



Services For Education

SAFEGUARDING SUBSCRIPTION RESOURCES

DOMESTIC ABUSE

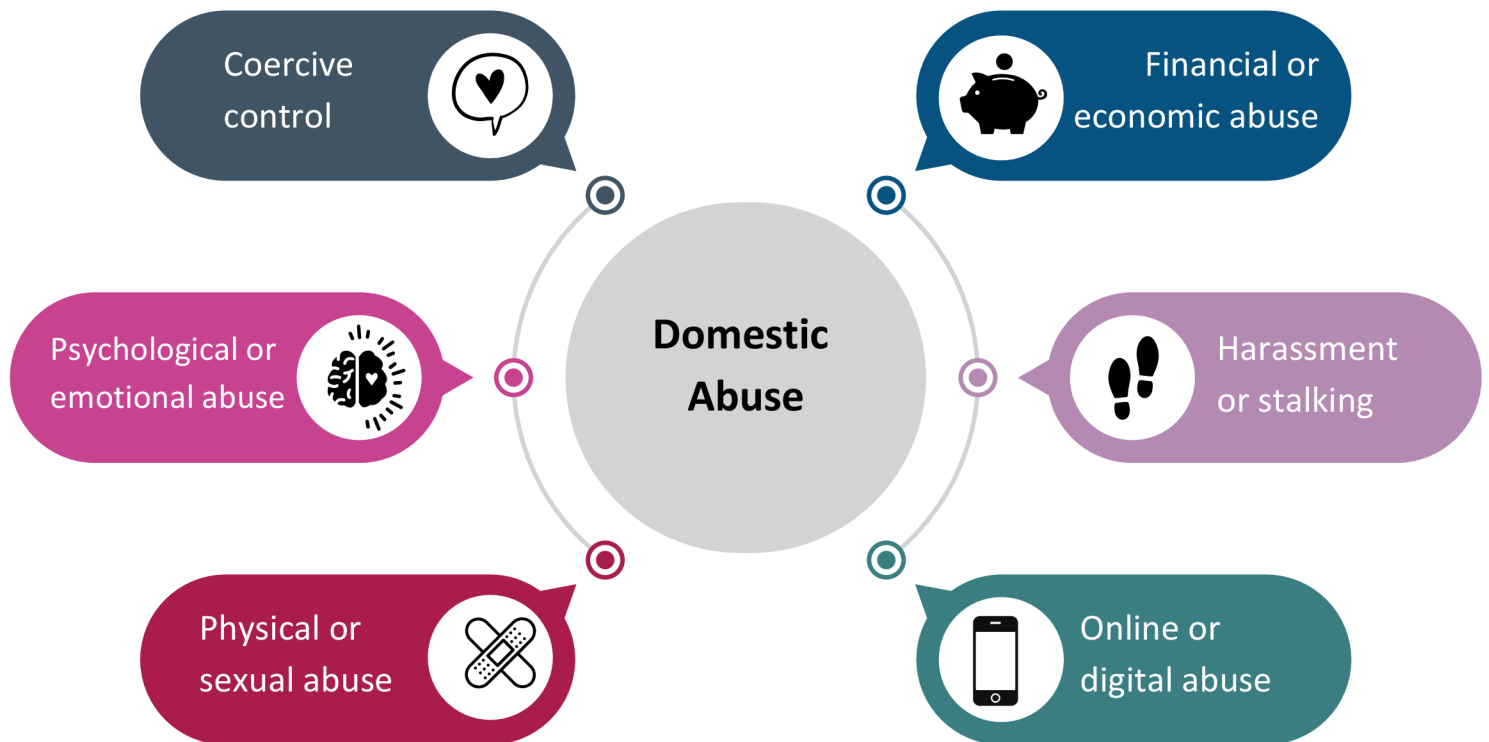
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DOMESTIC ABUSE

Women's Aid define domestic abuse as an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer.

In most cases, it is experienced by women and is perpetrated by men, but it can be perpetrated by women in heterosexual or homosexual relationships also.

Types of Domestic Abuse:



Why does Domestic Abuse happen?

There's no single reason why domestic abuse occurs.

It can be a combination of factors including:



Social attitudes
towards domestic
abuse, familial
relationships and how
others are treated.



**Individual
psychological
experiences of the
abuser** which may
have altered their
thinking and the way
they see relationships.



**Community or
cultural experiences**
with regards to
abuse and what is
or is not acceptable.

Each domestic abuse situation is different. Yet, all abusers use similar ways to get what they want and keep power and control.



How can we find out that Domestic Abuse is happening:

- A direct disclosure from the child or a family member.
- Through changes in a child's behaviour, attitudes or engagement.
- Information provided by social care, health or the police.
- A notification from Operation Encompass.

Find information and resources at: www.operationencompass.org

How might children be impacted:

Most children will be affected in some way by tension at home or by witnessing arguments, distressing behaviour or assaults.

Although not a definitive list, children may experience...

- Anxiety or depression.
- Difficulty sleeping.
- Nightmares or flashbacks.
- Physical complaints e.g. headaches, tummy aches.
- Bed-wetting.
- Trouble regulating emotions or tantrums.
- Difficulties at school, including poor attendance or truancy.
- Aggression towards their friends, adults or themselves.
- Withdrawal from friendships, school life and others.
- Low self-esteem or self-worth.
- Substance misuse (in older children).
- Self-harm.
- Eating disorders.



Dealing with disclosure:

If a child reveals they have been a victim of domestic abuse, it's important to:

- **Listen** carefully to what they're saying.
- **Reassure** them that they've done the right thing by telling you.
- **Tell** them it's not their fault.
- **Show** that you are taking them seriously.
- **Provide** comfort and support where needed.
- **Explain** what you'll do next.
- **Record and report** what the child has told you as soon as possible.



Be sure to follow your setting's recording and reporting procedures.

Witnessing Domestic Abuse means a child is a victim in their own right.

(Domestic Abuse Act 2021)

Supporting victims of domestic abuse:



Have an open and honest culture - so children feel safe to disclose and talk about their experiences.



Ensure adults are emotionally available - make sure staff are comfortable and confident dealing with disclosures and supporting children.



Reach out for support - signpost children and families to local charities or organisations for support.



Promote positive relationships - adults should role model positive relationships and ensure children are taught about relationships and how to keep safe.



Teach resilience - provide children with the skills to understand and regulate their emotions. Remind them that finding things tough emotionally is okay!



Services For Education

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