This isn’t love

You look ridiculous
SHUT UP
You made me do it
IT WAS ONLY A SLAP

It’s because I love you
ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?
YOU’RE WORTHLESS

You’re a bad mother
love Shouldn’t hurt
No-one will believe you
WON’T HAPPEN AGAIN
YOU’LL NEVER manage WITHOUT ME

I’m sorry
I’ll always find you
I’m the only one you need!

Who else would want you?

Sandwell Partnership
MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER CITY

Safer Sandwell Partnership
Local Police and Crime Board
DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE (DVA)

The national definition of DVA is as follows:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour or abuse between those aged 16 years or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- Psychological: e.g. perpetrators can be charming one minute and terrifyingly aggressive the next
- Physical: e.g. victims and their children can be hurt or threatened with violence
- Sexual: e.g. rape and sexual assault can be part of DVA
- Financial: e.g. money being withheld from victims so they’re unable to buy food or other essential items
- Emotional: e.g. victims constantly belittled or humiliated or regularly criticised or insulted

This definition includes so called “honour” based abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. If someone is being abused in some of these ways, they could be feeling:

- Frightened
- Isolated
- Insecure
- Degraded
- Unable to make even basic decisions
- Trapped
- DVA is also a crime.
WHO CAN EXPERIENCE DVA? – ANYONE!

- Overall in the UK, one in 4 women and one in 6 men will experience DVA
- It happens across all cultures and whether you are rich or poor.
- In all kinds of relationships: heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
- 30% of DVA cases start in pregnancy
- In 90% of incidents, children are present or in the next room
- Whatever form it takes, DVA is rarely a one-off incident, and should instead be seen as a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour which can increase in frequency and severity over time, and through which the abuser seeks power over their victim.
- DVA is also a crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AND THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

- DVA can start or escalate in pregnancy with the most serious outcome being the death of the mother or the foetus. It is also associated with low birth weight and premature birth, both of which have subsequent long term health effects.
- Research suggests that witnessing DVA is a damaging form of emotional abuse and harms babies as young as nine months.
- In 90% of incidents children are present or in the next room.
- Children are at increased risk of physical harm either by accident or because they intervene.
- Exposure to DVA has an impact on emotional wellbeing either from witnessing or hearing domestic abuse.
- The effects on short term welfare and long term life chances vary according to the age and development of the child. If children do not feel safe in their own home this can have many negative physical, emotional and behavioural effects. These include poor physical health complaints, developmental delays, anxiety, depression, poor school performance, low self-esteem, difficult behaviours and nightmares.
- Parental substance misuse and mental health issues can exacerbate DVA and its effects on children.
- Issues of parental separation and subsequent child contact are often contentious and can significantly increase the risk of DVA.
- DVA is a key feature in a high percentage of Serious Case Reviews carried out following a child death.

Even if staff are only working directly with an adult, if DVA is identified or disclosed then your organisation’s safeguarding children policy must be followed.
If you are approached by someone experiencing DVA, you are responsible for checking your organisation’s policies on DVA; Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults. Please contact your manager, senior colleagues or your organisation’s safeguarding team if you need advice on what to do. When victims do come forward and seek help, it may be their first and only chance to get the support they need.

It’s also important to reassure them that the DVA is not their fault.

Follow the 4 step process on the next page
Step 1 - Disclosure

• Ensure victims are in a safe place where they can speak to you confidentially and children are being looked after
• Use interpreters where necessary (not a family member or close friend)

Victims need validation, reassurance and empathy

Step 2 - Immediate action

• If any danger to victims, children or to you as a worker, contact police on 999 and make appropriate referral to your safeguarding lead

Step 3 - Assess risk to victim and children/unborn

• Undertake DASH risk assessment if trained (DASH)
• If not DASH trained, use your professional judgement and direct victims to appropriate support and refer to your safeguarding lead
• Check for mental health, substance misuse, disability or cultural issues
• Make appropriate referrals for support-see contact details below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sandwell Services</th>
<th>West Birmingham Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandwell Womens Aid</td>
<td>Birmingham &amp; Solihull Women’s Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0121 553 0090)</td>
<td>(0808 800 0028) <a href="http://bswaid.org/contact-us">http://bswaid.org/contact-us</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARAC</td>
<td>Birmingham MARAC referrals:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0121 569 3030)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ppu_referrals_unit@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">ppu_referrals_unit@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for referrals of high risk victims</td>
<td>Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0121 303 1888) <a href="mailto:MASH@birmingham.gov.uk">MASH@birmingham.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Social Care</td>
<td>Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0845 351 0131)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk">www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Early Help 0845 352 1836 /2516 / 7122</td>
<td>Emergency Housing - office hours (0121 303 7410)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Reporting Concerns - Home</td>
<td>Emergency Housing - out of hours (0121 303 2296)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandwell SCB )</td>
<td><a href="http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/homeless">www.birmingham.gov.uk/homeless</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for Vulnerable Adults</td>
<td>Support for vulnerable adults – Emergency duty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0845 352 2266)</td>
<td>team (0121 303 1234) <a href="http://www.bsab.org">www.bsab.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report adult abuse - Sandwell Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0121 569 6000 ) (Homeless or at risk of losing your home - Sandwell Council)</td>
<td>Emergency Housing - office hours (0121 303 7410)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professionals</td>
<td>Emergency Housing - out of hours (0121 303 2296)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Your Health - Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/homeless">www.birmingham.gov.uk/homeless</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Share information safely and appropriately. Do not release information to perpetrator or close relatives.

For guidance on information-sharing, see: Seven Golden Rules of Information Sharing

Step 4- Support/Safety Planning

• Encourage victims to report to police/seek help from Women’s Aid
• Ensure victim is safe to return home / offer safety planning advice (Women’s Aid - The Survivor’s Handbook - Making a safety plan)
• Update agency records and /or keep confidential notes of what’s been done

Further information can be found at:
www.sandwell.gov.uk/domesticabuse
http://birminghamcsp.org.uk/category/domestic-violence/
It can take seven years from first deciding to act to end an abusive situation and leave for good.

In supporting a victim to consider their options you need to understand that:

- A victim may not want to make immediate decisions about their future.
- There is no single right way to deal with an abusive relationship. Each victim will find a solution that is appropriate to them.
- Violence usually escalates.
- Victims who return to a situation that continues to be violent need more help, not less.
Barnardo’s Screening Tool
The Barnardo’s Screening Tool (BST) is a multi-agency risk identification safeguarding tool which assesses the level of risk to a child/young person who is experiencing domestic abuse in their family using four threshold levels. If you are concerned about risks to children and young people in Sandwell, phone 0845 351 0131 (24 hours) and in Birmingham contact Birmingham MASH on 0121 303 1888.

DASH
A Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) risk assessment tool is a checklist which identifies the level of risk from domestic abuse and the most appropriate response e.g. referral to MARAC. The DASH risk assessment tool is an evidence based risk identification check list designed to increase the likelihood of a victim of domestic abuse being responded to appropriately and therefore addressing the risks they face. If you are not confident in using the DASH, refer the victim to Sandwell Women’s Aid or Birmingham & Solihull Women’s Aid http://bswaid.org/contact-us.

MARAC
If victims are aged 16 or over and at high risk of serious harm or homicide, a referral to a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) will be needed. MARAC is a multi-agency partnership where information is shared between agencies to produce a risk focused, co-ordinated safety plan to support the victim. For further information on Sandwell MARAC, please phone 0121 569 3030. In Birmingham, MARAC referrals should be sent to: ppu_referrals_unit@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Female Genital Mutilation
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), often referred to as ‘female circumcision’, comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural, religious or other non-therapeutic reasons. FGM is usually carried out on young girls and women. It is a crime in the UK and if you think a girl or woman is at risk of FGM, you should contact the police, Children’s Social Care, Sandwell Women’s Aid or Birmingham & Solihull Women’s Aid. Further information can be found from Female genital mutilation (FGM) | NSPCC and FGM National Clinical Group.

Forced Marriage
In a forced marriage, one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage, or consent is given under duress. If someone tells you that they are being forced into marriage or you are worried that they may be taken abroad to be forced into marriage then the police should always be contacted as urgent action may need to be taken. The Forced Marriage Unit at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office can provide information and support: www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage

If there is a concern that a Sandwell adult does not have capacity to consent to a planned marriage or is under duress to take part in a marriage ceremony against their wishes then adult social care should be contacted on 0845 352 2266. Where a Sandwell child is at risk of forced marriage, contact children’s social care to make an immediate child protection referral on 0845 351 0131. In Birmingham, if support for vulnerable adults is required, contact 0121 303 1234 www.bsab.org or for a child at risk, contact Birmingham MASH on 0121 303 1888.

Glossary
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Honour Based Violence
Honour Based Violence (HBV) is a term used by many cultures for justification of abuse and violence. It is defined as “an incident or crime which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community.” Sometimes it is described as a way to prevent a person from bringing shame to a family or community, or punish them for doing so. If someone states that they are experiencing honour based violence and are at risk of harm, contact the police or Sandwell Women’s Aid or Birmingham & Solihull Women’s Aid for safeguarding. HBV is also a form of child abuse. If you are concerned that a child is at risk, contact Children’s Social Care to make a child protection referral or to Adult Social Care if a Vulnerable Adult. Specialist agencies like Karma Nirvana can also provide information (http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/).

Domestic Homicide Reviews
A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a partner or family member. The purpose is to learn lessons from the death in order to prevent the likelihood of further domestic homicides. Further information can be found at: Domestic violence and abuse - Detailed guidance - GOV.UK

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare’s Law)
Clare’s Law – the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – is designed to provide victims with information that may protect them from an abusive situation before it ends in tragedy. The scheme allows the police to disclose information about a partner’s previous history of domestic violence or violent acts. Further information can be found at: Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme

Domestic Violence Protection Notices / Orders
A Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) can be issued by police where violence or a threat of violence has occurred in order to protect victims from further violence and/or threats. The purpose is to prevent the perpetrator from being in the victim’s home and restricts them from returning whilst the notice is in place. Further information is available at: Domestic Violence Protection Orders

FURTHER LOCAL CONTACTS: SANDWELL / WEST BIRMINGHAM

Police
The Police can support and help victims in the following ways:

• Protecting victims and their children from further injury or harm
• Arresting and removing the perpetrator
• Arranging first aid or medical help (such as an ambulance)
• Investigating what has happened and gathering evidence
• Giving the victim a chance to speak away from the abuser
• Helping victims to access other support agencies, such as finding a safe place to stay.

A police officer will attend a reported incident of domestic violence and abuse. You can report any incident of domestic violence and abuse to the Police.
West Midlands Police: Ring 101 or 0345 113 5000
In an emergency ring 999
www.west-midlands.police.uk
Sandwell Women’s Aid
Sandwell Women’s Aid (SWA) offers accommodation, practical and emotional support to victims and children experiencing domestic and sexual violence.
Sandwell Women’s Aid 0121 553 0090
www.sandwellwomensaid.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM:

Ashram reducing Domestic Violence Project
Support and refuge for women experiencing domestic violence.
0121 764 3817
www.ashramha.org.uk

Bharosa
Domestic abuse support service specialising in Asian women.
0121 303 0368

Birmingham & Solihull Women’s Aid
BSWA offers a range of services including an outreach service, family support, refuge, counselling for women and children experiencing domestic abuse as well as training for practitioners.
0808 800002.
www.bswaid.org

Birmingham Crisis Centre
Provides a safe haven for female victims of domestic abuse.
0121 507 0707
www.birminghamcrisis.org.uk

Birmingham Refuge line
Access to safe emergency domestic abuse refuge accommodation
0800 111 4223.
www.reachthecharity.org.uk

Life Project
West Midlands regional project that is run by Throughcare Housing and Support specifically aimed at victims of forced marriage.
0121 554 3920.
www.throughcare.com

Roshini
Domestic abuse support and accommodation for Asian women and children.
0870 707 0098.
www.roshnibirmingham.org.uk

Shelter Domestic Abuse Project
The project provides practical support to help families find and keep a home free from abuse.
0800 111 4223 (Refugeline – 24 hours).
www.shelter.org.uk
WAITS (Women Acting in Today’s Society)
Support, advocacy & befriending
0121 440 7000
www.waitsaction.org

Women’s Help Centre.
Empowering women, including Asian women's domestic violence project.
0121 551 2370
www.womenshelpcentre.co.uk

NATIONAL CONTACTS:

Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse
Offering information, guidance, support, advocacy and practical help to families bereaved through domestic abuse.
07768386922.
www.aafda.org.uk

Broken Rainbow
Broken Rainbow provides support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people experiencing domestic abuse. (Nationwide service)
0300 333 5428
www.brokenrainbow.org.uk

FGM Helpline
Call the FGM Helpline if you are worried a child is at risk of, or has had FGM
0808 028 3550 (24 hours)

Forced Marriage Unit
A national service for those affected by forced marriage.
020 7008 0151.
www.fco.gov.uk

Honour Network
National forced marriage & honour based violence helpline
0800 5999 247
www.karmanirvana.org.uk

ManKind Initiative
A national charity that provides help and support for male victims of domestic abuse.
www.mankind.org.uk

Men’s Advice Line
Advice and support for male victims of domestic violence and abuse.
www.mensadvice-line.org.uk

National Domestic Abuse Helpline
This is a Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline, run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge. This is a national service, for women experiencing domestic violence, their family, friends, colleagues and others calling on their behalf. Translation facilities for callers whose first language is not English and a service for callers who are deaf of hearing impaired are available.
0808 2000 247.
www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk
Respect
Respect is the UK association for professionals working with domestic violence perpetrators and associated support services. The organisation’s key aim is to increase the safety of those experiencing domestic violence through promoting effective interventions with perpetrators.
www.respect.uk.net

SAMM (Support after Murder and Manslaughter)
SAMM is a national UK Charity supporting families bereaved by murder and manslaughter.
0121 471 1200.
www.samm.org.uk

Safe Lives
A national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse. Previously called Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA), the charity is now focused on making sure all families are safe.
www.safelives.org.uk

Southall Black Sisters
Southall Black Sisters provide advice and information on domestic abuse, racial harassment, welfare and immigration, primarily for Asian, African and African-Caribbean women.
www.southallblacksisters.org.uk

www.sandwell.gov.uk/domesticabuse
http://birminghamcsp.org.uk/category/domestic-violence/

Produced by Sandwell Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership.
To request further copies of this document please contact 0121 569 3032