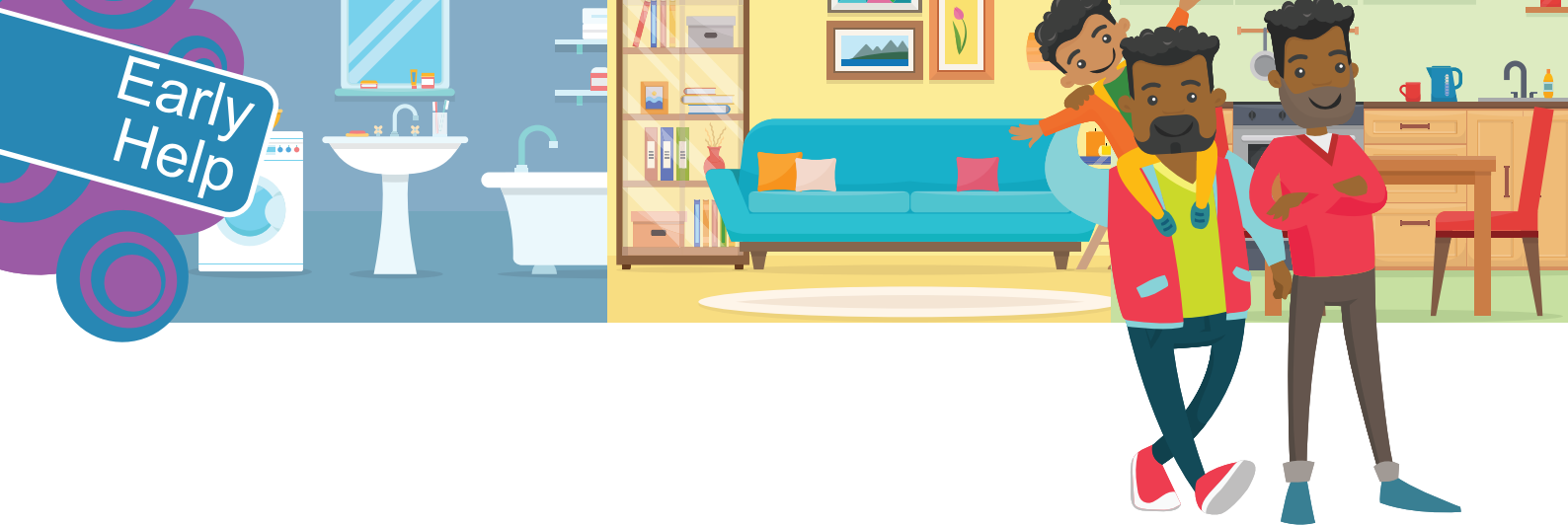
Responding to Domestic Abuse incidents

Children's Services become involved in cases of Domestic Abuse where the household includes a pregnant woman and or children are present or are members of the household and they are at risk of significant harm.

In some cases we are already working with the child and their family and get to know directly. At other times, we get to know about Domestic Abuse occurring in households following Police attendance at a domestic incident or because another agency has shared their concerns.

Working in partnership has led to the co-location of the duty and advice team which is staffed by Police officers and DAP Support Service. This enables Police, DAP and Children's Services to work together and share information effectively on cases of Domestic Abuse leading to more integrated approach.





How do partners work together?

When the Police are called to a household because of a reported domestic incident, the attending officer completes a Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Honour Based Violence (DASH) risk assessment. When a pregnant woman or a child (or children) are present, or live in the same household as the incident the duty and advice team are notified and the DASH risk assessment is shared.

In addition to a planned daily meeting, Domestic Abuse safeguarding discussions take place between Police colleagues and social work managers as required during the day. Discussions focus on whether a child/children or unborn child is at risk of significant harm or there is the likelihood of significant harm.

Consideration is given to the detail of the presenting incident, the DASH risk assessment alongside historical information.

If this is the case the duty and advice team will progress to Childrens Services (EHASH) for further assessment. All referrals are dealt with in line with the Hull Safeguarding Procedures available from the Hull Safeguarding Children's Board website. If the threshold for Childrens Social Care is not met and the family consent, Early Help support will be offered to the family.

Where there is high risk to the adult victim consideration may be given to a referral to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

What should practitioners do?

Practitioners should be mindful of the possibility of Domestic Abuse when working with families. They should contact the duty and advice team if they are aware of an incident of domestic abuse

where a pregnant woman or a children are present or members of the household and they are at risk of harm. In emergencies or where a crime is suspected, the Police should be contacted.

Key contacts and specialist helplines

- Duty and Advice Team
Tel: 0113 3760 336
- Police emergencies Tel: 999
- Police Safeguarding Unit (non-emergency)
Tel: 0113 2414 180
- Hull DAP
Tel: 318 759
Hulldap.co.uk
- Hull Women's Aid
Tel: 446 099
Womensiad.org
- Hull Women's Aid Children and Young Peoples service
Tel: 474 133
- Preston Road Women's Centre
Tel: 790 310
- Strength to Change
Tel: 613 403
- National Domestic Violence Helpline
Tel: 0808 2000 247
- Men's Advice Line
Tel: 0808 801 0327
- Support after Rape and Sexual Violence Hull
Tel: 0808 802 3344
- Forced Marriage—Karma Nirvana
Tel: 0800 5999 247

