

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership



BUSINESS UNIT NEWSLETTER – 14TH MAY 2020

DOMESTIC ABUSE & COVID-19

The increased isolation of families and the difficulties and pressures associated with how life has changed since COVID-19 is likely to increase the risk of domestic abuse being carried out by individuals over the age of 16:

- towards their partner, ex-partner or other family members (this can be children, siblings, parents, grandparents whether directly related, in-laws or step-family); and
- towards those who live in the same household or who they are continuing to have contact during this period due to caring or co-parenting responsibilities.

The Government have published [national guidance](#) to get help if you or someone you know is a victim of domestic abuse.



We have also made available key local and national contact numbers and resources for people living with domestic abuse at this difficult time. Please visit our [Love Shouldn't Hurt](#) webpage.

Working with people who harm

There are several key things organisations, frontline staff and volunteers could consider in working with those who pose a risk of domestic abuse during this time:

Promoting the Respect Phonenumber

Respect is a national domestic abuse organisation who have a phonenumber, webchat and email service as **support for people concerned about their behaviour and wanting to manage and change it.**

Respect have recently launched a social media campaign: [#NoExcuseForAbuse](#) to raise awareness of the Respect Phonenumber More details on Respect's latest campaign can be accessed [here](#).



Keep up to date with the latest practice guidance



Respect and Safe Lives have both provided specific guidance on their COVID-19 webpages (click on their icons) for practitioners who are **delivering interventions with people who are known to be committing domestic abuse.**



The evidence base for interventions with individuals who commit domestic abuse is largely based on intimate partner violence by males upon females over the age of 16 who have been convicted of domestic-abuse related crimes. It is therefore important that you therefore consider how this guidance applies to working with

anyone who may be in the less prevalent or more hidden groups (for more information visit the [Safe Lives Spotlights Research series](#)). During this time, there are emerging concerns about:

- Child/Adolescent to parent/carer violence. Safe Lives and the [Social Care Institute for Excellence COVID 19: Domestic Abuse](#) webpages have specific sections on this area. The Youth Justice Resource Hub also has a specific resources for practitioners webpage on [Child to Parent Violence](#).
- Domestic Abuse and Older People. As well as visiting the [Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire](#) webpages on this subject; The Dewis Choice Project are also offering [free online training](#) for practitioners working with this group.

Multi-agency Procedures and Practice Guidance

Please ensure that everyone in your organisation is familiar with Shropshire's multi-agency procedures and practice guidance related to Domestic Abuse including [Shropshire Domestic Abuse Pathway](#) and [Professional Curiosity Management and Practice Guidance](#) (Including additional guidance on how to maintain professional curiosity during COVID-19)



Safe Spaces Scheme



Be aware that UK Says No More is working with Boots UK, Superdrug Pharmacies and independent pharmacies that have signed up to the Safe Spaces scheme, to facilitate their pharmacy consultancy rooms as a Safe Space for victims of domestic abuse during COVID-19. Further information on the Safe Space initiative can be found [here](#).

Domestic Abuse and Child Neglect

Be vigilant that child neglect may be linked to domestic abuse in a household. Professor Jan Horwath has drawn on research into child neglect and makes suggestions as to how neglectful parents and children may respond to lockdown in her report [Working with Child Neglect During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#).



SSCP COVID-19 webpages

Visit our websites for information and resources on safeguarding issues and responses during the Covid-19 Pandemic.



[Adult Safeguarding Resources](#)



[Children's Safeguarding Resources](#)

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Websites:

[Safeguarding Shropshire's Children](#)

[Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire](#)

[Crime and Community Safety](#)