

Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway

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 who have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender, sexuality or ethnicity. This can encompass but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional”. This also includes honour based violence (HBV), forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Recognise: Be familiar with the signs of domestic abuse and ask all client on contact about their home situation.

Respond: Frame the question, validate and address immediate safety concerns.

Example questions:

- Is everything alright at home? How are you feeling?
- Are you getting support from your partner/family members at home?
- Everyone has rows at times, have you seen an increase in rows/arguments? What happens when these occur?
- Do arguments or comments made ever result in you feeling put down or bad about yourself?
- Has anyone ever been violent towards you? Who?
- Do you ever feel frightened or have you ever felt frightened?
- Does your partner and/or family members like to know what you are doing? Who you are speaking to?
- Do they control your access to finances or ability to do what you would like to do?
- Does or has your partner and/or family member ever prevented you from accessing medical support or assistance for care needs?
- You mentioned that your partner and/or family member uses alcohol/drugs/gambles – how do they react when doing this?
- Does your partner pressure you to have sex or perform sexual acts?

If there is any immediate danger call 999.

