



Acknowledge it's happening. Call it by its name. Tell Someone



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Domestic Abuse Act, 2021 - Abusive Behaviours



a) Physical or Sexual abuse

b) Violent or Threatening behaviour

c) Controlling or Coercive Behaviour

d) Economic abuse

e) Psychological, Emotional or other abuse

And it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

Tactics of Abuse



Emotional & Psychological Abuse;

Minimising, Denying, Blaming, Belittling / Put downs, Isolate, Threats to hurt or kill, Threats to kill themselves or the children, Intimidation, Harassment, Following the victim, Continual insults, false accusations and insinuations

Physical violence;

Punching, Slapping, Hitting, Biting, Pinching, Kicking, Pulling Hair Out, Pushing, Shoving, Burning, Strangling, Pinning down, Choking, Restraining ,Throwing things, Use of Weapons. Homicide

Economic Abuse ;

Demanding Money, Demanding to justify spending, Restricting Finances or Access to own money, Control victim's money, Not give enough to buy food or essential things, No Access to Bank Account or Benefits

Sexual abuse;

Unwanted Sexual Demands, Rape ,Forcing or Coercing into Sex, Infidelity, Withholding Affection



Data

Domestic abuse accounts for 25% of all reported violent crime

1 in 4 women & 1 in 6 men will experience DA in their lifetime

2 women a week are killed by their partner or ex partner

30 men or murdered per year by their partner or ex partner

A woman is assaulted on average **35** times before she seeks help – **50** times before she obtains effective support

A victim will try to leave on average **7** times before they leave for good

The latest available domestic abuse data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) are for the year ending March 2020. Showed that an estimated **2.3** million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse : a prevalence rate of approximately **5 in 100** adults

In MK there are approximately **3000** reported crimes due to DV reported to the police

MK Act supports nearly **2000** people a year across all our service



Who is MK-Act?

- Values led organisation providing Domestic Abuse services for the city of MK.
- Milton Keynes Women's Aid is a member of the Women's Aid Federation for England (WAFE).
- MKWA is also a company limited by guarantee and as such operates under the name MK-ACT Domestic Violence Intervention Services.
- Serving the city of MK for over 45 years.
- Commissioned since 2008 by MKC
- Provide a range of services
- We work collaboratively with local and regional agencies.



Black & Minoritised Victims

- DA is not more prevalent in any particular ethnic group
- Higher rate of those accessing housing due to DA are from B&M groups
- Figures in MKACT
- HBA
- Forced Marriage
- FGM



What does MK ACT Offer?

- Crisis Service and Helpline - Independent Domestic Violence Advisors / Community Support
- Accommodation and support for up to 28 families
- Adults – Perpetrating Intimate Partner Violence including Partner Support for all current and ex-partners
- Outreach and Resettlement
- Support Groups
- Volunteer Co-ordinator (20 volunteers, nearly 450 hours last year)
- IDVA support and advice at during trials and court hearings at the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC)
- Attendance at and the 'victim's voice' at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Women and Work Project
- Counselling

Additional Projects

- LGBTQ+ DV Development Worker
- Health IDVA – MKUH
- Family Court Support
- Older Person Worker
- Complex Needs
- Black and Minoritised Communities
- Young Person's IDVA (16-25)
- Working closely with other agencies
- Translators including BSL
- In-person support and other methods



Impact of cost of living

- Increased utilities
- Do we heat or eat
- Circumstantial depression
- Women asking for loans
- More service users using food banks
- Reducing amount of meals



'do I spend my money on food I can't buy the uniform'.

“ not being able to turn lights on in the evening which, of course, puts my family at greater risk of injury”

‘I can't provide things that my children need for school and therefore I'm failing them”

They might not be able to get their kids to school because they're in the wrong area for local authority support and can't afford fuel and transport.

Cannot afford branded food items.

The increases in the cost of eggs, whole milk and low-fat milk – up 32.5%, 34.4% and 42.2% respectively



During the last financial year, and going forward, we have had increases in all utilities:

Water has increased by 11.6%

Gas and electric increased by a further 20% in April

As Service User's have top up meters we have an increase in need to support them with maintaining their electric and gas supply and our Fundraiser supports this by raising unrestricted funds.

From April 2023 we have had to raise our weekly service charge to SU's by between 3.75 – 5.71%, across both sites, to cover the increase in cost of living.

Within our Crisis Intervention Service there is an increase in need for food vouchers/support for 'drop in' clients:

46.5% increase from the period May 21 – April 22 to May 22 – April 23

We are looking for support from local companies and businesses to achieve this additional Rise in The Cost of Living for our service User's.