



DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

Updated 12th October 2022

"Domestic abuse is an abhorrent crime perpetrated on victims and their families by those who should love and care for them. This landmark Bill will help transform the response to domestic abuse, helping to prevent offending, protect victims and ensure they have the support they need."

Victoria Atkins MP, Minister for Safeguarding

In January 2019, the government introduced the Domestic Abuse Bill 2017-19 following a consultation on transforming the response to domestic abuse.

The legislation was reintroduced in March 2020 as the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21, and received royal assent on 29 April 2021.

Domestic violence can affect anyone it occurs in all age, racial, socioeconomic, educational, occupational, and religious groups, gender. Domestic violence typically involves repetitive behaviour including different types of abuse such as physical assault, psychological, emotional, and economical abuse.

It ***is caused by the perpetrator*** and not by the victim or the relationship; it is a criminal offense where actual or threatened physical or sexual force is used.

It differentially affects men and women: women experience more violence over a lifetime, more severe forms of violence and more serious injuries than do male victims.

Victims of Domestic violence often feel isolated frightened of the person who is abusing them, ashamed, guilty, powerless, and lacking in confidence, tired, and depressed.

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 gender or sexuality.

This abuse can be, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional



Controlling behaviour

This is 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.

Coercive behaviour

This is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse used to harm, punish, or frighten the victim.

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. Victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Young children often are more aware of domestic violence than you realise it is very common for children to see or overhear physical violence living with domestic violence is always harmful for a child- they need a safe environment in which they can grow up. Young children may display some of the following difficulties when they are living with domestic violence.

Impacts on Children

- Watching, hearing or later learning of a parent being harmed by a partner threatens children's sense of Stability and security typically provided by their family.
- Children may experience increased emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- Some children who experience difficulties display traumatic stress reactions (e.g., sleep disturbances, intensified startle reactions and constant worry about possible danger).
- Children living with domestic violence are at increased risk of experiencing physical injury or childhood abuse (e.g. physical, emotional).
- The perpetrator may use children as a control tactic against adult victims. Examples include claiming the children's bad behaviour is the reason for the assaults on the non-offending parent.
- Threatening violence against the children.
- Talking negatively to children about the abused parent's behaviour.
- Children may imitate and learn the attitudes and behaviours modelled.



Below are some of the sign's children may display: -

- Physical complaints (headaches, stomach aches)
- Separation anxiety (beyond what you would normally expect for the age of the child)
- Sleep difficulties (fear of falling asleep)
- increased aggressive behaviour and angry feelings (physically hurting self or others)
- Constant worry about possible danger
- Loss of previously learned skills (toileting skills)
- Withdrawal from others and activities
- Lack of interest in or feelings about anything
- Excessive worry about the safety of loved ones (needing to see siblings during the day, asking constantly about Mummy)
- Difficulty choosing and completing an activity or task
- Very high activity level, constant fidgeting and/or trouble concentrating at levels typical for the child's age and stage of development.

Any concerns you have about a child should be discussed with the Manager or Deputy and the nurseries safeguarding policy should be followed.

If you are in a Domestic Abuse relationship and would like to talk to somebody in confidence, then the nursery manager -Shelly /deputy -Hollie will be here to listen to you, or you can call Domestic Violence Hub

Telephone: [020 8547 6046](tel:02085476046) Email: kingstondvhub@refuge.org.uk

Other useful numbers: **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** 24-hour national freephone helpline for advice and support about domestic violence. **Telephone: [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)**

NSPCC 0800 800 5000 Free 24-hour helpline Email www.nspcc.org.uk