



Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Sandwell Council Domestic Abuse Team

Sandwell Council plays a lead role in the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP) which is responsible for bringing together partners and agencies to address domestic abuse. The partnership has produced a strategy entitled [Sandwell Domestic Abuse Strategy](#) and this sets out the partnership priorities for action.

What does Sandwell Council's Domestic Abuse Team do? We:

- provide advice and support to the wider council, the DASP and sub-groups in their work to address domestic abuse and sexual assault/abuse.
- lead and support partnership working across statutory and voluntary agencies through the DASP to prevent and reduce domestic abuse and sexual assault/abuse in Sandwell.
- commission services to meet the support and safety needs of adults and children experiencing domestic abuse and sexual assault/abuse.
- support Safer Sandwell Partnership Police & Crime Board (SSPPCB) to ensure that Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are carried out, recommendations from reviews are monitored and implemented and learning widely disseminated.
- commission and coordinate multi-agency training for professionals across partner organisations to recognise the signs of abuse and equip them to support victims appropriately.
- develop and promote communications campaigns to increase awareness of domestic abuse and sexual assault/abuse and reduce its extent and impact.

Does your team need more information on domestic abuse?

You can email a member of the Domestic Abuse Team via domesticabuse_admin@sandwell.gov.uk

Internet webpage: [Domestic abuse | Sandwell Council](#)

Domestic abuse support

If you, or people you know, are experiencing domestic abuse and need support, contact [Black Country Women's Aid](#) which provides a range of services and support to women and men experiencing domestic abuse. You can contact them 24 hours a day on 0121 552 6448. Or contact via [webchat on the Black Country Women's Aid website](#) and WhatsApp on 07384 466181.

Alternatively, there is a service for men and boys who have experienced domestic abuse, rape and sexual abuse. Contact Ask Marc by phone (0121 289 6402), email info@askmarc.org.uk or [visit the Ask Marc website for more information](#).

[Birmingham LGBT Centre](#) can provide a range of support services for LGBT+ victims.





Domestic Abuse – Is someone you know experiencing domestic abuse?



When someone is experiencing domestic abuse, it may take the person a long time before they will talk about what they are experiencing. There is an information leaflet available for friends, family and work colleagues who are worried about someone they know is suffering from domestic abuse and provides information on how to support victims of domestic abuse and services available to safeguard them. The leaflet is available via the following [link](#)

News.....

Children are often present during non-fatal strangulation, CPS analysis shows

Children were present in more than a third of non-fatal strangulation offences, according to analysis of a sample of cases by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Prosecutors were given additional powers to charge violent abusers with non-fatal strangulation and non-fatal suffocation in June 2022 when new legislation came into force. The CPS has taken a sample of non-fatal strangulation cases to see how the law is being used almost six months on. It revealed that in 38% of cases a child was present, with some being in the same room or subject to abuse while the offending was taking place. More information can be found via the following [link](#)

Domestic Homicide Project Spotlight Briefing 4: Carers

The Domestic Homicide Project (the Project), based in the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP), was established by the National Police Chiefs' Council and the College of Policing. The Project was created in May 2020 through Home Office funding to collect, review and share quick-time learning from all police-recorded domestic homicides and suspected suicides of individuals with a known history of domestic abuse victimisation. More information can be found via the following [link](#)

Daisy's Law

Daisy's Law is a huge step forward in legislation to enable those born due to rape to be identified as victims of crime in their own right. This work has been led by one woman, Daisy, who has pushed for this change in the law for many years. More information is available via the following [link](#)

Born from rape, Daisy, who was born in Birmingham in 1975, was placed in foster care when she was just a few days old, and subsequently put up for adoption. Growing up, she had no knowledge of or contact with her birth parents. It was only when she turned 18 that she made the appalling discovery she had been born as a result of a rape. The link to the story is available [here](#)

Contract to support victims of abuse



[£2m contract to support Black Country abuse victims](#)

Sandwell Council has awarded over £2 million to Black Country Women's Aid in a five-year contract to deliver safe accommodation and support services for victims of domestic abuse. Longer term funding will provide some stability and assurance to the continuation of these services which offer a safe place for survivors and their children fleeing domestic abuse.

Sandwell Council Leader Kerrie Carmichael said: "Domestic abuse is unacceptable and anyone suffering from this should know that this is not their fault and that help is available 24/7 at any time of year."

West Bromwich Town Centre Safe Spaces Scheme

We are a safe space

If the behaviour of another person has made you feel unsafe in West Bromwich town centre, come and speak to us.

We will offer you refuge inside whilst you call a family member, friend, helpline or the police.

Safe Spaces Scheme

Sandwell Council has been working closely with Sandwell Police and West Bromwich Business Improvement District (BID) on the Safe Spaces scheme in West Bromwich. Several businesses and voluntary groups have already signed up to be Safe Spaces. When you see this sticker, you know you can go into the Safe Space and ask for help if you need to. Safe Spaces can provide refuge while you make a call and/or wait for support.

Remember to always call 999 in an emergency or 101 in non-emergencies. Further information on the Safe Spaces scheme is available via the following [link](#)



Learning from Sandwell's Domestic Homicide Event held January 2023

Learning from Sandwell's Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) has highlighted child to parent abuse, adverse childhood experiences and the rights for the nearest relative to access mental health assessments. An event was held with participants from a range of agencies and shared the learning from Sandwell's DHRs. Please see link to the Child to Parent Abuse [guidance](#) and [briefing](#) document that can be shared within your organisation. The local guidance has been designed to complement national guidance and inform organisational and multi-agency responses to Child to Parent Abuse in Sandwell.

**ZERO
TOLERANCE**

A Black Country Sexual Assault and Abuse and Female Genital Mutilation Awareness Event also took place in February 2023. The Sandwell Council Domestic Abuse Team and Black Country Integrated Care Board hosted an event at The Hawthorns, 'Together We Move, Together We Change' to spotlight and raise awareness of sexual assault and abuse and female genital mutilation (FGM) which was attended by over 130 professionals in the Black Country. We heard some powerful stories of survivors of FGM and must all work together to continue to raise awareness and put a stop to this harmful and illegal practice.

Key Dates

Multi-agency domestic abuse training is available to officers in Sandwell during May 2023 to March 2024.

You can find details of the dates and book on the training via the following [link](#)

All sessions are held online via Microsoft Teams. Sessions include:

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| Domestic Abuse and Recourse to Public Funds | Child to Parent Abuse |
| Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews | Domestic Abuse – 2-day course |
| Domestic Abuse and Adult Safeguarding | Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse |
| Sexual Assault and Abuse & Female Genital Mutilation | |

Please note we recommend officers complete the Sandwell Learn Domestic Abuse eLearning module before attending the Domestic Abuse two-day training course. To access the Sandwell Learn eLearning training contact Sandwell_Learn@sandwell.gov.uk

