

# 7 Minute Briefing

## *Domestic Abuse*

### 1. Background

Domestic abuse can affect anyone from any background. Whilst the majority of cases are male on female violence there has been an increase of female on male violence and violence in same sex relationships.

### 2. What is it?

'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'.

### 3. Types of abuse

Domestic abuse can take the following forms: Physical/sexual abuse and violence; psychological abuse and name-calling; financial abuse and control of money in the house; emotional abuse and emotional blackmail.

### 4. Why it matters?

In 90% of cases children are in the same or the next room when the incident occurs. They may be emotionally distressed witnessing abuse, or physically harmed themselves.

### 5. Local issues

The highest risk age for women is between 25-45. The highest risk of witnessing domestic abuse is in children aged under 5. The most referrals come from the Birkenhead area .

### 6. How to respond

Make sure that any immediate harm is managed. Inform the police if risk of harm is imminent. Discuss safety planning with the victim. Ensure safety of children is paramount.

### 7. Action

Recognise warning signs. Complete the DASH form with the adult victim (over 16) and the RIM form with the children. Make a referral to the MASH team. Refer to MARAC in those cases where risk is high.