

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027



What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is when your partner or a family member treats you badly.



There are many ways that someone can abuse you. These can include:

- Hurting you by hitting or punching you
- Threatening to hurt you
- Shouting at you and bullying you
- Calling you bad names
- Doing sexual things to you that you don't want
- Stealing your money or other things





The main five types of domestic abuse are:

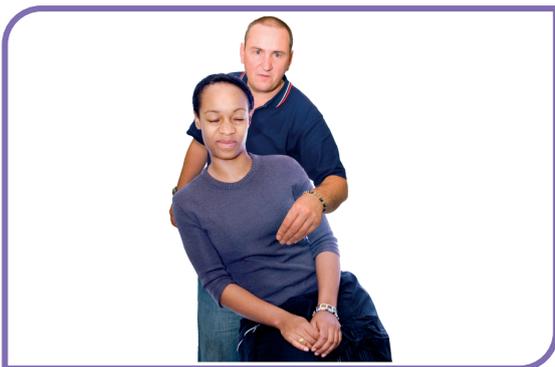
Psychological – This means playing with your mind so that you think the way they want you to, or do what they want you to.



This may make you feel uncomfortable or anxious.



Physical – This means hitting you, this includes punching, kicking or smacking



Sexual – This means touching you, forcing you to touch them, or having sex with you when you don't want it



Financial – This means taking your money or forcing you to give them money



Emotional – This means hurting your feelings and making you feel less confident.



Controlling behaviour – This means a person makes you do things you don't want to do, or stop you from doing things you do want. They might:

- Stop you from seeing people, like friends and family
- Take things like money from you
- Take away your independence
- Force you into a marriage



Abuse is like a spider's web; it may be all around in many things. It can start when you are a child and can go on throughout life – unless it is stopped.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Domestic Abuse Act became law in April 2021.



Rotherham will use this Act to give more power and protection to children and adults who have been abused or are at risk of domestic abuse.



What we want to achieve

In Rotherham, we work with lots of other services as a big team to give advice and support to victims of domestic and sexual abuse.



We need to:



- Continue to make risk assessments better and look at how we find out what has happened to help stop domestic abuse

- Make sure that people who are domestic abusers are punished





Work to stop domestic abuse happening and spot the signs early before it gets worse.



- Help us get a better understanding of Domestic and Sexual Abuse, from both the victim and the abuser.



- Continue to make communication better with everyone who is involved in supporting people when they have been victims of domestic abuse.



- Work with everyone involved to understand and spot the signs of domestic abuse early.



- Make sure there is always the right support.



- Learn and share from the good and bad things that happen and make sure that people know about these through good training and information sharing



- Tell people in the community about our domestic abuse plan, so that people can get involved and everyone will know when to spot the signs of abuse



- Raise awareness and keep training people well to make sure that everyone knows about Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Our Priorities



We have six things we want to work on from 2022-2027

Making change happen together



This means that we will work with all the community to look at how domestic abuse affects people and how we can make changes to help stop domestic abuse.



We will work in strong partnerships with everyone involved, to make sure our understanding about domestic abuse is as good as it can be and that it is reported as soon as possible.



Prevention and Early support

To start with, we will offer support and therapy to the abuser. This might help lower the risk of someone being abused by them.



We will work together with other services that may also offer support to try and change the abuser's behaviour.



Justice and Protection

We will make sure that people who have been abused are given protection and feel safe.



If it is safe, we will make sure the victim and their children are able to stay at home if they choose. If it is not safe, we will offer another place to live to help keep them safe.



For (BAMER) Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic and Refugee victims, we will help them build confidence by working and supporting them to be strong and safe. We will make sure they don't feel alone.



Listening to people's needs and changing services to meet them
We will work together to plan, deliver and buy the right services that meet people's needs.



We will work in co-production with voluntary groups and people who have experienced domestic abuse – including BAMER communities.



We will make one service that includes a new helpline and online support, making it easier for vulnerable adults and children to find information online and get support faster.



This new service will work with both child safeguarding and domestic abuse services. We will do our best to spot abuse and protect families at the first opportunity.



For people who are homeless because of domestic abuse, we will make sure they get priority help from homeless services.



Making sure that there is early help for children and families and lowering the risk of abuse



- **We will** try and stop harm as much as we can and make sure everyone who experiences abuse gets the opportunity to get the right services for them.



- **We will** try to get rid of things that make it hard to report abuse, and will support a person or family for longer when they need it.

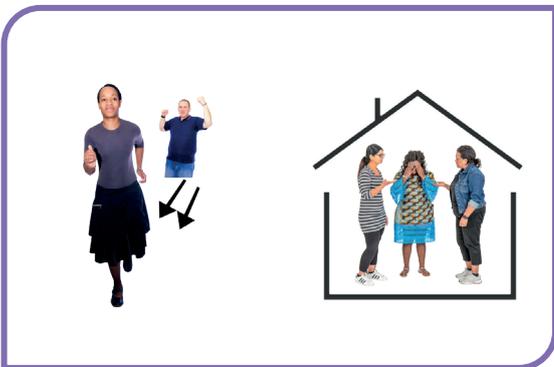


- **We will** make sure that we train all staff who work with people who may have experienced domestic abuse, so they know how to respond to this and care for people. We will help organisations plan for this.

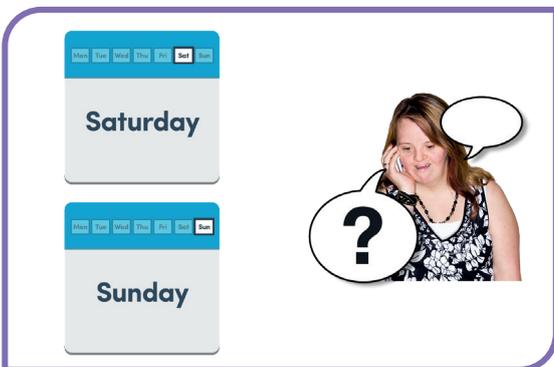


- **We will** give other training about how to help people in forced marriages and other forms of abuse.

Providing safe housing and the right support



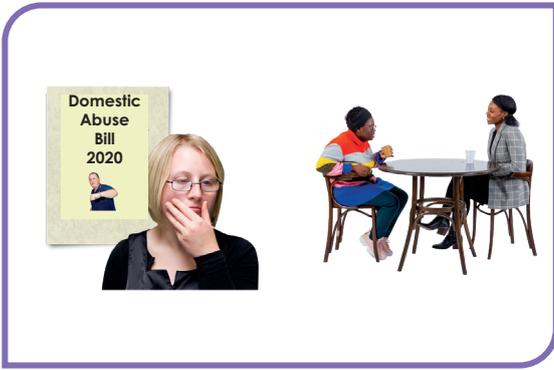
- **We will** make sure that victims of domestic abuse who are not yet homeless, but want to leave their homes are given somewhere to live that is safe and gives the person the right support.



- This support should be available at weekends to people who may be homeless because of domestic abuse.



- Victims of domestic abuse in Rotherham who are on a Leave-to-Remain visa can get support – whether they are in the country legally or not.



- Under the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020, priority will be given to those suffering from domestic abuse who may be homeless. They should be supported by one support worker.



- People who are homeless should be able to get support packages of items they need such as food and baby clothes.

We will do this by:



- Making more housing available to those who may need to get away from domestic abuse



- Keeping the Safer Options contract which will give 8 homes for victims of domestic abuse to keep them safe



- Decorating and continue to keep 5 homes in Rotherham for victims of domestic abuse victims who may be homeless



- Have a specialist Domestic Abuse and Housing Team support officer as the first person to contact



- Making sure that the safe homes are furnished and comfortable for people who are getting away from domestic violence and may not have any personal things with them



- Giving more assessments to give more support for dangerous abuse cases and give the victims of this extra support



- Keep our domestic abuse services to make sure everything runs smoothly



- Give some money to those who have no money and find themselves in emergency housing



If you do need help or support with Domestic Abuse this is who you can contact:



Rotherham Rise

Call our advice line Monday to Friday from 9-5 on: 0330 2020571



Send a message online by filling in the support form on our website:

www.rotherhamrise.org.uk/help



Report to South Yorkshire Police:

Call 999 in an emergency

Call 101 for non emergency



Visit South Yorkshire Police website:

<https://www.southyorks.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/>

Fill out your enquiry on South Yorkshire Police's online portal



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