



Supporting Families

DOMESTIC ABUSE

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse/violence is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members (regardless of gender or sexuality). This can include, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.

The NHS further outlines what domestic violence can look like [here](#).

A Safe Space

We know that anyone can be impacted by domestic violence. It can also have a huge impact on a child, even if you believe they have not witnessed anything.

If you would like someone to talk to, Miss Anna Payne and Miss Bryony Dorrans are both trained domestic abuse champions. We can offer a safe space for you to use and signpost you to organisations and resources that can help.



Safeguarding:

If domestic abuse is happening in the home of a child, we have a legal responsibility to record this.

If domestic abuse is putting a child at risk of serious harm (physical or emotional), then we will make a statutory referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. At this level, we do not require your consent and have a legal duty to make a referral.

If there is no risk of serious harm, we will still offer your family support, which may include suggesting a 'targeted help referral', but this is done with your consent.

Local Support

Torbay Domestic Abuse Service can offer advice and support.

- 0800 916 1474 (Free to call)
- T.DAS@sanctuary-housing.co.uk.cjism.net
- www.sanctuary-supported-living.co.uk/tdas
- Woodview House, Torbay Business Park, Woodview Road, Paignton, TQ4 7HP

Operation Encompass:

We are registered with a local scheme called 'Operation Encompass'. This is a partnership between police and schools to ensure children are protected.

Practically, this means that the safeguarding team is informed of any incidents where a child is involved in or exposed to domestic abuse before 9am the next school day. The positive impact of this is:

- Earlier and more effective intervention to reduce the impact of the trauma on the child.
- Quicker and better-informed assessments of risk.
- Reduced stigma and secrecy, hopefully eventually leading to a more open discussion of domestic violence.
- It enables children to feel secure in talking about domestic violence to a trusted adult in school.

Following a notification of an incident, we would usually treat the child with extra care and give them a space to talk with a trusted adult of their choice if they wish to. A member of the safeguarding team would also contact someone with parental responsibility who was not the perpetrator of the incident to offer support



Women's Aid

Telephone: ☎ **0808 200 0247** (24 hours)
Email: ✉ helpline@womensaid.org.uk
Website: 🌐 www.womensaid.org.uk



Men's Advice Line

Helpline: ☎ **0808 801 0327** (Open Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm)
Email: ✉ info@mensadviceline.org.uk
Website: 🌐 www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Your paragraph text



Action on Elder Abuse

Helpline: ☎ **0808 808 8141** (Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)
Email: ✉ enquiries@elderabuse.org.uk
Website: 🌐 <https://www.elderabuse.org.uk>



National Centre for Domestic Violence

Helpline: ☎ **0800 970 2070**
Website: 🌐 www.ncdv.org.uk



Galop

Helpline: ☎ **0800 9995 428**
Website: 🌐 <https://galop.org.uk/>



Victim Support

Helpline: ☎ **0808 168 9111** (Open 24/7)
Website: 🌐 <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

In an emergency, always call 999.