



Context

The Quality Assurance Sub Group for the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (SGSAB) undertook a multi agency thematic audit in April 2017. This audit reviewed the record of four adults with complex mental health needs open to safeguarding.

As part of this review some of the findings highlighted professional responses to incidents of Domestic Abuse (DA).

Finding One: Professional do not always refer victims of Domestic Abuse to specialist Domestic Abuse Services.

Finding Two: Professionals do not always make innovative efforts to see victims of Domestic Abuse on their own.



Types Of DA

Domestic violence or abuse can be characterised by any of the indicators of abuse outlined in this briefing relating to:

Psychological; Physical; Sexual; Financial; Emotional

Domestic violence and abuse includes 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. It also includes so called 'honour' -based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.



Coercive Control

Coercive or controlling behaviour is a core part of domestic violence. Coercive behaviour can include:

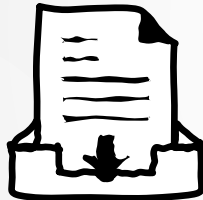
- acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation
- harming, punishing, or frightening the person
- isolating the person from sources of support
- exploitation of resources or money
- preventing the person from escaping abuse
- regulating everyday behaviour



Watch for...

Possible Indicators of Domestic Violence or Abuse:

- Low self-esteem
- Feeling that the abuse is their fault when it is not
- Physical evidence of violence such as bruising, cuts, broken bones
- Verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others
- Fear of outside intervention
- Damage to home or property
- Isolation – not seeing friends and family
- Limited access to money



What You Can Do...

- ✓ Make sure you speak to the person **alone**
- ✓ Complete a **DASH** (*Domestic Abuse Stalking, Harassment & Honour Based Violence*) Risk Assessment. A DASH should be completed whenever a professional identifies someone experiencing Domestic Abuse (there is also a Young Person's DASH that may be useful for Adults with a Learning Disability)
- ✓ Consider whether this person should be referred to **MARAC** (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) Complete a referral form and send to MARAC@southglos.gcsx.gov.uk
- ✓ **Contact Next Link** – our South Glos provider of Domestic Abuse support
<http://www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk/southglos/>
- ✓ Next Link Helpline **8:30am – 5:30pm Monday to Friday and 9:30am – 1:00pm on Saturday** 0800 4700 280
- ✓ **Attend Training** – there is a new training pathway (overleaf) in South Glos.



Domestic Abuse Briefing Sheet



Action

If you suspect an adult at risk might be a victim of Domestic Abuse you must contact:

CSO Desk (Customer Service Officers) on 01454 868 007
EDT (out of hours)
01454 615 165



Domestic Violence and Abuse Training

There is a new training pathway for inter-agency Domestic Violence and Abuse training in South Gloucestershire. You can build up your knowledge and skills from an introductory e-learning module through to the level of training that you need to fit your job role. There are lots of course dates available in 2017-18.

E-Learning Module: Awareness of Domestic Violence

This package will raise your awareness of the issues surrounding domestic violence, particularly for those workers that come into contact with survivors. The module has been updated to include the impact on children, young people and vulnerable adults.

To access the module: email your details to hrworkforcedevelopment@southglos.gov.uk

Intermediate Domestic Violence and Abuse Training

This 1-day course builds on the Awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse e-learning module which should be completed before attending this course; it will include a focus on:

- Risk and needs – supporting individuals and families experiencing domestic abuse
- Confidence in safety planning
- Impact of domestic abuse and implications for attachment and development

Advanced Domestic Violence and Abuse Training

This 1-day course builds on the learning and skills gained through attending the Intermediate Domestic Violence and Abuse Training, with additional content including the following:

- Working with denial
- Evidence gathering for assessment
- Assessing the dynamics of domestic abuse within families

Working with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence and Abuse

This 1-day course should only be attended once you have completed the Advanced-level Domestic Violence & Abuse training and will include the following:

- Increased confidence in identifying perpetrator behaviour and risk assessing the impact on all victims
- Exploration of safety issues
- Best practice when working with perpetrators

You can book a place on any of the 1-day courses via South Glos Council's self-serve Learning & Development website <http://learning.southglos.gov.uk>

The usual South Glos LSCB Course Charges apply: https://learning.southglos.gov.uk/courses/bookings/course_charges.asp