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# **Domestic Abuse**

## **Policy and Procedure 2015**

Diocese of Liverpool



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**Contact details**

Diocesan Women’s Issue Adviser

Name.....

Telephone Number.....

DBS Enquiries

Name.....

Telephone Number.....

Police

Name/Local Office.....

Telephone Number.....

Women’s Aid

Name.....

Telephone Number.....

**Resources**

Worst Kept Secret National Helpline (24hr)	0800 028 3398
Women's' Aid and Refuge Crisis National Domestic Abuse Helpline (24hr)	0808 2000 247
Samaritan’s National Helpline	116 123
Mankind National Helpline	01823 334 244
Childline	08001111
National Child Protection Helpline	0800 800 5000
Victim Support	0808 1689111
Action on Addiction Helpline	0300 330 0659

## **Context**

The House of Bishops' Policy on domestic abuse defines the principles behind the guidelines as being:

- Belief in God as love expressed in relationships
- Understanding of humanity (male and female) as made in God's image, and possessing equal worth
- Equality amongst people and within relationships
- Refusal to condone any form of abuse
- Recognition that domestic abuse is prevalent amongst Christians, as among other groups
- Acceptance that survivors may choose anyone they trust to talk to, and not necessarily those with pastoral responsibilities
- Awareness that training for all is essential
- Partnership with other agencies is the best way to provide informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult suffering abuse
- Supervision, support, appraisal and on-going training for those with pastoral responsibilities is essential

The cross government definition of domestic abuse and violence (2013) is: Any incident or patterns of incidents of controlling, coercive, 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. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

We will work hard to support the survivors of domestic abuse in whatever form it takes.

**We do not tolerate any form of domestic violence or abuse and will work with any relevant agencies to help eradicate it. The following offers some guidance as to what to look for if you suspect abuse may be happening.**

It includes all violence and abuse of power within a household between men and women, married and unmarried, parents to children, children to parents, including elderly parents and between non related parties.

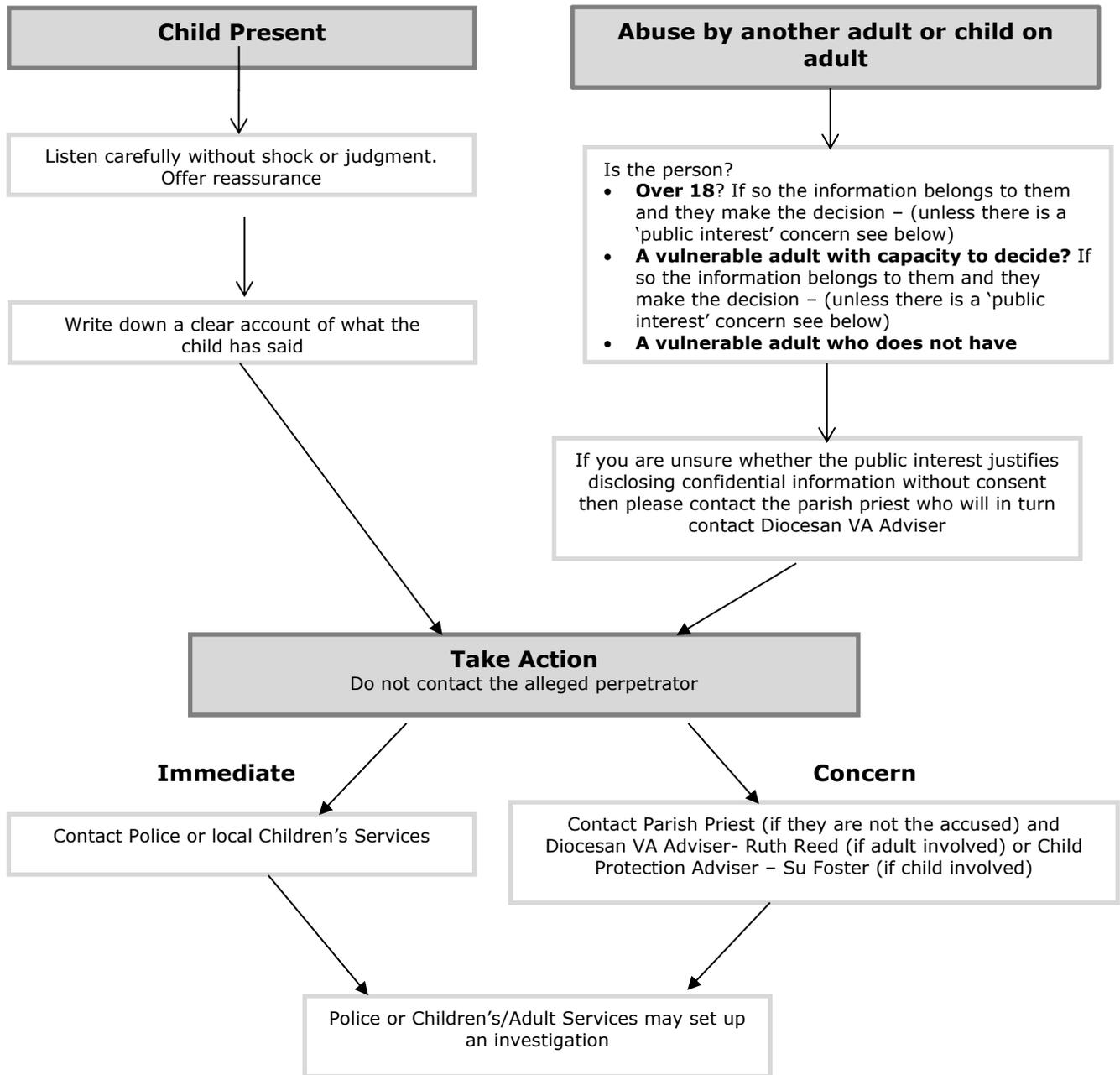
- Physical: Punching. Kicking. Hurting you in any physical way.
- Psychological: Bullying. Undermining you. Calling you a failure.
- Spiritual: Preventing you from Worshiping and following your Faith.
- Financial: Taking your money.
- Sexual: Demanding sex and Even Rape.
- Emotional: Making you feel insecure. Turning friends and family against you, especially your children.
- Neglect: Depriving you of food and everyday essentials.
- We feel that any of this behavior should not be an accepted part of Christian life.

### **Some Facts about Domestic Abuse!!**

- It affects 1 in 5 adults in this Country. Approx. 1in4 women & 1in7 men.
- It is an escalating process, it rarely occurs just once.
- One quarter of assaults reported to the Police are defined as Domestic Abuse. You are more likely to suffer Domestic Abuse than violence on the street.
- On average of 2 women a week are killed by abusive partners.
- 750,000 Children witness Domestic Abuse each year. They are badly affected and tend to be damaged psychologically. It is a form of child abuse by the violent partner.
- Domestic Abuse happens in all types of households and among all professions. rich or poor there is no one type of person who is immune.

**If you know, or suspect, that children are at risk from witnessing domestic violence then you are legally bound to report it to the police or children's services.**

# Domestic Abuse Referral Flow Chart



**A 'public interest concern' – how to decide**

"The key factors in deciding whether or not to share confidential information are necessity and proportionality, i.e. whether the proposed sharing is likely to make an effective contribution to preventing the risk and whether the public interest in sharing information overrides the interest in maintaining confidentiality. In making the decision you must weigh up what might happen if the information is shared against what might happen if it is not and make a decision based on professional judgement".

**Section 3.40 information sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers. HMSO 2010**

**Contact Details:**  
 Diocesan Vulnerable Adults Adviser–Ruth Reed  
 tel 0151 705 2161/0151 709 9722 or  
 e-mail: [ruth.reed@liverpool.anglican.org](mailto:ruth.reed@liverpool.anglican.org).

**Contact Details:**  
 Diocesan Child Protection Adviser–Su Foster  
 tel 0151 705 2153/07887 510946  
[su.foster@liverpool.anglican.org](mailto:su.foster@liverpool.anglican.org)

# **Your Church Domestic Abuse Charter**

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This Church

Understands domestic abuse to be the abuse of a person physically, sexually, psychologically, spiritually, emotionally, socially or financially within an intimate or family – type relationship and that forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. This can include forced marriage and so-called 'honour crimes'.

This Church

Holds that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and irreconcilable with the Christian Faith and a Christian way of living.

This Church

Accepts that domestic abuse is a serious problem which occurs in Church families as well as in wider society.

This Church

Undertakes to listen, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse.

This Church

Will always place the safety of abused people, vulnerable adults and children as the highest priority.

This Church

Will work with domestic abuse agencies, will learn from them and support them in appropriate ways and will publicise their work.

This Church

Will play its part in teaching that domestic abuse is a sin.

This Church

Believes in a God of love, justice, mercy and forgiveness.

This Church

Will teach what it means to be male and female, equally made in God's image.

This Church

Will seek to appoint advisors to encourage the use of good practice guidelines and keep our Church informed about the implementation and development of these guidelines.