



**Domestic abuse in Sutton**

“Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse. It is not something that anyone chooses, the situation creeps up on them. It can affect anyone, male or female, adult or child.”

**Sutton resident**

Quote from the Domestic Abuse Research Report 2017, commissioned for the Domestic Abuse Transformation Programme

Tackling domestic violence and abuse and its causes is one of the four priorities of **THE SUTTON PLAN**

Visit <http://www.thesuttonplan.org/> for more information on The Sutton Plan

## What is domestic abuse?

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.

The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

• psychological • physical • sexual • financial • emotional

- This is taken from the government definition of domestic violence and abuse.
- Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.
- Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

## Why is it a priority?

- **1.9 million people** experienced domestic abuse in England and Wales.
- **One third of violent crimes**, 11% of crimes in general.
- **Approximately three people a week are killed** in domestic murders - nearly a third of all murders. **70% of victims were women.**

- Around 1.9 million people in England and Wales, aged between 16 and 59 years old, experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2017. That's about 6% of people within that age range.\*
- In the same period, domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police accounted for nearly a third of violent crimes (32%) and 11% of crimes in general.\*
- Between April 2013 and March 2016, 454 people were killed in domestic homicides (approximately three people a week) - nearly a third of all murders where the victim was aged 16 and over. Of this figure, 70% of victims were women\*

\*Source: Office for National Statistics

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2017>

## Why is it a priority?

- **More than 100,000 people in the UK are at imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured each year, as a result of domestic abuse.**
- **Women are more likely than men to experience high risk or severe domestic abuse:** 95% of those going to MARAC or accessing IDVA services are women.
- Nearly 1 in 3 women who have experienced domestic abuse report that the **first incidence happened while they were pregnant.**

- Each year more than 100,000 people in the UK are at imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured as a result of domestic abuse.\*
- Women are more likely than men to experience high risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference) or accessing IDVA (Independent Domestic Adviser / Advocate) services are women.\*\*
- Nearly one in three women who suffer from domestic abuse during their lifetime report that the first incidence of violence happened while they were pregnant\*\*\*

\*SafeLives (2015), Getting it right first time: policy report. Bristol: SafeLives.

\*\* SafeLives (2015), Insights Idva National Dataset 2013-14. Bristol: SafeLives. SafeLives (2014), Marac national dataset 2014. Bristol: SafeLives

\*\*\* Lewis, G, Drife, J, et al. (2001) Why mothers die: Report from the confidential enquiries into maternal deaths in the UK 1997-9; commissioned by Department of Health from RCOG and NICE (London: RCOG Press)

## Why is it a priority?

- **In Sutton, domestic violence accounted for over a third (38%) of incidents of violence with injury.**
- **Witnessing domestic abuse can lead to a range of profoundly negative effects on children's development.**
- **Two thirds of child protection plans in Sutton have a domestic abuse element.**

- In Sutton, domestic violence accounted for over a third (38%) of incidents of violence with injury in 2017 (467 out of 1,242)\*. It was 12th out of the 32 London boroughs in terms of reports of domestic violence per 1,000 population\*\*.
- Two thirds of child protection plans in Sutton have a domestic abuse element\*\*\*

\*Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2017-18

\*\*MOPAC – [london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/crime%20/domestic-and-sexual](https://london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/crime%20/domestic-and-sexual)

\*\*\* From Quality and Assurance data taken from monitoring forms

## Why is it a priority?

- **Almost a million children are affected by domestic abuse** across the UK every year; on any given day, 1 in 5 pupils will be experiencing domestic abuse.
- **Adverse childhood experiences have a direct impact on a child's mental health.** This can continue into adulthood; 1 in 3 adult mental health conditions relate directly to adverse childhood experiences.
- Domestic abuse can have a range of other negative consequences including substance abuse, the inability to work, and anxiety, to name just a few.

- **Almost a million children are affected by domestic abuse** across the UK every year; on any given day, 1 in 5 pupils will be experiencing domestic abuse\*.
- Adverse childhood experiences have a direct impact on a child's mental health. These experiences continue to have an impact on their mental health as they move into adulthood. Studies indicate that 1 in 3 adult mental health conditions relate directly to adverse childhood experiences\*\*.
- 1 in 8 adults who witnessed domestic abuse in their family homes as children say that the impact of the abuse had an immense adverse impact on their childhood\*\*\*.

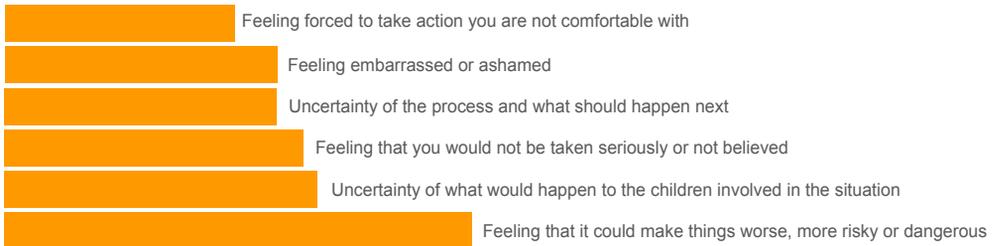
\*Lorraine Radford, S. C. (2011). *Child abuse and neglect in the UK today*. London: NSPCC.

\*\*Kessler RC, McLaughlin KA, Green JG, Gruber MJ, Sampson NA, Zaslavsky AM et al (2010) Childhood adversities and adult psychopathology in the WHO World Mental Health Surveys. *Br J Psychiatry* 197(5):378–385

\*\*\*Opinium 2018

## Hidden crime

When residents were asked to state potential barriers to reporting domestic abuse they gave the following reasons:



When residents were asked to state potential barriers to reporting domestic abuse they gave the following reasons:

- Feeling that it could make things worse, more risky or dangerous - 56% said this
- Uncertainty of what would happen to the children involved in the situation - 46%
- Feeling that you would not be taken seriously or not believed - 44%
- Uncertainty of the process and what should happen next - 42%
- Feeling embarrassed or ashamed - 42%
- Feeling forced to take action you are not comfortable with - 39%

It's important that we show that dealing with domestic abuse is a priority in Sutton and allay people's fears about reporting.

\*Figures from the Domestic Abuse Research Report 2017, commissioned for the Domestic Abuse Transformation Programme

## What are we doing?

### Domestic Abuse Transformation Programme

- Three year programme focused on persistent high rates of domestic abuse, its causes and associated issues
- Borough-wide, multi-agency partnership
- Ensuring services are fit for purpose in dealing with domestic abuse
- Increasing awareness of the issue

The Domestic Abuse Transformation Programme was launched in 2017. It is a:

- Three year programme focused on persistent high rates of domestic abuse, its causes and associated issues, looking at ensuring our services are fit for purpose in dealing with this issue
- Borough-wide, multi-agency partnership
- We are part of this partnership and are reviewing and improving our services and increasing staff awareness of issues around domestic abuse. This presentation and the posters and articles that you will see throughout the year are part of this awareness campaign, in preparation for a public campaign next year. *[You can specify specific initiatives in your organisation, eg if there is a training event coming up etc]*

**For more information...**

**[notaloneinsutton.org.uk](http://notaloneinsutton.org.uk)**