

Domestic Violence Fact Sheet and Pathway for Haringey **May 2013**

What is domestic abuse?

- Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or 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 behaviour is intentional and is calculated to induce fear and misuse power to control how the victim thinks, feels and behaves.
- Can be psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional and includes 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Every social group and one in four women and one in six men are likely to experience domestic abuse at some time during their life.
Who is at increased risk?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and teenage girls • Adults who are vulnerable or "At risk" • Escalation of violence may start or increase during pregnancy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals suffering with mental ill health, physical disability, learning disability, substance misuse. • Women are at greater risk of violence, or even death, around the time of separation from a perpetrator |
|--|--|

There may be indicators of domestic abuse, the victim or perpetrator may disclose it or you may be informed by another professional. If not:
What to ask about domestic abuse

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a good idea to ask all women and those at increased risk if they are victims of DV. This can be done as part of your usual assessment process and recorded with a risk assessment. Some may also want help as perpetrators. • NEVER ask a women when her partner is present | <p>Suggested questions to ask as selective or routine enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know if this is a problem for you, but we are asking all women/patients/service users if they experience any problem with their partners, because it can be hard to ask for help? • Are you experiencing any violence or any violence between you and your partner? • Does your partner ever hit you or control you in any other way? |
|---|--|

How to respond?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen and assess risks to the victim and any children. • Use the risk assessment in the protocol if you want to assess the risk • Record what you see and are told accurately but never include in reports or letters sent to the home | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are likely to be at considerable emotional and physical risk even if they were not present in the room • Think about who to refer to – use the chart over the page. Never advise the victim to leave without specialist support |
|---|---|

Domestic Violence Pathway BEH-MHT Haringey

