

Domestic Abuse Notification Scheme to Schools



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Domestic Abuse in Northamptonshire

- **25% of all domestic violence involved a child being present.**
- **A minimum of 400 children every year within Northamptonshire are witness to a domestic violence offence resulting in an injury.**
- **On average approximately 40% of the County's Looked After Children enter Care due to domestic abuse in the family.**



Why is this scheme Important?

- **Witnessing violence, in general, has been associated with emotional, behavior, and learning problems in children**
- **There is a common link between domestic violence and child abuse.**
- **Primary-school-age children who witness domestic violence may show poor concentration and focus. In one study, forty per cent had lower reading abilities than children from non-violent homes**



What we want to achieve from this scheme

- **For schools to have the information they need to support children in the most appropriate way**
- **We want to support schools and settings in identifying children and young people living with domestic abuse because you have told us that it helps you provide the support and care these pupils need to enable them to learn**
- **The initiative involves early reporting to schools when a child or young person has been involved in a domestic abuse incident**



What's happened so far?

- **A pilot has been operating in Daventry District for 11 weeks**
- **109 notifications in total**
- **7 young people over school age and 40 children under school age**
- **Remaining 62 children and young people attended 19 schools across the Daventry area**
- **Feedback was:**
 - All schools were positive about the scheme
 - It gave them the opportunity to put in place appropriate support
 - It gave schools a more holistic view of the child's home life



Countywide implementation

- **Based on the success of the Daventry pilot, this scheme will be launched countywide from 1st October 2015**



What you can expect to receive

- **Notifications will be sent to your Designated Safeguarding Lead by 10am each day outlining incidents that have taken place the previous day or over the weekend.**
- **You will receive:**
 - Child/Young Persons Name
 - DOB
 - Date of Incident
 - Level of Risk of Incident



Types of support that could be offered by schools

- **Mentoring or someone to talk to**
- **Checking on well being**
- **Offering 'quiet time'**
- **Just 'keeping an eye' on the individual**
- **Referrals to specialist support via an Early Help Assessment**
- **If you already have concerns around the child and family and you feel this heightens the risk – report it to the MASH.**



Other initiatives

- **A similar scheme is being offered through NHFT**
- **School nurses and health visitors will also be notified of the same DA incidents**
- **This scheme will go live on 16th October**



Police DA Notifications to Health

As of 16th October 2015

- **SN and HV will receive notification when any incident of DA has occurred in the child's family (via NHFT safeguarding team)**
- **SN/HV will follow a matrix to decide what intervention they will take.**
- **This may include making contact to discuss information with the school**



What should you do?

- **Be aware of how to contact your School Nurse team**
- **Be prepared to discuss notifications and concerns**
- **Share information to build a clearer picture for the child**



Police Role in Notification Process



Police Definitions of Domestic Abuse Risks

- **STANDARD RISK** No current significant indicators of risk remain. Does not mean no risk
- **MEDIUM RISK** There are some identifiable indicators of risk of harm. The perpetrator has potential to cause harm but unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances.

There is a real (likely) and identifiable risk of causing harm (not serious) or future potential (possible but not likely) for serious harm



Police Definitions of Domestic Abuse Risks

- **HIGH RISK** There are still identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. Serious is defined as “Life threatening/traumatic from which recovery whether physical or psychological can be expected to be difficult or impossible”



Definition of Domestic Abuse

- *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*
- *Coercive*
- **This definition includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.*
- (APCO 2013)

Statistics Domestic Abuse

- 750,000 children witness abuse
- 90% children are in the same or next room when DV takes place
- 87% women admitted to refuge have witnessed or been abused as a child
- Over 50% of DA cases children were directly abused
- 29 child's homicides between 1994-2004 during child contact with their father
- 30% of DA starts in pregnancy

Forms of Domestic Abuse

- **There are different types of domestic abuse, including:**
- **emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, and financial abuse.**
- **Many abusers behave in ways that include more than one type of domestic violence, and the boundaries between some of these behaviours are often quite blurred.**



Domestic Abuse Impact on Children

- Children can witness domestic violence in a variety of ways.
- be in the same room and may get caught in the middle of an incident,
- they may be in another room but be able to hear the abuse or see their mother's physical injuries following an incident of violence
- or they may be forced to take part in verbally abusing the victim.



Domestic Abuse Impact on Children

- Children are completely dependent on the adults around them, and if they do not feel safe in their own homes, this can have many negative physical and emotional effects.
- All children witnessing domestic violence are being emotionally abused, and this is now recognised as 'significant harm' in recent legislation.



Cozy and Kaitiaki
Celebrating Women's Capability
Supporting Young people in their Communities

Effects of Domestic Abuse on Children

- become anxious or depressed
- have difficulty sleeping, nightmares, bed wetting or flash backs
- complain of physical symptoms such as tummy aches.
- have temper tantrums, become aggressive
- behave as though they are much younger than they are.
- have problems at school, or may start truanting
- internalise their distress and withdraw from other people.
- have a lowered sense of self-worth
- older children may start to use alcohol or drugs
- begin to self-harm by taking overdoses or cutting themselves
- develop an eating disorder



Support Available

- Freedom Programme
- Stay Free
- Choosing to Change (perpetrators)

- Help Me to Stay Safe
- Crush
- Helping Hands
- Day Programme

Accessing Support

- Direct referrals to Kettering Together:
www.youthworkscic.org.uk
- WENWA: 01933 224943
- The Hide Out:
www.thehideout.org.uk
- NSPCC:
www.nspcc.org.uk

Domestic Abuse Awareness Training for Northamptonshire Schools 2015

Trainers:

Unity Harding

Educational Psychologist (DA)

Julie Coles

EVE Domestic Abuse Training Consultant

Why do I need this?

- Prevalence of domestic abuse in families
- Hidden problem....
- Police Notifications ... we need to understand in order to manage well
- You may be the key person for a child or young person
- Schools are the key place for children and young people

Learning Aims:

Build your understanding of

- Domestic abuse
- The impact of domestic abuse on children, young people and their parents
- How this affects children attending school
- What schools can do...recognising the signs and responding effectively
- How this links to the DA police notification for you

Develop your ability to respond effectively to domestic abuse

When, where and how do I sign up?

Sign up here and now, for any location:

All sessions are 4 hours. **2pm – 6 pm**

Dates and times to suit you best:

28.09.15 Northampton County Council JDH

30.09.15 Daventry District Council

05.10.15 South Northants District Council, Towcester

07.10.15 Kettering Borough Council

14.10.15 East Northants Council, Thrapston

19.10.15 The Castle Theatre Wellingborough

02.11.15 Corby The Cube

What's Next?

- **Countywide launch of the School Notification scheme – 01/10/2015**
- **Offer of Domestic Abuse Training – please sign up before you leave**



Q&A

