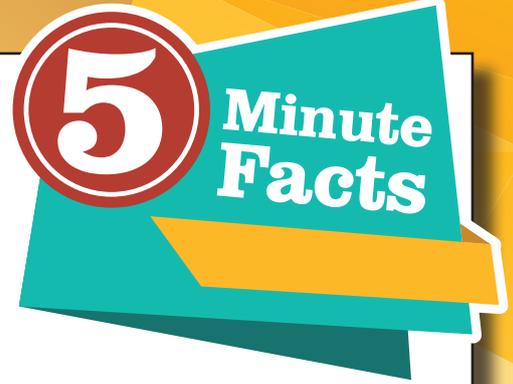


Domestic Abuse and Children's Services



What is it?

Domestic abuse refers to a one off incident or recurring incidents of violence, threatening, controlling behaviour toward anyone who is 16 years of age and over, by someone who is or has been their partner/spouse or a family member.

Domestic abuse is often used to intimidate someone to control or to coerce them by using threats, violence, humiliation that can be harmful to them psychologically, physically, sexually, financially or emotionally.

Children's Services response to domestic abuse

Social Workers from Children's Services become involved in cases of domestic abuse if there is a pregnant woman and/or children present in the household and they are at risk of significant harm.

When the police are called to a household because of a reported domestic abuse incident, if there is a pregnant woman or a child present, Children's Social Care services are notified. In some cases, we are already working with the child and their family so we get to know about domestic incidents directly, or we get to know from the police who attended the incident.

Discussions take place between the police and social workers to decide whether a child or unborn child is at risk of significant harm or there is a likelihood of significant harm. If this is the case, the Referral and Assessment team will complete a Children and Families assessment.

All referrals are dealt with in line with Greater Manchester Safeguarding Proceedings.

How do partners work together?

Safeguarding procedures are available from the Bolton Safeguarding Children's Board website. If it is decided that the family does not require a social work response or assessment but might benefit from universal or targeted services, information will be shared with the relevant practitioner at a local level. Where there is high risk to the adult, consideration may be given to a referral to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

What should practitioners do?

Practitioners should be mindful of the possibility of domestic abuse when working with families. They should contact the Multi Agency Screening and Safeguarding Service (MASSS) if they are aware of an incident of domestic violence where a pregnant woman or children are present or members of the household are at risk of harm. In emergencies or where a crime is suspected, the police should be contacted.

Domestic Abuse and Children's Services



Key contacts and for more information...

Multi-agency Screening and Safeguarding Service (MASSS)
Tel: **01204 331500**

Police emergencies **999**

Police Safeguarding Unit (non-emergency)
Tel: **0161 856 7949**

Bolton Domestic Violence 24 Hour Helpline
Tel: **01204 701846** (Women seeking refuge accommodation can also ring this number)

National Domestic Violence Helpline
Tel: **0808 2000 247**

Men's Advice Line
Tel: **0808 801 0327**

Support After Rape and Sexual Violence
Tel: **0808 802 9999**

Forced Marriage—Karma Nirvana
Tel: **0800 5999 247**

Perpetrators—Respect Helpline
Tel: **0808 802 4040**

All the local info I need is just a **click away!**



Bolton Council