Domestic Abuse
Safeguarding
Fact Sheet

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can be physical, emotional, psychological, financial, or sexual.

An individual who is forced to alter their behaviour because they fear the reaction of someone else is categorised as being abused. Although domestic abuse can be an isolated event, it is rarely a one-off. Domestic abuse is often systematic behaviour that is frequent, and can become more severe over time.

It is important to acknowledge that domestic abuse can happen to anyone, and that it occurs regardless of age, social background, gender, religion, sexuality, or ethnicity.

Domestic abuse can happen in all relationships (heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender), and both males and females can be the abuser and victim.

• 26% of people say that a friend, or someone they know, has been victim of gender-based abuse
• 56% of young adults have experienced controlling behaviours from a partner.

Signs to look out for — domestic abuse

Please note that the below signs are not prescriptive. However, they can provide an indication of potential domestic abuse.
Keep an eye out for things like:

• Excuses for injuries
• Personality changes, such as low self-esteem in someone who is usually naturally very confident
• Constantly 'checking in' with their partner or family member
• Never having money on hand
• Overly worried about pleasing their partner
• Skipping out on work, school, or social outings for no clear reason.

If you are concerned that you are, or someone you know is, or may be, suffering from domestic abuse, please contact The Skills Network's Designated Safeguarding Lead, Paul Wakeling (Director of Curriculum and Quality), via email at safeguarding@theskillsnetwork.com or on 01757 600706.

Resources & Helplines

Women's Aid - https://www.womensaid.org.uk/

National Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0808 2000 247

Men's Advice Line - https://mensadviceline.org.uk/

Source: https://www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/forms-of-violence-and-abuse/domestic-violence/