



Derby and Derbyshire
Safeguarding Children Partnership

COVID-19: Multi-agency update – Domestic Abuse - June 2020

This briefing document sets out up to date guidance for practitioners in line with current national guidance and the [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures](#). Additional measures set out below accompany the specific sections of the local procedures - [Making a referral to Children's Social Care](#) , [S47 and Domestic Abuse procedures](#)

At this challenging time it is vitally important that agencies continue to work together and share relevant safeguarding information to keep children safe. The Home office have issued guidance on [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): support for victims of domestic abuse](#) which can be read alongside [Derbyshire Constabulary's Domestic Abuse Poster](#) – where to get help.



[#You are not alone](#) is the government's campaign to tackle **Domestic Abuse** during lockdown and all partner agencies have been encouraged to take part in the campaign. The government acknowledges that 'the order' to stay at home can cause anxiety for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse. There is never an excuse for domestic abuse, no matter what the circumstances are.

For anyone who feels they are at risk of abuse, it is important to remember that there is help and support available to you, including police response, online support, helplines, refuges and other services. Translated versions of the 'you are not alone' campaign are available [here](#).

If you or someone you know is suffering from Domestic Abuse, isolation rules do not apply. Survivors and their children can leave their house and move to alternative accommodation to get out of a hostile situation, or to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm.

Contact and Referrals

Derbyshire Police

If you believe there is an immediate risk of harm to someone, or it is an emergency, you should always call 999. Live chat facility is available between 9am and 9pm on the Police website, <https://www.derbyshire.police.uk/>. Call 999 from a mobile, if prompted, press 55 to [Make Yourself Heard](#) and this will transfer your call to the police.

For safeguarding referrals for Children and young people under the age of 18 – who are at risk of significant harm, affected by witnessing domestic abuse in the family or experiencing it as part of their own relationships, the [DDSCP making a referral to Childrens Social Care](#), [Section 47](#) and [Domestic Abuse](#) procedures should be followed. Referrals should be made via the usual routes:

Derbyshire

Starting Point: 01629 533190 (office hours)
Out of Hours Team: 01629 532600
Derbyshire County Council website
[Starting Point](#)
or www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Derby City

Initial Response Team: 01332 641172
Careline: 01332 786968 (out of hours, weekends and bank holidays)
Derby City Council website – [worried about a child?](#) or www.derby.gov.uk

If you're a child or young person and domestic abuse is happening in your home or relationship, then call ChildLine on **0800 1111**.

There is also a Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: **0808 2000 247**

Additional information to Schools on Police Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-based violence risk identification (DASH) and Public Protection Notice (PPN) referrals to support vulnerable children during COVID-19

The Police have reviewed their systems in order to identify where additional support is required for vulnerable children and when Police Officers attend incidents and complete a PPN or DASH they will consider whether the child(ren) present would benefit from additional support from their school setting if not in school.

- Schools/colleges will continue to receive stopping domestic abuse together (SDAT) notifications and should continue to respond to these as they would with any other safeguarding concern. Children's Social Care (CSC) will continue to receive information from the police based on the completed PPN or DASH.

- When schools receive a DA notification, at the present time schools should not directly approach the child or parent/carer about the incident, but use the notification to be alert and consider whether there may be a need for an enhanced level of contact with the child or family generally, to maintain visibility for the child/young person.
- There may be times when the child or young person may initiate a conversation, and this should be encouraged. Where cases are open to allocated workers and a domestic abuse notification has been received by the school, the school and the social worker need to make contact as soon as possible and both should keep in regular contact. The police are committed to asking additional questions around the child's education if seen in the home at the time of the incident.
Please continue to follow the approved protocols issued to schools.
- Where child protection concerns are identified a referral to children's social care should be made following the processes set out in the [safeguarding children procedures](#), and reference made to the [Threshold Document](#).
A '[Lockdown lens](#)' guidance has been issued in Derbyshire to help schools think about visibility of pupils.

Help and Support for adults who are victims

Support for victims of domestic abuse is available 24 hours a day. In Derbyshire there are a variety of partnership organisations that can help support domestic abuse victims and partners remain committed to protecting the victims of domestic abuse. The helplines can also provide support for professionals needing advice for cases, or for more advice and guidance on domestic abuse.

Click here to go direct to the [referral form](#) and [referral guide](#) on the [Safer Derbyshire Website](#) which holds vital details on accommodation and remote outreach support for adults and children [Domestic abuse support and information services in Derbyshire](#).

Derbyshire

In **Derbyshire County** the number for reporting or discussing domestic abuse is the Domestic Abuse Helpline

Tel: **08000 198 668** or email:

derbyshiredahelpline@theelmfoundation.org.uk

Deaf and hard of hearing people can text
07534 617252.

Derby City

In **Derby City** the number for reporting or discussing domestic abuse is the Derby City Domestic Violence Service

Tel: **0800 085 3481 (Mon-Sun, 8:00am –**

8:00pm) www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/our-services/outreach/

Helpful Resources – Domestic Abuse

Webchat for professionals working with perpetrators of domestic abuse

Drive, in partnership with Respect, launches new service for professionals working with high-harm, high-risk perpetrators. A new webchat service aimed at providing expert advice to professionals in a wide-range of sectors working with high-risk, high-harm perpetrators of domestic abuse, has launched. The service was developed as a response to COVID-19 and the need to provide up-to-date advice around best practice for professionals who are delivering services while contending with the challenges of the COVID-19 lockdown. It's available to all professionals – social workers, probation officers, mental health and health care professionals, domestic violence advisors, police officers, and more. The webchat is available to offer free support and guidance every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between the hours of 10am-12pm and 2-4pm for a period of six months. To access the service, please click here <https://respectphoneline.org.uk/frontline-workers/>, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click 'launch webchat'.

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (also known as 'Clare's Law')

Under this scheme you can ask the police to check whether a new, former or existing partner has a violent past. This is called 'right to ask'. If records show that you may be at risk of domestic abuse from a partner, the police will consider disclosing the information. A disclosure can be made if it is legal, proportionate and necessary to do so. Read more information in the [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme guidance](#), and click here to make a [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme application](#)

Read information and practice guidelines for professionals protecting, advising and supporting [victims of forced marriage](#).

Women's Aid has a list of [useful links for websites and organisations providing relevant information and support](#).

[Refuge](#) provides a range of support for women, men and children, including the freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247. It has a range of useful information about domestic abuse such as Covid-19 survivor tips and tech abuse where perpetrators use modern technology to facilitate their abuse.

The [Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse](#) website provides resources to support employers including an [employers' toolkit](#).

The [Men's Advice Line](#) is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them.

[Shelter](#) provides free confidential information, support and legal advice on all housing and homelessness issues including a [webchat service](#).

The [Safe Lives](#) charity is dedicated to ending domestic Abuse. [SafeLives](#) also provides guidance and support to professionals and those working in the domestic abuse sector, as well as additional advice for those at risk.

NSPCC Website > [Get further advice on dealing with arguments, conflict and family tension during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) on the NSPCC website](#)

NSPCC domestic abuse: impact on child welfare [Protecting children from domestic abuse during coronavirus](#)

During this intense period of social distancing where families are spending more time together, safeguarding policies and procedures should reflect the heightened risk of [domestic abuse](#).

Guidance to support domestic abuse survivors including their children in domestic abuse safe accommodation settings, including refuges and other types of safe accommodation has also been published – please see [COVID-19: guidance on isolation for domestic abuse safe-accommodation settings](#)

Briefing: [children, domestic abuse and coronavirus](#) - Outlines and discusses the effects of domestic abuse on children, particularly during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Childrens Commissioner

Helpful Resources – COVID-19

Following the introduction of the Coronavirus Act, Tri.x has created an additional COVID Standalone Resource <https://www.proceduresonline.com/resources/covid19/> which contains relevant changes and information as they relate to key procedures. Tri.x will now be adding a link to this resource from our online procedures manual. <https://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>.

Tri.x information should NOT be used as a substitute for local directives and practitioners (regardless of setting) should contact their line manager for their organisation's latest guidance

[Guidance on Staying Alert and Safe](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on vulnerable children and young people](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for children's social care services](#)

