



Safeguarding Update
February 2015

Theme : Domestic Abuse



What is Domestic Abuse?

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behavior, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Types of Domestic Abuse:

- Psychological - psychological abuse could be intimidation, criticising, denying the abuse, treating someone as inferior, threatening to harm children or take them away, forced marriage, threats to extended family members, threats made about harming family pets.
- Physical - shaking, smacking, punching, kicking, presence of finger or bite marks, starving, tying up, stabbing, suffocation, throwing things, using objects as weapons, female genital mutilation, honour-based violence.
- Sexual - forced sex, forced prostitution, ignoring religious prohibitions about sex, refusal to practise safe sex for the purposes of pregnancy, sexual insults, sexually transmitting diseases or infections, preventing a woman from breastfeeding.
- Financial - not letting an individual work, undermining efforts to find work or study, refusing to give money, asking for an explanation of how every penny is spent, making that person beg for money, gambling money away, not paying bills.
- Emotional - emotional abuse could be swearing, undermining confidence, making racist remarks, making someone feel unattractive, calling someone stupid or useless, eroding someone's independence.

Respect Believe Achieve

Effects of Domestic Abuse

Children who see violence between their parents or other family members are;

4 x as likely as their peers to carry a knife

4 x as likely to be arrested for physically hurting someone.

3 x as likely to be involved in a range of antisocial behaviour such as bullying, stealing or vandalism

2 x as likely to be excluded from school.

What do we need to look for?

Risk and vulnerability is increased when one or more of the following factors applies for particular children

- Pregnancy
- Very young children
- Disability
- Cultural issues
- Isolation
- Frequent house moves
- Previous history of domestic abuse
- Criminal history
- 'Care' history of one or both parents
- Non school or erratic attendance
- Serial relationships
- Drug and/or alcohol misuse or abuse
- Parental mental ill health
- Homelessness
- Worklessness
- Separation or divorce
- Disputes over contact
- Current or previous child protection concerns
- Refugee / Asylum status

What can we do?

- follow child protection procedures to ensure the child's safeguarding needs are assessed and addressed, speak to the designated staff in school (Vicki Schumacker, Paul Scarborough, Sophie Connolly, Rebecca Holmes)
- If you have concerns that a student in school is involved in a domestic abusive relationship, contact Damian Munro, Young persons Violence Advisor, 0161 856 7094, Damian.Munro@wigan.gcsx.gov.uk
- Ensure that victims of domestic abuse feel safe and to be believed, taken seriously and respected.

Further Information

<http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk>

<http://www.wavedvcentre.com/>

<http://www.wiganfis.org.uk/DIAS>

<http://www.endthefear.co.uk/> <http://www.broken-rainbow.org.uk/>

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



Designated staff in school

Vicki Schumacker

Paul Scarborough

Sophie Connolly

Rebecca Holmes