

Domestic Violence

The information below is provided for you.

What is domestic violence and abuse?

It is repeated physical, psychological, sexual or financial violence and abuse by a person known to you, usually your partner, ex-partner or family member.

Domestic violence and abuse is one person exerting systematic abusive power and control over another.

Domestic violence and abuse can be experienced by women and men whatever their race, age, class, colour, ability, religion or sexuality.

The violence can begin at any stage of a relationship and may continue after the relationship has ended.

It is usually women who are at the receiving end of domestic violence and abuse and it is often men who are responsible. However, men are also victims of domestic violence and abuse from female partners. Domestic violence and abuse also exists within gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender relationships

Facts about Domestic Violence and Abuse

- This is the largest cause of death in women worldwide and is far greater than war, cancer or motor vehicle accidents.
- In this country, the Police are called by women every 60 seconds about DV abuse.
- 2 women per week in Britain die as a result of this crime and 30 men in Britain die per year.
- At some point during their lives at least 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men are affected by DV.
- 1 in 6 men will be victims of domestic abuse during their lifetime
- 28 men in 2007 were murdered in domestic abuse incidents.
- One man every fortnight is killed by their partner, according to the latest research from the Home Office.
- British police attend 75,000 domestic violence cases a year where men are the victims. This could be at least half the real figure as surveys show 50% of men haven't called the police when attacked, thus putting the figure to 150,000 a year or more.

DEVON CONTACT NUMBERS FOR HELP

IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, OR YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE ELSE WHO IS DUE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE, DIAL 999.

For Women:

If you want to speak to a person **immediately**, it is best to call the local Exeter, East and Mid Devon Free phone confidential Helpline **0800 328 3070**.

If you would like to talk to someone locally but not immediately, a specialist telephone helpline is provided in every district in Devon. It is also possible to arrange to meet an experienced support worker in a confidential venue to suit you.

For persons living in East Devon please ring 01392 435560

If there is an answer phone machine message you may wish to leave your name, but do not leave a contact telephone number if it is unsafe to do so.

For men:

There is a telephone outreach support number for male victims/survivors

Please ring the Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327

For children and young people:

NSPCC - 0800 800 500

This is a free & confidential service for anyone worried about what they are seeing or hearing in their home. The service offers information, advice and counselling.

Other Numbers

Sexual Abuse Line: 0808 800 0188

This is a free phone listening service for people in Devon who have been sexually abused, either recently or in the past.

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is defined as:

'A single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person'.

The same helpline numbers can be used in order to report or seek advice about abuse of elderly people, or **phone 0808 808 8141**.