

**Domestic Violence and Abuse**

**DSL:** Melanie Brown **Deputy DSL:** Julian Churchill, Kate Lloyd Christie, Bea Collis, Jude Evans, Donna Stanley

**What is domestic violence and abuse?**

Domestic violence is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, 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.

It can involve, but is not limited to:

- psychological abuse
- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- financial abuse
- emotional abuse.

Approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will/ have experienced domestic abuse (2002)

- Children 0-12 months are at the highest risk
- Children under 7 are at a high risk

**Impact of Domestic Abuse on children**

- Low self-esteem
- Anxious
- Depressed
- PTSD
- Self-harm
- Decreased capacity for insight/ empathy (animal cruelty)
- May model behaviour from home
- Difficulty concentrating at school

**The single most critical factor in how domestic abuse impacts on children is the presence of at least ONE loving and supportive parent.**

**School role**

School receives information from the Police to alert the DSL where there has been an incident of domestic abuse in a household where a pupil lives/ lived. We are not informed of the detail of the incident, only that one has occurred. This allows us to monitor and support the pupil. If we have additional concerns, the DSL will discuss the need for further safeguarding actions with Social Care. This information would only be shared with other staff on a restricted need to know basis.

Where a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) occurs the school may be asked for information and appropriate school related information may be shared with the school after the meeting.

**Support available for children and young people**

Poole Domestic Violence Project 01202 710777

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

**Further information:** S:\Safeguarding\Domestic Violence and abuse