

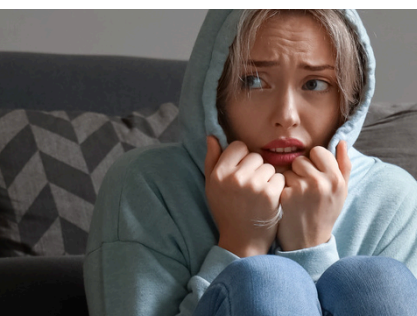
DOMESTIC ABUSE TOWARDS WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Women are more likely to experience the most serious forms of domestic violence and are more likely to be killed or seriously injured by their partner, ex-partner or lover. However there are also male victims and domestic violence occurs in same sex relationships. The 2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales found that, overall, 28.3% of women and 14.7% of men had experienced any domestic abuse since the age of 16.

The definition of domestic violence in England and Wales was expanded in March 2013 to include victims aged 16 and 17 years old. Teenage girls aged 16-19 are most at risk of domestic abuse (*Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2013/14*). 13.1% are likely to experience violence from their partners or ex-partners. Other figures suggest that 1 in 5 teenagers have been abused by their boyfriend or girlfriend (*Barter et al (2009) Partner Exploitation and Violence in Intimate Teenage Relationships*).

Possible indicators of domestic violence or abuse:



The person:

- has unexplained bruises, cuts or injuries
- becomes unusually quiet or withdrawn
- has panic attacks
- has frequent absences from work or other commitments
- wears clothes that conceal bruises even on warm days
- stops talking about their partner
- is anxious about being out or rushes away
- is always accompanied by their partner
- feels that the abuse is their fault when it is not
- is victim of verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others
- fears outside intervention
- experiences damage to their home or property
- feels isolated – not seeing friends and family
- has limited access to money

“Everyone has arguments and everyone disagrees with their partners, family members and others close to them from time to time. We all do things we regret and cause unhappiness to those we care about. But if this begins to form a consistent pattern, then it’s an indication of domestic abuse.” (Women’s Aid, 2010)

Your Parish Safeguarding Officer is: