

# Domestic Abuse: 7 Minute Briefing

## 01 Introduction

This is abusive behaviour of one person towards another, where the two people are over 16 and personally connected. Personally connected includes being or having been married/civil partners/in an intimate relationship or family and relatives.

## 02 Legislation

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 created a new legal definition of domestic abuse (DA)

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/statutory-definition-of-domestic-abuse-factsheet](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/statutory-definition-of-domestic-abuse-factsheet)

## 07 Additional resources and support

Victim First Hub (Thames Valley)

[www.victims-first.org.uk](http://www.victims-first.org.uk)

National Domestic Violence Helpline

0808 2000 247 (24 hours)

## 06 What to do?

Call 999 or 101 in an emergency or call:

- Hestia - Slough Abuse Domestic Service on 01753 477352
- \* Respect Men's advice line (male victims): 0808 801 0327
- Respect Phoneline (perpetrators): 0808 802 4040

## 05 Recommendations

If an adult or child is in immediate danger call 999. If you are worried about an adult with additional care and support needs, please contact Adult Social Care on 01753 475111. If you are concerned about a child, please call 01753 875362. Outside of office hours please ring 01344 351999 for concerns about adults and children. Complete an initial risk assessment using the DASH. Refer high risk cases to MARAC. Encourage anyone affected by domestic abuse to access specialist support available. See the Slough Domestic Abuse Policy, Slough MARAC Policy and local supporting pathways.

## 03 What does domestic abuse look like?

Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following: physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, financial, psychological, emotional or other abuse.

## 04 Things to consider

Be curious... Do you know what could be an indicator of domestic violence or abuse? Do you routinely ask or consider domestic abuse? Would you know how to ask? If you suspected an adult or child was experiencing domestic abuse, what would you do? Are you clear about your responsibilities? Do you make sure you hear the voice of children, including providing tools and using language to enable this? Do you know that support is available for perpetrators to help them change their behaviour?

