

# Domestic Violence.....what does it mean?

Domestic Violence is defined as:

*"Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 18 and over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality"*

Source: Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) November 2004

Domestic Violence is unacceptable and a Crime...it can take many different forms:

## PSYCHOLOGICAL

*Intimidation, insulting, isolation from friends and family, criticising*

## PHYSICAL

*Shaking, smacking, punching, kicking, biting*

## SEXUAL

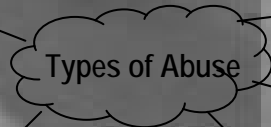
*Forced sex, forced prostitution, sexual insults, rape*

## EMOTIONAL

*Undermining confidence, threatening, bullying, intimidating*

## FINANCIAL

*Not letting them work, refusing to give money, making them beg for money*



domestic violence kills

Who does it affect?

## ANYBODY...

Domestic Violence occurs across the **whole of society**, regardless of:

- Race, ethnicity and religion
- Age
- Class and income
- Where people live



# Domestic Violence...Myths & Facts

There are many myths that surround Domestic Violence, here are some Facts that can begin to dispel such myths

**Fact:** Domestic Violence takes many non physical forms, including verbal, social, racist, psychological, emotional and financial abuse

**Myth:** Domestic Violence is always physical.

**Fact:** Domestic Violence is often a hidden crime

**Myth:** If children don't see it they are ok.

**Myth:** Victims are to blame, they provoke the abuser

**Fact:** Abusers make the choice to hurt. They do not just lose control – they choose who to hurt, where to hurt and how to hurt.

## domestic violence kills

**Myth:** It is only drunks who beat their wives

**Fact:** Even if they don't see the abuse, they may overhear it, which can be just as traumatic.

**Myth:** Domestic Violence only happens to poor people.

**Fact:** Domestic Violence cannot be blamed on alcohol. Alcohol may have been consumed but drink can just provide an excuse.

**Fact:** Domestic violence can happen to persons of any class, culture, religion age, gender and marital status, and in all kinds of families and relationships



# Domestic Violence...Support Services



There are a wide range of agencies / organisations that can be accessed to offer support and advice on Domestic Violence issues:

## Useful Telephone Numbers:

### National:

**National Domestic Violence Helpline** 0808 2000 247 (24hrs)  
Service for male & female victims of Domestic Violence

**Mankind** 0870 794 4124  
To support male victims of Domestic Violence

**NSPCC Helpline** 0808 800 5000  
UK's leading charity specialising in child protection and prevention of cruelty to children

### Local:

**Victim Support – Wiltshire** 01380 729476

Charity providing information and support to victims of crime

**Rape Support Helpline** 0808 8001144

Local support service for Wiltshire

**Wiltshire Social Services** 0845 6070 888 (24hrs)

**Wiltshire Police Domestic Violence Units** 01249 449 766 (North & West Wilts)

01722 435390 (South Wilts & Kennet)

**SPLITZ Support Services** 0845 600 1945

Support services in Wiltshire for women and children, plus male community perpetrator programmes

### Homeless and Housing Advice:

**Homes@Kennet** 01380 734 734

**Kennet District Council** 01380 724 911

**North Wiltshire District Council** 01249 706 111

**Salisbury District Council** 01722 336 272

**West Wiltshire District Council** 01225 776 655

## Domestic violence kills

In an emergency – always contact 999

