

# Child Protection in Education Spotlight Briefing

## Domestic Violence

**Domestic violence refers to a wide range of physical, sexual, emotional and psychological, verbal, religious, stalking and harassment; honour based violence, forced marriage and financial abuse of people who are, or have been, intimate partners, whether or not they are married or cohabiting. It can occur in any relationship and in all social groups, regardless of race, religion, social class or age. It can take place in any relationship, including LGBTQ+ partnerships and abuse of men by female partners.**

### Local helplines, services & national links

Aberdeenshire GIRFEC Website  
 Domestic Abuse Awareness e-learning module, ALDO  
 Domestic abuse services and support - Aberdeenshire Council  
 Home | Grampian Womens Aid (grampian-womens-aid.com)  
 Home | Safelives  
 Scottish Women's Aid | Changing attitudes, changing lives. (womensaid.scot)  
 Online chat and freephone 0800 027 1234  
 Scottish Women's Rights Centre (scottishwomensrightscentre.org.uk)  
<https://victimsupport.scot/>  
 AMIS | Abused Men In Scotland  
 Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men | Men's Advice Line UK (mensadvice.org.uk)  
 LGBT Domestic Abuse Scotland | LGBT Youth Scotland



# Domestic Violence

### What to do?

If you witness domestic abuse:

- Use Police Scotland's reporting form : Online Reporting Form | Police Scotland.
- Call 101 or 999 in an emergency

## Why it matters

- Research suggests that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives. This means that you may through work encounter people who are experiencing domestic abuse. Remember, colleagues are not immune from Domestic Abuse either - any one of them may be experiencing domestic abuse of one form or another.   

- Children in households where there is domestic abuse may carry the psychological scars for decades and where the behaviour is normalised, there may be a greater likelihood of them becoming perpetrators or victims in their teenage/ adult life. Exposure to domestic abuse may cause significant harm to children and there is some correlation between domestic abuse and the mental, physical and sexual abuse of children.
- Domestic abuse must become unacceptable in Scottish society so that widespread acceptance that responsibility lies with the perpetrators of abuse and that those who are abused are in no way to blame. It is also important to create a climate of belief, so those people experiencing abuse will come forward and receive the support and services they require.

### Why some people do not report domestic violence:

Partners and children who have experienced abuse may not disclose what has happened to them because:

- they may not perceive what is happening as abuse
- they may be ashamed and embarrassed about what has happened to them
- they fear reprisals and serious escalation of abuse from their partner if outsiders get involved
- they fear that their children will be taken into care
- they are afraid of the police and other authorities, and fear deportation if a refugee, asylum seeker, or someone who has entered the country to get married
- they feel trapped, degraded or humiliated; lacking self-esteem
- they fear of insecurity, including financial
- they hope that their partner's behaviour will change

### What to look for:

People affected by domestic abuse may exhibit one or more of the following signs :

- Low self-confidence and esteem
- Always checking in with their partner
- Change in socialising and behaviours
- Unexplained injuries
- Financial worries
- Become withdrawn
- Changes in how they present themselves
- Withdrawn and uncommunicative
- Repairs - have the police asked for a lock change? Is there damage to internal walls and doors? (Especially bathroom/toilet doors).
- Are there unexplained injuries, debts or rent arrears?

### Information

Nationally, on average 2 women a week and 30 men a year are killed by a current or former intimate partner. 30 women a day attempt suicide and 3 a week are successful in their attempt. Hundreds more commit suicide after attending hospital for treatment for domestic violence related injuries. Domestic abuse is a crime – we all have a duty to act.