

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is "domestic abuse" if—

(a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
(b) the behaviour is abusive.

(3) Behaviour is "abusive" if it consists of any of the following—

- (a) physical or sexual abuse;*
- (b) violent or threatening behaviour;*
- (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;*
- (d) economic abuse*
- (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;*

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

Personally Connected is defined as:

- a. they are, or have been, married to each other;
- b. they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
- c. they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- d. they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- e. they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
- f. they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child (see subsection (2));
- g. they are relatives.

Please contact the Housing IDVA via :

IDVA.Referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The Housing IDVAs only accept referrals and enquiries from professionals. They do not accept self-referrals.

Referrals to the Housing IDVA must be in relation to domestic abuse that the survivor is currently experiencing or has experienced in the last three months, or in relation to a recent increase in risk to the survivor that they have disclosed such as a perpetrator being released from prison.

Emergency contacts

111 option 2 for mental health crisis team
101 for non-emergency police
999 in an emergency, then 55 if unable to speak

Provide your teams out of hours housing number.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

Freephone **0808 2000 247**

MEN'S ADVICE Line Support for male victims

0808 801 0327

GALOP Support for LGBTQ+ victims

0800 999 5428

HOURLASS – Support for older victims

0808 808 8141

NATIONAL STALKING HELPLINE 0808 802 0300



**Cambridgeshire
& Peterborough**
Domestic Abuse & Sexual
Violence Partnership

Housing IDVA

Information for professionals



What is an IDVA?

An IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) works with current victims of domestic abuse to:

- identify and assess risks
- understand and access options
- devise bespoke safety plans
- navigate criminal and civil justice processes

They have an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse, including the impact on victim/survivors and the tactics and behaviours of perpetrators. They provide practical advice and emotional support to victim/survivors of domestic abuse, acting as their advocate when needed.

What is a Housing IDVA?

Housing IDVA's are the same as IDVA's – their client base comes largely from housing professionals. Housing IDVAs work closely with Housing teams and local Housing Associations and are co-located at Hunts District Council (Thursday), Cambridge City Council (Tues), East Cambs District Council (Weds) and linked in with Fenland District Council and Peterborough City Council.

What can IDVA's help with?

- IDVAs support with safety planning, they are a voluntary service and work with survivors to help them feel safer in various ways. You could have a chat about what might be available to you.
- IDVAs can support to reduce the risk to survivors/children by putting things in place for and/or advising of options.
- Support with general safety, police, housing, orders, liaising with other agencies, target hardening, advocating on survivor's behalf with other agencies.

What is a MARAC?

MARAC is a multi-agency risk assessment conference to review the highest risk DA cases.

The referral forms (DASH) can be downloaded from our website under the 'Professionals' section:
<http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/>

How to ask if somebody would like IDVA support?

What you are telling me sounds really tough, would you like me to share your details with a team who specialise in domestic abuse? They might be able to provide some support with what you are experiencing.

Do you consent to me sharing your details with a Domestic Abuse support service who can have a chat with you about things, as I'm really worried about you?

Would you be open to any support for what you are going through at the moment? I can share your details with a team who can help.

General safety planning you could do with an individual if they do not want support:

Ensure you (and children's) important documents are in one place so you can grab and go if needed - ID, bank cards, birth certificates and utility bills etc

Pack an emergency bag if it is safe to hide this somewhere or leave it with a friend/family member.

- Speak to them about identifying a safe person to call in an emergency
- Arrange code words with friends/family to call police
- Identify a safe place that they can go in an emergency and emergency money
- Keep phone fully charged or keep a spare one somewhere
- They could arrange a code word with children and ensure they know how to phone police
- Think about how they can escape their property – keep a spare set of keys, which room can they get out of more easily windows, doors etc?

General tips for difficult conversations:

I understand this must be hard for you, thank you for sharing it with me.

I am worried about you, and I know the IDVA team would be able to offer some further advice if that would be helpful for you.

I understand that you might not want to talk to the police, I know this can be scary.

You are brave for talking about this.

What you are telling me sounds worrying, would you be happy for me to do a risk assessment with you and refer to the IDVA team? (complete DASH).