



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY PUBLIC PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP



DGPPP NEWS

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the public protection partnership newsletter.

Violence Against Women and Girls



Such evasive actions include:

- carrying/using phones while walking
- holding keys and alarms
- choosing routes where there are lights/lots of people.
- texting friends/family when they leave/arrive, etc.

In addition to this, **for the 1 in 5 women in Scotland** who experience domestic abuse their homes are not safe either. The ongoing pandemic has also increased their risk.

Violence against women and girls has become increasingly visible across the media. Most people will have been shocked and horrified by the recent disappearance and murder of Sarah Everard. As well as feeling compassion for Ms Everard and those who loved her, many have been alarmed by the reported actions that women take in their everyday lives in an attempt to feel and keep safe.



The United Nations reports that a conservative estimate is that 1 in 3 women have experienced men's violence – physical or sexual – (and only 40% seek help); this is equivalent to more than 1 billion women.

The **#metoo** movement has identified that many more women have experienced unwanted sexual attention and/or abuse.



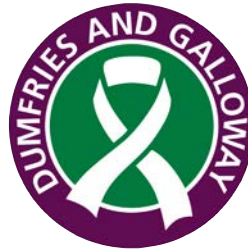
Many (or most) women have experienced sexist jokes; groping; name calling; coercion; rape; and abusive behaviour simply because they are women. Often when abuse is reported in the media there is an underlying narrative that it is somehow the victim's fault and the perpetrator has been "driven" to such behaviour by for example, their partner having an affair, leaving them, or threatening to leave them, as if being broken hearted or losing power is in some way a reason for harm or murder.

This has to stop.



Recent social media discussions and other media reports have shone a light on the behaviour of abusive men and the sexist jokes; abuse and fear experienced by women. The backlash from these discussions led to the promotion of #notallmen; whilst it is true that the majority of men do not fall into the category of domestic/sexual abusers, rapists or murderers, the silence of many may be seen as approval of the abuse by women who are struggling to survive such abuse (and feed into their fears that they won't be believed if they seek help and support). Moreover, campaigns like #notallmen divert the focus from the real issue – gendered violence of pandemic proportions linked to gender inequality – by focussing on the fact that it's only a minority of men who are violent towards women and girls. We all know it's just a minority, but the focus should continue on the fact that gendered violence in the form of domestic abuse, rape, stalking, sex trafficking, so-called honour crimes, etc. continues to affect millions of women and girls worldwide and thousands in Scotland.

All men have the opportunity to do something about this by partnering with women who have not been awarded the same rights as them. Many men are bystanders who do not challenge violence against women and girls either because they are not aware of the scale and impact of the problem or because they don't know what to do about it. Their silence, however, can send the message that it is somehow only the victims' problem (rather than the perpetrator and society/culture more generally).



White Ribbon Scotland is a campaign that gives men an opportunity to do something about this.

The campaign encourages men to become allies of women to support the challenge and prevention of violence against women. It is a very flexible campaign in terms of involvement and people can be involved in any way that suits them, for example people can:

- ✓ sign the **White Ribbon Pledge** "to never commit, condone, or remain silent about any form of violence against women".
- ✓ attend a local White Ribbon event and learn more about violence against women.
- ✓ share their new knowledge with friends and family.
- ✓ encourage others to sign the White Ribbon Pledge.
- ✓ raise awareness in their workplace, uni, school, club, or church.
- ✓ attend a free training session and become part of the White Ribbon Speakers Network.

To know more about the White Ribbon Campaign or White Ribbon Training, please contact the D&G White Ribbon Speakers Coordinator: Luis.Pombo@dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway Rape Crisis And Sexual Abuse Support Centre

SURVIVING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC: REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR IN CRISIS

DGRC&SASC provides emotional support to anyone over the age of 12 who has been raped, sexually assaulted, or otherwise sexually abused or exploited at any time in their life. We work in particular to relieve isolation and distress with a focus on healing and empowerment to regain control and live a life free from the effects of sexual violence trauma.

Covering the whole of Dumfries & Galloway local authority area the service delivers medium term support informed by the values and principles of Rape Crisis Scotland's National Service Standards and the Scottish Government Equally Safe framework for eradicating violence against Women and Girls. The work is trauma

informed and underpinned by our values of, feminism, human rights, and equality.

After a period of significant organisational change, we entered 2020 with a feeling of optimism and hope, having moved to new premises that would allow for greater capacity to deliver support and having developed meaningful partnership relationships we began the year with strategic planning for our future in mind. If only we had had a crystal ball!

"...I look forward to your calls as I am able to talk about how I'm feeling, and this makes me feel better and able to cope day to day".

In what is already a challenging and often contentious area of work we, like many organisations, were thrown into turmoil early in the year as the reality of a global public health crisis hit home. While guidelines and directives changed almost hourly in those first days, we quickly set to work to safeguard our service with only one priority in mind: that survivors of



“I had a real release of emotion after our last call. I needed that”.

sexual violence in Dumfries & Galloway would continue to receive trauma informed support in whatever form we could deliver it. Of course, this couldn't be achieved without

also considering the wellbeing of our team as we all grappled to make sense of the personal and professional implications of living with a potentially deadly virus.

Face to face support was replaced with telephone, text, and email support. The supportive working environment, where debriefs and workforce wellbeing conferences were the norm was, due to home working, replaced by Zoom and MS Teams where it's fair to say that the online world was easier to navigate for some than others- I include myself in the latter. But we managed. The team didn't miss a beat.

We continued to take referrals and to uphold our commitment to everyone receiving an initial appointment within two weeks of referral. Those already receiving support were kept informed of the changes every step of the way and were offered additional phone appointments to help manage anxieties related to the pandemic as well as continuing to work towards personal outcomes for healing and recovery. Additional external support for staff was made available to help mitigate vicarious trauma and burnout and to support them to work safely: we strongly believe that our person-centred ethos extends to everyone involved with our service and it is this that has allowed us to continue to meet the challenges of this past year.

“My GP..... says I have to keep up my weekly phone calls as speaking with you is really helping me”.

Now as we tentatively begin to emerge from the restrictions understandably imposed on our society, we as an organisation look forward to once again being able to deliver face to face support. The measures we put in place have always been understood by us as just a contingency and the survivors who use our service would agree. We will continue to risk assess and any decision to “re-open” will be mapped against formal guidance and feedback from the people who use our service.

The challenges are far from over for our sector however, particularly at grassroots level. We along with our colleagues in Women's Aid across the region have continued to deliver on the remit for Equally Safe despite being in the midst of a global pandemic; but our biggest challenge remains

that of securing sustainable funding and a commitment to protect our services which are absolutely critical to survivors of sexual violence and those experiencing all forms of domestic abuse.

“I was fine before lockdown but being in the house all day has heightened my issues with anxiety.....you are the only service that has continued to help me and support me to seek help for my anxiety”.

Jill Osborne, DGRC&SASC Manager.
01387 253113 | info@rape-crisis.org.uk

Rape Crisis Scotland out of hours' helpline
08088010302

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can be more than physical violence and takes away your freedom

www.dgppp.org.uk

Police (Domestic Abuse Unit) **101 or 999 in an emergency**

Right to Ask: www.scotland.police.uk/righttoask

To enquire about the background of your partner, potential partner or someone who is in a relationship with someone you know and there is a concern that the individual may be abusive

National Domestic Abuse Helpline **0800 027 1234 (24hr)**

Crime Stoppers **0800 555 111**
(to report crime including domestic abuse anonymously)

Domestic abuse is probably one of the best-known forms of violence against women. During Covid-19 there has been an increase in the levels of domestic abuse reported to the Police but it is important to remember that many people never tell the Police about their experiences; so the cases we know about are the tip of the iceberg.

In the past domestic abuse was thought to be only physical abuse but our understanding has developed so that we now know that it can take different forms including **financial, physical, sexual** and **psychological** abuse. Terms such as **gaslighting** (where someone tries to distort their partners reality and ultimately makes them doubt their sanity) and **coercive control** have become common place.

The different forms of abuse (physical, sexual, financial, and emotional/psychological) often combine and together with **fear**, create a situation from which the abused person finds it difficult to escape. **This pattern of control and entrapment is also known as Coercive Control.**

Violence or threats of violence; intimidation; isolation; micromanagement and **depriving the victim from resources** are key elements of Coercive Control.

"I believed that it was my fault that I was unhappy because I wasn't a good enough wife - I didn't do things right, didn't show him I loved him enough"

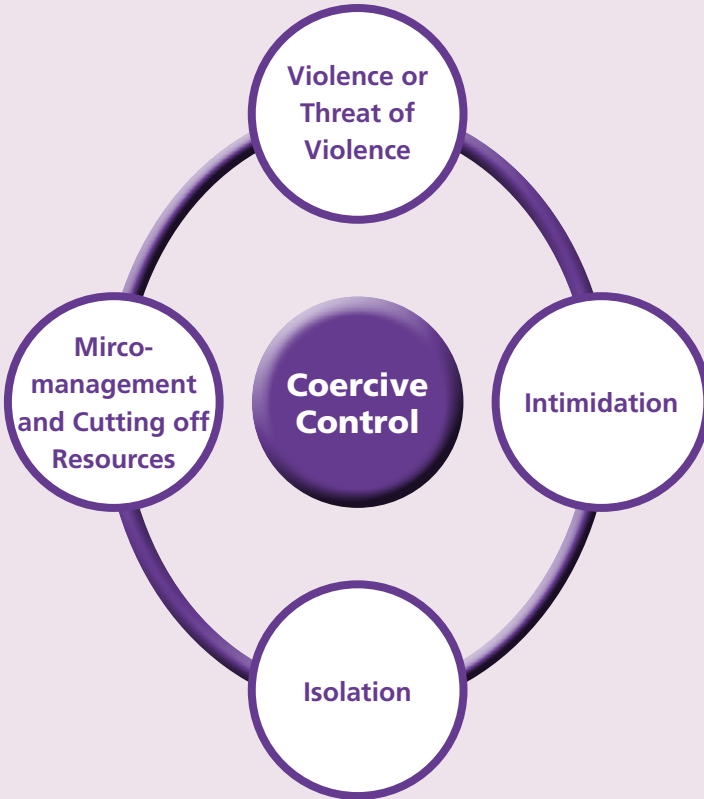
The fact that domestic abuse is commonly understood is both positive and negative.

It is positive because there is now increased recognition of abuse (although not as much recognition as there should be) and negative because domestic abuse still continues.

Domestic abuse **happens in all communities** and cuts across all parts of society. Both men and women can experience domestic abuse but Police figures identify that it is far **more prevalent for women.**

In 2018-19 there were **60,641** domestic abuse incidents recorded by Police Scotland.

- In **82%** of all cases a **woman** was abused by a **man**
- In **16%** of all cases a **man** was abused by a **woman**
- In **1%** of all cases a **man** was abused by a **man**
- In **1%** of all cases a **woman** was abused by a **woman**
Scottish Government (2020): Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2018-19
- An estimated 100,000 children in Scotland live with domestic abuse.
Improvement Service (2019): Children, young people and domestic abuse: impact, support and recovery





It has been suggested that men are more reluctant to report their abuse, but many women are also reluctant with concerns that they may lose their children increasing their reluctance. Indeed, this is often used as a threat by their abuser. Domestic abuse also takes place within the **LGBTI community** and this has not always been recognised.

There is not just one type of domestic abuse. Michael Johnstone (2008) undertook research into DA and found that there are three main types of domestic abuse:

- **Situational Couple Violence** – this is where abuse increases due to circumstances / stress / a specific issue.
- **Intimate Terrorism** – (another way of defining Coercive Control) a pattern of control that is specific to that relationship. Knowledge about the person is used to further abuse them (this may not be immediately obvious to others).
- **Violence Resistance** – where someone who has experienced abuse/control fights back. Violent resistance can sometimes be lethal.

Leaving sometimes sounds like **the most logical course of action** to end the abuse and be safe. However, leaving is not that straightforward and it is the time when victims are at **greatest risk of harm including death**.

"I spoke out to professionals and wasn't once judged. I now feel more confident in day-to-day things. I feel so independent and in control of my life".

Domestic Abuse Survivor

A purple poster with the title "Domestic Abuse" in large white letters at the top. Below the title, the text reads: "Did you know that you can report it anonymously?". Further down, it says: "If you think someone is living with domestic abuse, phone CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111. 100% anonymous. Always." On the right side of the poster, there is a faint, profile view of a woman's face. At the bottom left is the logo for the Domestic Abuse Helpline (DASH), which includes the text "DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE" and "SAFE PROTECTION PARTNERS". At the bottom right is the website address "www.dgppp.org.uk".

Fear plays a crucial role in stopping a person from leaving an abusive relationship.

The victim may fear that **they, their children, or their pet will be killed**

if they leave; many people may stay in abusive relationships because of this or sometimes they may contemplate leaving for several years before they are able to do so.

...Women's Aid were absolutely wonderful, they helped build my confidence back and to be my own person again...

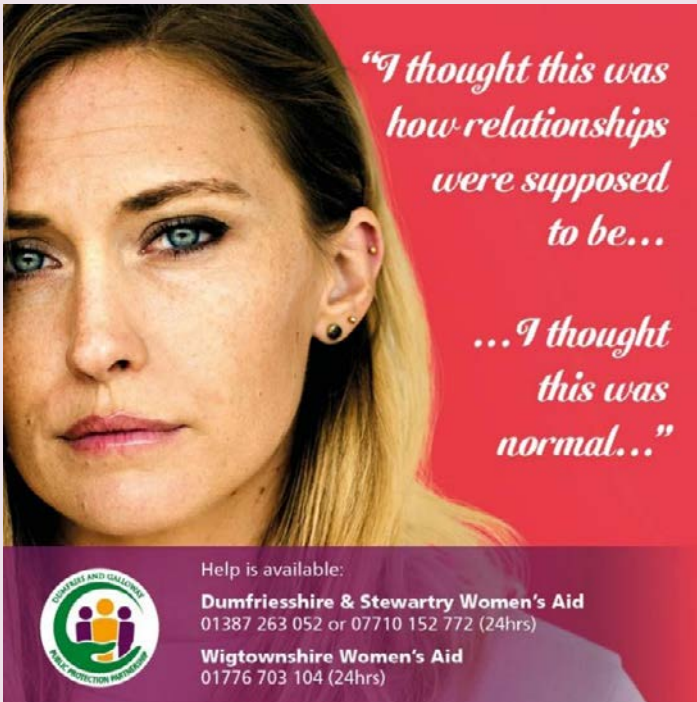
Domestic Abuse Survivor

Fear is key to keeping an abusive relationship going and **some of the abuser's behaviour is aimed at keeping the feelings of fear going**.

Victims often talk about how they feel they are **"walking on eggshells"** when the abuser is around. For example, physical abuse does not need to happen all the time; simply the threat of abuse may be enough to produce a sense of fear.


It is important to remember that while these feelings of fear are experienced by the abused, they may also have **love feelings for the abuser** and they **may think** that eventually the **abuser will change** and become the person they originally fell in love with.

 A purple banner with white text. On the left, it says: "6 things you need to know about Scotland's Domestic Abuse law". Below this, it says: "Click **HERE** to read the Scottish Women's Right Centre Blog". On the right side is the logo for the Scottish Women's Rights Centre, which features a stylized white figure of a woman holding a scale of justice.



*"I thought this was how relationships were supposed to be...
...I thought this was normal..."*

Help is available:
Dumfriesshire & Stewartry Women's Aid
 01387 263 052 or 07710 152 772 (24hrs)
Wigtownshire Women's Aid
 01776 703 104 (24hrs)



Fear is not the only reason why a victim may decide to stay, other reasons may be:

- The victim may perceive the relationship as **normal** or as something that **can be improved**.
- The abuser may not let the victim go.
- The victim may feel there is **no way out**.
- The victim may be **completely isolated**.
- The victim may **depend on** the abuser financially or emotionally.
- The children's lives may be further **disrupted**.
- Due to the abuse the victim is experiencing, they may be **minimising the abuse and the risk**.

Personal and material losses like:

- Their home
- Their job and income
- Their possessions
- Their friends and extended family
- Their community
- Their church
- Their pets

However, in spite of all these barriers victims manage to successfully leave abusive relationships with the support of specialist organisations like Women's Aid and Services like Social Work and Police.

In Dumfries and Galloway there are two specialist Women's Aid Organisations:

- Dumfriesshire and Stewartry Women's Aid:
01387 263 052 or 07710 152 772 (24hrs)
- Wigtownshire Women's Aid:
01776 703 104 (24hrs)

There is also a Scottish National Helpline for women and men **0800 027 1234 (24hrs)**



RIGHT TO ASK

POLICE SCOTLAND
 Keeping people safe
 POILEAS ALBA

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse (Scotland)

Did you know that people in Scotland have the right to ask about the background of their partner if they think they've been abusive in the past?

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) aims to prevent domestic abuse by giving people the **right to ask** about the background of their partner.

It also allows concerned members of the public, such as relatives and friends, the **right to ask** about someone's partner if they are concerned that person has been abusive in the past.

If a disclosure of information is deemed necessary, lawful, and proportionate, the person potentially at risk, or the person best placed to safeguard that individual, will receive information.

DSDAS also gives Police Scotland the **power to tell** individuals that they may be at risk in their current relationship. This means the Police have the power to disclose information to a person, even although it was not asked for. Where Police has information that a person may be at risk of harm of domestic abuse by their partner, they have the **power to tell** them.

DSDAS enables potential victims to make the choice on whether to remain in the relationship. Police Scotland and our partners can then provide further help and support to assist them with their decision.

Click [HERE](#) to access the DSDAS application form.

You can also attend at any police station where an application form will be completed for you.

To find out more about help and support for people suffering Domestic Abuse

Action for Children Upper Nithsdale Domestic Abuse Service



Kirkfield, Greystone Ave, Kelloholm, DG4 6RB.

The **Domestic Abuse Service in Upper Nithsdale** benefits women/girls and their children living in the community who have experience of domestic abuse. Our service addresses this by giving women and girls a voice and empowering them to take control of their own lives in order to improve outcomes for them and their children. The basic need is for each woman and girl is to feel she and her children/family are safe, informed and supported.

Please contact jill.wright@actionforchildren.org.uk or telephone 01659 66135 to find out about this service.



CPC Scotland's campaign keeping kids safe in lockdown.

We have been supporting child protection Scotland's keeping kids' safe online campaign whilst this is now over - many children will have been online for longer during the pandemic, so more children have been at risk of online abuse and exploitation.

Be curious and chatty with your children about their online lives! If you are worried that your child is at risk of exploitation, call social work on 030 33 33001 or if immediate action is required call police on 999 or 101 for advice.

It is always better to say something than do nothing!

[#keepingkidssafeonline](https://www.facebook.com/keepingkidssafeonline)

QUESTION WHERE YOUR KIDS GO ONLINE

#KEEPINGKIDSSAFEONLINE



WHAT IS CSEP?

Child Sexual Exploitation If you're worried that a child or young person is being sexually exploited or at risk, phone 030 33 33 3001 and ask for the Social Work Access Team. If there is imminent danger, phone 999 (Police Scotland).

For more information please visit www.dgppp.org.uk

Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation

Each year, thousands of young people are abused and groomed online and tricked into thinking they are in a 'normal', even loving, relationship. This happens here in Dumfries and Galloway, and it can happen to girls or boys.

Spot the signs of exploitation – is a young person.

- Travelling alone in school hours or late at night.
- Looking lost.
- Anxious, frightened, or displaying behaviours such as anger.
- In possession of more than one phone.



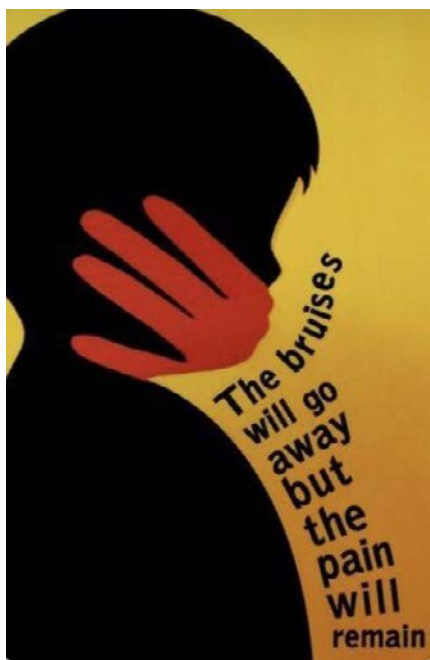
If something doesn't feel right, it's better to do something - don't wait.

Call the Social Work Access Team on 030 33 33 3001 or 999 in an emergency.



Equal Rights for Children Equal Protection from Assault!

Smacking, slapping, hitting, or physically hurting a child is illegal in Scotland. Do not let a few seconds of anger destroy a child's future. It is important to understand that this legislation is not about criminalising parents/carers but by reporting such incidents agencies are able to provide appropriate and proportionate support to parents/carers. The Act is a positive step towards



shaping Scotland's future (place Scotland flag here as a place which recognises the value we place on children and emphasises it is never acceptable for violence to be used against a child.

We are holding a further two workshops prior to the summer period. If you have been unable to attend one of the previous workshops and wish to attend one of these please email the GIRFEC mailbox on girfec@dumgal.gov.uk with your preferred date/time.

- **Tuesday 18 May 2021 – 2pm**
- **Wednesday 23 June 2021 – 10am**

Prior to attending any of the workshop sessions, staff should familiarise themselves with the key messages detailed in the **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQ) created by the Scottish Government. If you have any questions/queries not covered within the FAQ, please email the GIRFEC mailbox and we will ensure these are covered within the staff briefing sessions.

Further materials being used to raise awareness amongst children, parents/carers and the general public can be found on our Public Protection website www.dgppp.org.uk/

If you have any queries or concerns to discuss in relation to a child or family, please contact social work on 030 33 33 3001, in an emergency call 999.

NSPCC ChildLine in Partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Schools

Here in D&G we have had a long standing, and very strong, partnership with NSPCC ChildLine. Back in 2014, our then Education Child Protection Committee, took the decision that all schools would engage in a two-year rolling programme, whereby, all P6 and P7 pupils would have a bi-annual input from NSPCC ChildLine. Since then, we have worked with the service to pilot their Speak Out Stay Safe Programme which now includes sessions for all of our pupils from P1 – P7. These are delivered to all pupils in D&G every two years. We are now working with them on secondary inputs!



During the time of school closures, we supported the development and delivery of virtual sessions, so that children would not miss out on very important safety messages. Here is what some of our schools said about the virtual deliveries:

“Very positive feedback from staff, the online material was excellent and different classes used various follow up resources.”

“We delivered the assemblies last week and follow up lessons - these were received really well by the children - and clearly worked as a pupil rang ChildLine that evening.”

“Thank you for the work you have done to provide us with this resource - we hope to see you in person next year!”

If you have a primary school-aged child at home – just ask them about Buddy!

“The programme helped a group of our children to share their emotions with a trusted adult.”

Here's the new Buddy's Zone. Buddy Zone | Childline

....and a virtual workshop featuring Buddy with Ant and Dec

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qm0kccbZpYY>

action on
drugs+alcohol

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Alcohol and Drug Services are highlighting Signs of OverdoseIf you wish to obtain a hard copy of the card below for your service or teams – please contact

Margaret.woodward2@nhs.scot

Signs of overdose information card

SIGNS OF OVERDOSE

- Pinpoint pupils (this indicates whether opioids are involved)
- Breathing problems (*e.g. slow/shallow or infrequent breaths, snoring/rasping sounds or not breathing at all*).
- Pale skin colour. Lips, tip of nose, fingertips or nails with a bluish tinge
- No response to noise (*shouting*) or touch (*shoulder shake*).
- Loss of consciousness.

When someone has overdosed they can look and sound like they are simply asleep.

Always check when you hear snoring that the person is actually asleep.

Snoring/rasping can be an indication of breathing difficulties.
DIAL 999

**Dumfries & Galloway
Alcohol & Drug Services
Contact Numbers**

NHS Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service
01387 244555

We Are With You
Freephone 0800 0350 793

Being There Family Support Service
0333 8806950
or email - BeingThere@adssws.co.uk

Alcohol & Drugs Support SWS
01556 503550

action on
drugs+alcohol
DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

The Scottish Drugs Forum provides E-Learning training around benzodiazepines

for staff in services to access, there are also Webinars available on the SDF YouTube channel looking at issues around current Benzo use.

Use links for further information:

<https://www.sdftraining.org.uk/online-learning>

<https://youtu.be/w49iXxR0Zf0>

<https://youtu.be/lfa1A8-NEm4>

<https://mk0crewscotb6dvcp91y.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Benzo-Resource.pdf>

'What's happening on the streets with Benzos?'

Find out more on benzodiazepine use in Scotland with our free e-learning course

www.sdftraining.org.uk



Trauma is Everyone's Business



Trauma deep dive online event

A number of us attended the online #trauma deep dive event in March which focused on the question.

“ How can adopting a trauma informed practice and approach to adult social care help drive-forward improved outcomes and support workforce wellbeing - as part of our road map for recovery renewal and transformation from Covid 19? ”

The event confirmed the aims of Trauma informed practice which seeks to close the gap between people who use services and the people who provide them (Filson & Mead, 2016).

Trauma informed organisations ensure the physical and emotional safety of both the individuals we work with and their staff.

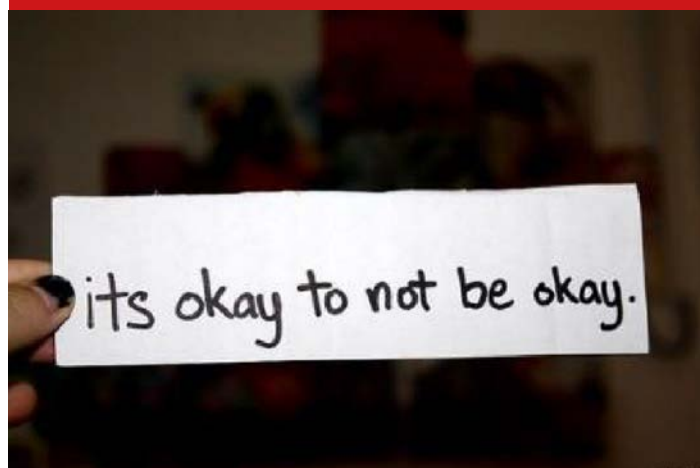
Some Self Care Tips

By looking after yourself this will allow you to support others - make sure you know what keeps you well - prepare your own psychological self care kit!



- Talking to friends
- Exercise
- Eating well

Remember...



It's good to talk...



Most of us most of the time will cope well!

If you are not coping seek help

You can contact one of D&G's Volunteer **Mental Health Champions** or review our **Mental Wellbeing Resource Pack**.

Brené Brown

“

We will not go back to normal. **Normal never was.** Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to **stitch a new garment.** One that fits all of humanity and nature.



Spotlight on Hoarding

- NHS Senior Psychologist
Fionnuala Edgar



What is hoarding?

Hoarding is characterised by three main features, excessive acquisition of items coupled with difficult discarding items resulting in extensive clutter. These behaviours often lead to increased risk to the individual who hoards including fire, risk of falls and can also lead to homes becoming inhabitable due to extensive clutter. Often those who hoard feel that hoarding is a result of lack of space and may move home or purchase additional storage to house their items.

What are the risks?

Excessive acquisition of items and difficulty discarding are not considered compulsive hoarding unless accompanied by extreme clutter. Extreme clutter can prevent basic living such as cooking, cleaning, bathing, walking safely through the house and sleeping. Often those who hoard retain items that increase the risk of fire such as paper and the clutter can, in turn, prevent emergency services accessing the property if a fire were to break out. There are also increased risks of poor sanitation and infestation of rodents and insects.

Health problems can also be caused or exacerbated by hoarding. Those who hoard can also be at risk of intimidation or threat by neighbours and can also be at increased risk of eviction by housing authorities or landlords.

Life choice versus psychological difficulty

Historically, hoarding has been viewed as a 'lifestyle choice' and often those who hoard were seen as choosing to live in a cluttered home. Over the past few years there is a recognition that hoarding is a psychological condition in its own right and those with hoarding difficulties should be offered a psychological understanding and treatment of their difficulties.

READ the rest of the article on the public Protection Website and our local framework to support those who hoard in relation to self neglect and risk.

<https://www.dgppp.org.uk/article/22225/Spotlight-on-Hoarding>



Adult Support and Protection: Ensuring Support and Preventing Harm

Case study

Care at home support through Covid 19

Mr A lives in a small town within Dumfries and Galloway and was admitted to hospital for support with long term alcohol abuse which had affected his functioning both physically and mentally. This also led to him being reported missing and being found in a remote isolated area having fallen and injured himself. Prior to admission Mr A was struggling to meet his basic needs, his house was in a poor state, his long-term partner had recently died, he was, lonely and socially isolated.

During the hospital admission, Social Work staff advised that they were looking at long term care options however Mr A wanted to return home.

Whilst initially reluctant to accept care he recognised that he had not been coping prior to hospital admission and it was worth trying. The care provider was fully aware of Mr A's needs and by spending time with him were able to recognise and discuss what was important to him. By ensuring a consistent approach Mr A has become familiar with the Care and support workers going into his home and has accepted their support and recognised that promoting his independence and respecting his wishes allow his outcomes of living an independent, happy life with choice and company achievable.

Ensuring a consistent team of staff has been vital and has allowed a close working relationship between Mr A social work, the provider, and the community mental health team (CMHT).

Care at home support has been in place for over a year now and while Mr A continues to face difficulties, these are recognised quickly by staff attending his home daily and appropriate interventions identified by working in partnership with colleagues from health and Social work to avoid any crises through early intervention and collaboration. This has been particularly important over recent months when Mr A has been unable to get out within his local community due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the further isolation this would have brought him.

The Bank Job

This short film, created in partnership with COSLA and Film School, tells the story of two bogus tradesmen as they take us through the process of ripping people off. Through their eyes, we get a first-hand account of what they do, how they do it and the impact it has on their victims. Then, with expert advice, the film shows us how to combat these deplorable criminals, making people feel safe and secure.

Watch "THE BANK JOB" on

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/109036581?ref=em-share>
(or click image)



**If you are concerned about an adult call
Social Work on 030 33 33 3001
or Police in an emergency 999 or 101 for advice
Call Trading Standards on 030 33 33 3001 to discuss
the trusted trader scheme.**

Relaunch of Adult Concern Referral (AP1)

Adult Concern Referral for providers to report a concern about an adult at risk of harm. AP1 and guidance note.

Find and download it here
[https://www.dgppp.org.uk/
article/17775/Adult-Support-and-
Protection](https://www.dgppp.org.uk/article/17775/Adult-Support-and-Protection)



Community Justice Webinar Social Justice in a brave world - is now live on YouTube.



To watch click here:

<https://youtu.be/kmkNDHuU924>



The Disclosure of Convictions in Scotland has Changed.

If you have a criminal conviction in Scotland, you may be required to disclose it when applying for work, volunteering, or other opportunities. In 2020, the new Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act made important changes to this system of disclosure that will have a huge positive impact on many people with convictions. All types of conviction have been affected, but here is one practical example;

John was convicted of theft and had to pay a £200 fine. Under the old rules John would have to disclose this to employers for 5 years when asked, now under the new rules he only needs to disclose it for 1 year.

If you have a criminal conviction, it is very likely that you will now need to disclose this information to employers for a much shorter period of time. How long will depend on the conviction you received. This means more opportunity, less discrimination, and a fairer chance of employment for you.

As a result of the changes, job applicants will not always be obliged to disclose convictions which are more than a year old.

The changes will mainly impact basic disclosure checks and have a limited effect on exempt professions (e.g., PVG regulated). Apex Scotland can offer specific advice for you and your organisation.

Any service user with a criminal conviction, whether historical or recent, will likely have been affected by these changes and any disclosure advice previously received will now be out of date. The disclosure system is complex and specialist advice is often needed.

Whether you are someone with a criminal conviction, an employer or a support agency, Apex Scotland is here to help. With over 30 years of experience providing support to those with convictions, we can offer accurate, comprehensive advice on the impact of these changes and all aspects of disclosure.



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