

## **It is crucial that schools understand the impact of domestic abuse to staff, parents and pupils and can offer an appropriate response**

Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on the survivor, but there is a ripple effect that impacts those around them too. Understanding the impact of domestic abuse on those associated with a school environment is the first step in mitigating the destruction it can reap.

Domestic abuse is a hugely under reported crime affecting more than one in four women and one in six men. Statistics suggest that around 75% of children subject of a child protection plan have been affected by domestic abuse.

Children and young people are affected not only by experiencing violence themselves, but also by witnessing harm to others. This harm includes emotional abuse and coercive control and is not restricted to violent attacks. The legal definition of harming children includes harm suffered by seeing or hearing ill treatment of others. This can include witnessing domestic abuse.

Schools can play an important role in helping to reduce the trauma suffered by children, their parents and also teaching and support staff employed by the school. Schools can provide a safe haven where disclosures of abuse can be encouraged, support can be provided, and referrals made to the appropriate services. It is helpful for staff to be alert to the signs that a child, parent or colleague might be experiencing domestic abuse, to ask direct questions and be prepared to refer to the appropriate support services.

Broxtowe Women's Project supports female survivors of current and historic domestic abuse who live or work within Broxtowe Borough. This service is free of charge, we aim to respond to your call the same day and would like to offer our support to your school, for both staff and parents. The referral process is quick and easy - you can self-refer, or with their agreement refer a colleague or parent. We provide the following services –

- Phone / zoom outreach sessions with a dedicated outreach worker who will listen and provide individualised support based on need
- Safety planning - assessing risk and putting plans in place to improve safety
- Advice and support with housing / legal aid / benefits / police issues / Family Court
- Support following outreach work including befriending / counselling and well-being events
- Freedom Programme – 6-week programme to learn more about domestic abuse
- Business support to raise awareness for your staff team
- Partners Newsletter

We understand it can be difficult for anyone to admit to struggling with domestic abuse - making the first call for help can be difficult. We promise to listen, believe, and do all that we can to empower your staff and customers to have a better life free from the torment of abuse.

Contact us –

Support line 01773 719111

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Website – [www.broxtowewomensproject.org.uk](http://www.broxtowewomensproject.org.uk)

