

# Domestic Abuse Workshop



# Welcome and Reminder

Please note, Domestic Abuse can and does impact on many individuals; this can be both directly and indirectly

If you feel affected by any content in this presentation, please speak to your Manager, the Safeguarding Advisor, Employee Support or one of Surrey's Specialist DA Support Services (Outreach - 01483 776822)

# Learning Outcomes



- Raise Awareness of Domestic Abuse (DA) with people who have care and support needs
- Know how to 'spot the signs' and what to do if DA is identified

# What is Domestic Abuse?

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 encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological • physical • sexual
- financial • emotional

*Home Office Definition 2013*

# How prevalent is it?

- **1 in 4** women will experience Domestic Abuse in their lifetime
- On average **2 women are killed** by their partner or ex-partner **every week** in England and Wales
- Approximately **400 people commit suicide** each year who have attended hospital for DA related injuries
- Surrey Police recorded **12,123** Domestic Abuse incidents between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017
- This equates to an average of around **34 incidents recorded per day in Surrey alone**



# What is Controlling and Coercive Behaviour?

**Controlling or Coercive Behaviour** is now a Criminal offence under **Serious Crime Act 2015 Section 76**

Coercive control is now recognised as the most prominent behaviour that underpins the majority of domestic abuse cases

It is a pattern of behaviour which seeks to take away the victim's sense of self, minimising their freedom of action and violating their human rights

# Domestic Abuse Recognition

- Recognising signs of abuse (e.g. of physical abuse; of sexual abuse, psychological abuse...)
- By being informed by another adult or child (mother, relative, son/daughter friend etc.)
- By a disclosure from the person themselves.
- Many of those suffering abuse **won't necessarily recognise it themselves** – we must be alert to what they are describing to us and help them to identify that what they are experiencing may be abuse.

# Forms of Disclosure



- **Indirect** – e.g. asking for someone else; Ambiguous statements in an attempt to alert someone to the fact that they are being abused.
- **Accidental** - Are characterised by abuse coming to light unintentionally. They had not intended to disclose and may not have ever disclosed if specific circumstances had not arisen.
- **Purposeful** - direct disclosures of abuse made purposefully and verbally to the recipient.



# What would you do?

## **Listen, Observe, Stay Engaged**

- Understanding & non-judgmental, supportive attitude
- Thorough research and safe enquiry
- Recognition of perpetrator behaviours
- Recognition of impact and how victims may present
- Effective recording and risk assessment
- Victim support and safeguarding

**Remember - your actions could prevent serious harm or homicide**

# Case example

- An OT visits a woman who has MS, she lives with her ex partner, they jointly own the house and neither wish to sell the house or move out. He provides care for her, meal preparation and administers her medication. She discloses to the OT that he has been leaving her in soiled clothes, withholding her medication and food. He was controlling and had a terrible temper before she became unwell but things have become worse.

# Case example

- A couple of 87 and 85 years old, they have been visited by a paramedic following a fall by Mrs P. It is noticed on the visit that Mr P rarely lets her speak for herself, he says he manages all the finances and states that she cannot be trusted with money. He rejects a referral to a falls team for her. She is spoken to alone and asked about this behaviour, she discloses a long history of controlling and violent behaviour but says that this is how he has always been and she does not want to end a long marriage.

# Case example

- Police are called to attend the home of Miss C, others in the supported living property have called due to hearing raised voices. Miss C has a moderate learning disability. Miss C reports that she is in a new relationship and is very happy, she says that she and her partner argued about money but that it was her own fault, he has gone and everything was ok now. Staff report that Miss C no longer attends social groups she used to and has fallen out with family but seems very happy with her new boyfriend.

# Case example

- The community nursing team visit Mr J, he lives in an annex attached to his son's property. The property is in a poor state of repair and it is very difficult for Mr J to move around safely, there is no heating. Mr J tells the nurses that his son takes very good care of him and he is very grateful to be living there. Mr J's daughter contacts the nursing team when she finds out they have visited and tells them that her brother has power of attorney for her father's finances and that he uses the money for himself. She said he has been violent towards other members of the family and that her father is scared of him. She is no longer allowed to see her father.

# Safe Enquiry

- Safe enquiry means ensuring the potential perpetrator is not and will not easily become aware of the enquiry

*“Because we care about your wellbeing, we also would like to find out if you have ever been hurt or frightened by your partner or a family member. We ask everyone this because we want everyone to be safe as possible. This will help us to provide the best support.”*



# What Next/Recording

- Acknowledgement that DA can often be disclosed via a series of comments – taken individually or taken collectively
- Any concerns should be viewed in ‘totality’ and discussion around whether a Safeguarding Alert should be made held
- If DA is disclosed then the victim should be encouraged and supported to speak with Specialist support services (Outreach) and the Police.

# Practice Tips

- Coercive and controlling behaviour causes significant harm and is a high risk indicator in domestic abuse situations.
- Be alert for physical and mental health impacts of coercive control (e.g. trauma, low self worth, OCD, anxiety etc).
- Have questions you feel comfortable asking that will enable adults suffering from domestic abuse to feel able disclose to you.
- Consider whether a person's response to your position as a professional can be explained by their role as a perpetrator or survivor of coercive control.





# Practice Tips

## Coercion and Control

### What can I do?

- Ask the right questions – show **professional curiosity**;
- **LISTEN** – this may be the first time anyone really has;
- Ask open questions:

‘What is life like for you on a day to day basis?’

‘Tell me about your daily routine...’

‘Tell me about your relationship’

‘What is the first thing you think of when you wake up?’

‘Tell me what you do that makes you happy, or you enjoy’



# Local Authority Duties

- **An adult at risk (aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support)?**

**AND**

- **Is experiencing Domestic Abuse?**

**AND**

- **As a result of their care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect. (Taking into account vital interest)**
- **Our duty under Section 42 is triggered**



# Signposting to Specialist Services

- The importance of support services for Domestic Abuse victims cannot be underestimated.
- Outreach assist with the long term safeguarding of DA victims and can be invaluable to the ongoing management of risk to victims.
- It is imperative to encourage victims to engage with Outreach in order to try and break the cycle of abuse.



Surrey Against  
Domestic Abuse  
[www.surreyagainstda.info](http://www.surreyagainstda.info)

# Signposting to Specialist Services

- **ESDAS - Reigate & Banstead, Mole Valley and Tandridge – 01737 771350**
- **North Surrey Outreach - Epsom & Ewell, Elmbridge and Spelthorne - 01932 260690**
- **South West Surrey Outreach – Waverley - 01483 577392**
- **YourSanctuary – Woking, Runnymede - 01483 776822**

[Surrey Against Domestic Abuse \(SADA\) Website](#)

# DASH Risk Assessment

(Domestic Abuse Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Abuse)

- This tool is used by the police and health services, and can be used by us, to assess the level of risk being presented by the Domestic Abuse situation. On the S-Net;

<http://inet2.surreycc.gov.uk/snet/snetpublications.nsf/docidLookupFileResourcesByUNID/docidC7AE4074E88B744480258179003C18B6?openDocument>



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# MARAC

MARAC is the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference for High Risk Domestic Violence cases. It includes families, sexual partners, partners both current and ex and same sex relationships. It is for those aged 16 and above. The MARAC local to where the victim lives is the one that will discuss the case.

## MARAC Referral Criteria

- **Visible/Assessed High Risk**
- **Potential escalation**
- **Repeat cases**
- **Professional judgement**
- **Harmful Traditional Practices**

Generic MARAC Telephone - 01483 630015

# DVPNs and DVPOs

- DVPNs are granted by a Police Superintendent for 48 hours and can provide immediate protection by preventing the suspected perpetrator from molesting the victim and by removing them from the address.
- DVPOs are civil orders that can be applied for by the police within the 48 hours of a DVPN and are granted by the Magistrates.
- If granted, the order can extend the ban on the perpetrator from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days. This period of time allows the victim the opportunity to consider their options and get the support they need free from the abusive relationship.
- The Police do not need the victim's consent to issue a DVPN, but their views will always be sought.



# Who does DA affect?

- Domestic abuse affects around **1.3 million** women in England & Wales each year – often unrecognised and under reported
- Adults with Social Care needs are far more likely to be at risk of DA than others;
- People with Disabilities
- People with Mental Health concerns
- Older people
- People from the LGBT+ community
- Both female and male victims

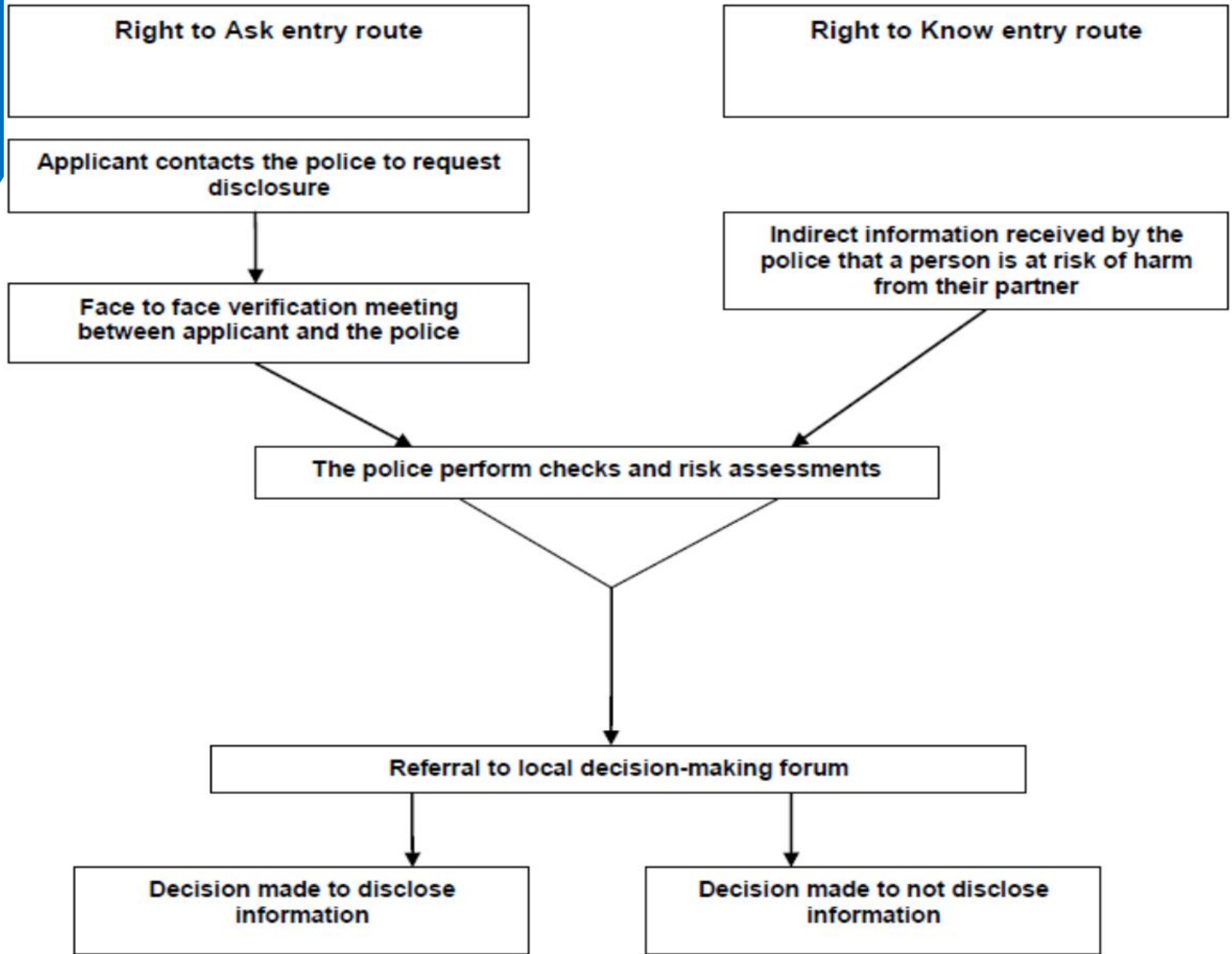
**Anyone** can suffer from Domestic Abuse – so we must **always** be **alert** to the signs



# DVDS

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) is often called 'Clare's Law' after the landmark case that led to it:

- **Right to Ask** - Clare's Law gives any member of the public the right to ask the police if their partner may pose a risk to them. Under Clare's Law, a member of the public can also make enquiries into the partner of a close friend or family member.
- **Right to Know** – As professionals, if we have information that a person's partner has previously perpetrated DA or may pose a risk to them, then we can request a DVDS disclosure be considered by Police under the 'right to know' pathway.



# Useful Links

- Domestic Abuse E Learning
- Surrey Skills Academy
- White Ribbon
- Surrey Against Domestic Abuse
- Community Care Inform – each Team link practitioner
- Evan Stark video on Coercive Control:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quAHbCHj6WQ>

# Support organisations local and national:

## Local support

- [East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service](#) 01737 771350
- [North Surrey Outreach](#) 01932 260690
- [South West Surrey Outreach](#) 01483 577392
- [yourSanctuary](#) 01483 776822

## National support

- [National Domestic Violence Helpline](#) 0808 2000 247
- [National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) 0300 999 5428/0800 999 5428
- [Men's Advice Line](#) 0808 801 0327
- [Stalking Helpline](#) 0808 802 0300

