

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is not only physical violence. It can also be coercive and controlling behaviour, emotional abuse, financial or sexual abuse.

Domestic abuse can happen between partners or ex-partners. It happens in heterosexual and same sex relationships. The abuse can also come from a family member.

Domestic abuse is not a one off incident but is an on-going pattern of behaviour. Once begun, the abuse and/or violence will often get worse over time.

Some of the early signs of abusive behaviour are jealousy, possessiveness, and verbal abuse including using comments that belittle or undermine you. Abusive people may also try to manipulate you, intimidate you, control you, and isolate you from family and friends.

Abuse is never the victim's fault.

It can happen to anyone regardless of age, occupation, disability, wealth, gender, sexuality or ethnicity.

The First Step

Recognising that you might be in an unhealthy or abusive relationship is the most important first step. Nobody wants to believe that a person they love, or once loved, could be the person hurting them the most.

The Council's domestic abuse service works tirelessly to:

- Prevent domestic abuse
- Keep victims and families safe from abuse
- Hold abusers to account
- Provide leadership, governance and coordination to ensure there is coordinated community response to domestic abuse

You have control over what happens. We can give you information and advice if that is all you want, or we can arrange to meet with you to discuss your situation and what we can do to support you in more detail. We will encourage you to report the abuse to the Police.

If we believe that you are at high risk of further serious harm, or there are children or vulnerable adults at risk, we will need to contact safeguarding services or the Police even without your consent. We would always tell you what we are doing and why - and we would be there to support you throughout.

What support is available?

The City of Doncaster Council has a dedicated domestic abuse service to help prevent and respond to domestic abuse. The service works closely with other agencies to ensure you get the right support when you need it. We support anyone from any background and for those who do not speak English, we can access interpreters.

This leaflet explains the range of support provided by the Council's domestic abuse team.



**DONCASTER
DOMESTIC
ABUSE
HUB**

To take the first steps to accessing support contact the Domestic Abuse Hub, 9am to 4.30pm (Mon to Fri):

☎ 01302 737080

✉ dahub@doncaster.gov.uk

In addition, there is support from:

Phoenix WoMen's Aid

Doncaster's local independent domestic abuse charity:
www.phoenixwomensaid.org.uk

St. Leger Home Options Team:

For housing and homelessness you can call
01302 736000 (Monday - Friday 8:30 - 16:30)
01302 737199 (Out of office hours)

National 24 hour Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 2000 247

Respect Men's Advice Line - Email support

(Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat & Sun 10am-12pm & 4pm-6pm)
info@mensadviceline.org.uk

Mental Health Crisis team

0800 804 8999

Samaritans

Call free on 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org

You can also complete a self-referral form at:
www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabuse

DDAH
**DONCASTER
DOMESTIC
ABUSE HUB**

Doncaster Domestic Abuse Services



"I felt a lot better after one session"

"It's a brilliant service"

"Thank God they are there for me"

"She listened to me and helped me in the right direction"

Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub

The Domestic Abuse Hub is a safe and friendly helpline for people who are worried about an unhealthy or abusive relationship from a partner, former partner or family member. The helpline can also provide guidance if you are worried that a family member or friend might be at risk of harm.

The helpline is open from 9am – 4.30pm, Monday – Friday. There is an answering machine if we can't take your call. We will call you back so please leave details about when it is safe to call: **01302 737080**

There is also information available on our website. You will find a self referral form on the site which you can complete and return to us. A specialist worker will then call you back:

www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabuse

In an emergency dial 999.



The Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)

They provide support for anyone who is being abused by a partner, former partner or family member. They are independent of any single organisation and work on your behalf. They will work with you to identify the risks and by working with other agencies, ensure that action is taken to remove or reduce the risks and improve your safety and well being.

Your IDVA will focus on your safety first. They will look at your personal and home security. In addition, you might need support with housing, financial issues, healthcare, or you may be concerned about your children and what support is available to them. The IDVA can also support you with legal issues, such as supporting you at court and solicitor's appointments. They can also assist you with applying for civil injunctions in order to keep you safe.

If you contact the domestic abuse hub and want support, an IDVA will be offered to you. You may also be contacted by an IDVA if an agency has made a referral to this service on your behalf (this should be done with your consent). If an agency believes that you are at high risk case of serious harm they may refer you for support without your consent and an IDVA would then contact you.



Survivor Voice

Domestic abuse can continue to impact on our lives for many years after the abuse has ended. Individual and group support is available for people who are no longer experiencing domestic abuse but are dealing with the trauma of their experience and want help to move forward.

The Survivor Liaison Service works alongside survivors to ensure that survivor experiences are heard and any learning from those experiences can be used to help improve services. The Survivor Liaison service also ensures that the Doncaster Domestic Abuse Partnership keeps victims and survivors at the heart of everything they do.

You can access the Survivor Liaison Service through the Domestic Abuse Hub:
www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabusesurvivorzone



MARAC

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a partnership initiative for people who are at high risk of further serious harm or death. Relevant agencies share their information relating to the risk and discuss ways to ensure your safety, the safety of any children, and hold abusers to account.

At the MARAC your Independent Domestic Violence Advocate will represent you. They will act as a link between you and the different agencies and will advocate for you.



Training

The Council's domestic abuse service includes a workforce development officer who designs and delivers a complete package of training for Doncaster statutory agency practitioners, schools, business representatives or community and faith groups along with charities, voluntary sector organisations and colleges.

The training is free to access:
www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabusetraining



Partnership Work

The Council's domestic abuse service include specialist workers who aim to work alongside other agencies and businesses to provide a coordinated community response to tackling domestic abuse.

The service is responsible for:

- Coordinating domestic abuse work by all agencies across the City, by producing the Domestic Abuse Strategy and action plans
- Commissioning local services such as safe accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse, and programmes to help those causing harm recognise and change their abusive behaviour
- Identifying areas for improvement and gaps in provision
- Celebrating success
- Continuing to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support services so people know they are not alone and where to get help

