

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse involves threats, violence or abuse between people who have a relationship with each other (or have had in the past). It can happen between partners, within families or shared homes and affects both men and women in straight and or gay relationships. It happens between people of all cultures, religions or classes. It is based on one person having power or control over another, and it often gets worse over time.

There are five forms of domestic abuse:

Emotional abuse

- Saying things on purpose to frighten the other person, or make them feel worthless.
- Putting the person down to make them feel bad e.g. constantly saying someone is stupid or ugly.
- Emotional abuse can also include humiliation, constant criticism, with holding love and affection, not letting the person see their friends.

Physical abuse

- This includes hurting someone by hitting, kicking, pushing, punching, and stabbing.
- In the worst case it can end up with someone being killed.

Verbal abuse

- Using abusive language.
- Swearing, or name calling.
- Blaming, humiliating, or criticising and threatening the person.

Sexual abuse

- Forcing or encouraging someone to have sex or making them do things they don't want to.
- Taking photos of someone in a sexual situation when they don't agree, or when they don't know, sending those photos to others, or putting them on a web site and making them look at pornography.

Financial abuse

- This includes taking the other person's
- Not letting the person work.
- Controlling what and how the person spends their money and not allowing them money of their own.