

THERE IS **NO** EXCUSE FOR **DOMESTIC ABUSE**

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic Abuse is the physical, mental or psychological abuse of a woman by a partner or ex-partner.

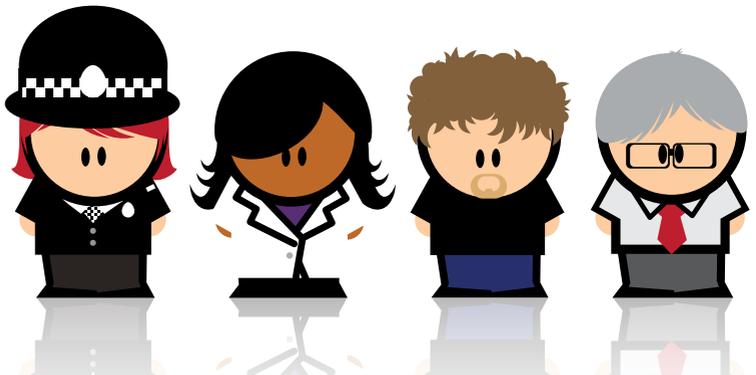
Physical Abuse: Hitting, punching, kicking, nipping, throwing or smashing things, making threats to hurt someone.

Sexual Abuse: Making someone do sexual things that they don't want to do, including rape.

Emotional Abuse: Continually putting a person down, continually checking up on someone, stopping someone from working or going to college, and stopping someone from seeing family or friends.

How do we deal with concerns about children and young people?

When the police visit a house after a report of an incident of domestic abuse they will ask if any children or young people are part of the family. People often worry about what will happen next.



Dundee



Violence Against Women Partnership

Working Together to Tackle Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

What happens now?

When the police officer returns to the police station they fill out a form. This form is completed every time there is an incident involving domestic abuse where a child or young person is present or normally lives at the address.

The form is then passed on to a group of professionals (Police, Health, Social Work and Education) who meet weekly. The aim of the group is to make sure children and young people in Dundee are safe. They are also there to consider whether there are any supports available for children, young people, and parents/carers.



The screening group will discuss any concerns they may have about any child/ren and will decide what will happen next. Some of the actions may be:

- **No further action:** This means that nothing else will happen and there will be no follow up at this point.
- **Concern already followed up and actioned:** This means the child/ren are already known to an agency or service and they are dealing with the issue. This may involve a visit from a worker and then no further action.
- **Direct referral to a single agency (e.g. Health, Social Work):** This is when only one agency will get involved and no other services are needed.
- **Direct referral to Joint Action Team (JAT).** This is when it is felt that more than one agency needs to be involved so that a joint decision can be made about what is best for the child/ren. Parents/carers will always be advised when this is the decision of the group.

- **Referral to the Children's Reporter:** This is when the group believe that the child has significant needs which are not being met or may be at significant risk and where compulsory measures of supervision may be required.

The group want to make sure that children and young people in Dundee are safe and to offer families support to help them to cope with issues like domestic abuse.

If families already have contact with a Support Worker they will be told about the concern so that they know what is happening.

ALWAYS REMEMBER

Women and children are not to blame for what has been happening. It's not their fault. There are people who can help. If you have any questions or need more information please contact:

Tayside Police,
Central Division Domestic
Abuse Officer: **01382 591912**