



**Safeguarding  
is everybody's  
business**



## Domestic Abuse Factsheet

### The Basics

- An incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer. (*Women's Aid definition*)
- Domestic Abuse includes: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional and so-called honour based violence.

### Signs and Symptoms

- **Psychological** – e.g. belittling you, isolating you from friends and family, controlling where you go and who you talk to. This could result in a person being extremely apologetic or meek, changes in sleep habits, loss of interest in daily activities, agitation, anxiety or constant apprehension.
- **Threats and Intimidation** – e.g. threatening to hurt/kill you, harassing or following you.
- **Physical** – e.g. hitting you, shoving you, throwing things at you, choking you which could result in black eyes, busted lips, bruising on arms, sprained wrists, red or purple marks on the neck
- **Sexual** – e.g. pressures you into having sex, touches you in a way that you don't want to be touched.
- **Financial** – e.g. controlling your use of money, not giving you enough money to survive.

### Reporting Concerns

- Domestic Abuse is a crime. If you think someone is in immediate danger, call the Police on **999** or for non-emergency **101**. You can also contact East Riding Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership **(01482) 396930**.
- If you're worried about a situation or someone you know who might be a victim of Domestic Abuse in the East Riding of Yorkshire please call:  
East Riding of Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Team on **01482 396940** (Mon-Thurs 9am – 5pm, Fri 9 am-4.30pm) or **(01377) 241273** (out of hours) or email [safeguardingadultsteam@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingadultsteam@eastriding.gov.uk)

### Legislation

- The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme or 'Claire's Law' enables people to ask the police to carry out checks for a record of abusive offences on their partner or the partner of a member of the family.
- Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 created a new (Dec 2015) offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship. Prior to the introduction of this offence, case law indicated the difficulty in proving a pattern of behaviour amounting to harassment within an intimate relationship.

**For further details about the work of the East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board visit [www.ersab.org](http://www.ersab.org).**