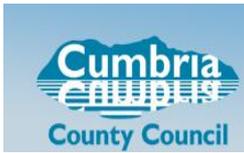


Cumbria County Council



Staff and Elected Members Information Sheet:

Domestic and Sexual Violence

Definition – supported by the Safer Cumbria Partnership

'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality'.

National Context

Domestic violence currently claims 150 lives a year, and affects millions more. Domestic violence is a serious public health issue and that the statistics are shocking. It will affect 1 in 4 women aged 19-44.

Achievements over the last six years:

Cumbria County Council and its partners have achieved significant organisational change, which have included: A specialist domestic violence lead/coordinator post based within the Children's Services directorate, the implementation of three Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) in north, south and west of the county, the introduction of four accredited Specialist Domestic Violence Courts in Barrow, Workington, Kendal and Carlisle (SDVC) and the commissioning of an integrated Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and support service (Let go, Impact Housing). Domestic Violence Champions networks have been set up across the county to improve organizational responses to domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Champions Network

The Champions network has been set up to improve community and organisational responses to domestic violence. It provides training and assistance to enable front line staff to support the lower and medium risk cases not picked up by Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) or specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) services.

The cases of domestic violence/abuse in Cumbria that are referred into the MARAC process or receive support from an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor are the

Information sheet produced by Cumbria County Council's Community Safety Unit

tip of the iceberg. Around 500 cases per year are referred to MARAC in Cumbria and the IDVA Services receive around 700-1000 referrals for support.

What are the signs of domestic violence?

Destructive criticism and verbal abuse: shouting, mocking, accusing, name calling and verbally threatening.

Pressure tactics: threatening to withhold money, disconnect the telephone, take the car away, commit suicide, take the children away, report you to welfare agencies about the children, lying to your friends and family about you.

Disrespect: putting you down in front of other people, interrupting your telephone calls, taking money from your purse without asking, refusing to help with childcare or housework.

Breaking trust: lying to you, withholding information from you, being jealous, having other relationships, breaking promises and shared agreements.

Isolation: monitoring or blocking your telephone calls, telling you where you can and cannot go, preventing you from seeing friends and relatives.

Harassment: following you, checking up on you, opening your mail, repeatedly checking to see who has telephoned you, embarrassing you in public.

Threats: using physical size to intimidate, shouting you down, destroying your possessions, breaking things, punching walls, wielding a knife or a gun, threatening to kill or harm you and the children.

Sexual violence: using force, threats or intimidation to make you perform sexual acts, having sex with you when you don't want to have sex, any degrading treatment based on your sexual orientation.

Physical violence: punching, slapping, hitting, biting, pinching, kicking, pulling hair out, pushing, shoving, burning, strangling.

Denial: saying the abuse doesn't happen, saying you caused the abusive behaviour, crying and begging for forgiveness, saying it will never happen again.

For further information please contact:

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