

Domestic and Sexual Violence (DSV) Information

Supporting DSV victims is the responsibility of all services in Newham. Addressing DSV in the earliest stages of abuse will have a long term positive impact on victims and services. Newham employs a multi-agency response to ensure all relevant services in the borough work together to prevent harm and to reduce the wider risks, violence and rates of repeat victimisation.

The Newham One Stop Shop is a partnership initiative that includes a referral and support line open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for professionals and anyone experiencing DSV. The One Stop Shop provides free and confidential advice to victims and professionals seeking support. The service specialises in supporting victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, forced marriage, so called 'honour' based violence and female genital mutilation, as well as support for sex workers.



Domestic violence (as of March 2013) is defined* as 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. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Controlling behaviour: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

* This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Newham Council recognises that domestic violence affects all ages and includes dating violence and violence against elders/carers.

DSV Checklist - Signs of DSV

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Hitting, beating, choking, pushing, slapping, kicking, pulling hair, biting, punching, backhanding, strangling, arm twisting, shoving, kicking or burning | <input type="checkbox"/> Constant criticism or humiliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Locking the partner out of the home or in the home | <input type="checkbox"/> Obsessive jealousy and accusations of unfaithfulness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forced use of substances (e.g. alcohol and drugs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Instilling in the partner the belief that "nothing she does will ever be good enough" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Demeaning remarks about the partner's body or appearance | <input type="checkbox"/> Blaming the partner's friends or family for the couple's "relationship" problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forcing sex or sexual actions on the partner without consent | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring phone calls, mail or visits |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Demanding an account of the partner's daily activities |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Demanding the partner account for all the money they spend |

