

Further Information:

NHS Rotherham CCG Staff: [Safeguarding Domestic Abuse Procedure 2020](#) (RCCG intranet)

Professionals: [Domestic Abuse Flowchart](#) for practitioners (RCCG intranet)

Procedures: [RSCP Safeguarding Children at Risk because of Domestic Abuse Procedures online](#)

Home Office: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>

Help for Perpetrators: [Inspire to Change](#)

a programme for men and women who have been abusive, controlling or violent towards their partner.

What to do

- Immediate safety/risk – call 999 or 101
- With consent refer to Rotherham Rise.
- If you believe a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering refer to **MASH**
- If you believe that the victim presents with such vulnerabilities that they meet criteria for Safeguarding adults –refer to **SPA**.
- If a victim does not disclose but you suspect otherwise, offer opportunities to talk and consider giving information

What is it?

The government definition of domestic abuse 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 gender or sexuality”. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- ♦ psychological
- ♦ physical
- ♦ sexual
- ♦ financial
- ♦ emotional
- ♦ coercive and controlling behaviour
- ♦ online abuse
- ♦ threats and intimidation

Why it matters

Many of the signs of domestic abuse may also be indicators of other underlying causes. Many victims of domestic abuse don't disclose or minimise the abuse. No one should have to put up with any kind of violence or abuse and everyone has the right to personal safety. If it has happened once it is likely to happen again.

Signs

- ♦ Injuries without explanation (normally people will volunteer an explanation);
- ♦ Injuries which are minimised or concealed;
- ♦ A person who is unwilling to allow the other person to be alone with professionals;
- ♦ A person who appears passive and dominated by their partner;
- ♦ Anxiety, depression and being withdrawn, particularly if this is not usual for the person.

Children and domestic abuse

Domestic abuse can have a significant impact on children. Child Protection Procedures must be adhered to. [Safeguarding Children at Risk Domestic Abuse Procedures](#)

- ♦ Babies under 12 months old are particularly vulnerable.
- ♦ 64% of high and medium risk victims have children,
- ♦ 25% of children in high-risk domestic abuse households are under 3 years old.
- ♦ On average, high-risk abuse has been going on for 2.6 years, meaning these children are living with abuse for most of their life;
- ♦ 62% of children living in domestic abuse households are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others;

Context

- ♦ An estimated 1.9 million adults aged 16-59 experienced domestic abuse in 2019
- ♦ 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men suffer from domestic abuse in their lifetime
- ♦ Domestic abuse takes place at all levels of society regardless of social class, gender, race, religion, sexuality or disability
- ♦ 2 women are killed each week by a current or former partner
- ♦ 30% of domestic abuse starts in pregnancy, existing abuse may get worse during pregnancy or after giving birth.
- ♦ 140,000 children live in households where there is high-risk domestic abuse

HELP & RESOURCES DOMESTIC ABUSE:

IMMEDIATE DANGER: CALL 999 OR 101

[Rotherham Rise](#) or ☎ 0330 2020 571

[Samaritans](#) or ☎ 01709 361717

The Survivor’s Handbook is a comprehensive resource for people experiencing domestic violence. The handbook comprises short sections covering every aspect of seeking help and support, and includes information on how to help a friend who is experiencing domestic violence and safety planning.

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/the-survivors-handbook/>

National Domestic Violence Helpline, freephone 24 Hour service run in partnership between Women’s Aid and Refuge.

Freephone: 0808 2000 247

www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

www.womensaid.org.uk

www.refuge.org.uk.

ManKind: Confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence

Tel: 01823 334244 (weekdays 10 – 4)

www.mankind.org.uk/help-for-victims

Rotherham Rise providing the best possible support to Women, Men, Children and Partners

Tel: 0330 2020 571

<http://rotherhamrise.org.uk/>

Men’s Advice Line offering help and support for male victims of domestic violence

Tel: 0808 801 0327

<http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk/>

Samaritans Whatever you're going through, you can call the Samaritans any time, from any phone for FREE

National Tel: 116 123

Local Tel: 01709 361717

<https://www.samaritans.org>

Employer Assistance Programme

Free and confidential access to information, advice and support 24/7

Freephone: **0800 1116387**

Bright Sky is a free to download mobile app providing support and information for anyone who may be in an abusive relationship or those concerned about someone they know.

Bright Sky app: www.hestia.org/brightsky