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How is Coronavirus affecting domestic abuse trends?

Although some statistics do not show an increase in reports of domestic abuse in the wake of COVID-19, it is believed that actual instances of domestic abuse are likely to have increased. The impact of Covid-19 and the isolation measures imposed, are likely to adversely affect victims of domestic abuse

What is the impact of COVID-19 on DA victims?

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Financial pressures and restrictions to social life can cause additional pressure within the home. Measures such as home-working, school closures and social distancing also mean victims spend much more time at home with their abusers, away from family, friends and other sources of support.

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Where can I find out more?

Rochdale Council have produced some [short video slides](#) on Coronavirus and domestic abuse.

Our [local domestic abuse web-pages](#) include links to Government guidance on Coronavirus and domestic abuse.

Will I have to self-isolate with my abuser after calling the police?

The Police can secure a Domestic Violence Protection Order through the court within 48 hours, which would prevent the abuser from returning to the home within 28 days. These orders are still processed the usual way. When granted, this gives an opportunity to put longer-term plans in place for after the 28-day period

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What if I don't need to speak to the police?

There are many local and national organisations that can offer support. Support available includes refuge accommodation, safety planning, live web-chats, 24 hour helplines and specialist services for LGBT victims and people experiencing honour based abuse, FGM or forced marriage. Locally you can call Safenet's 24hr number: 0300 303 3581, Victim Support Mon-Fri, 9-5: 07944 665 212 or visit our web-pages www.rochdale.gov.uk/domesticabuse for details of more services.

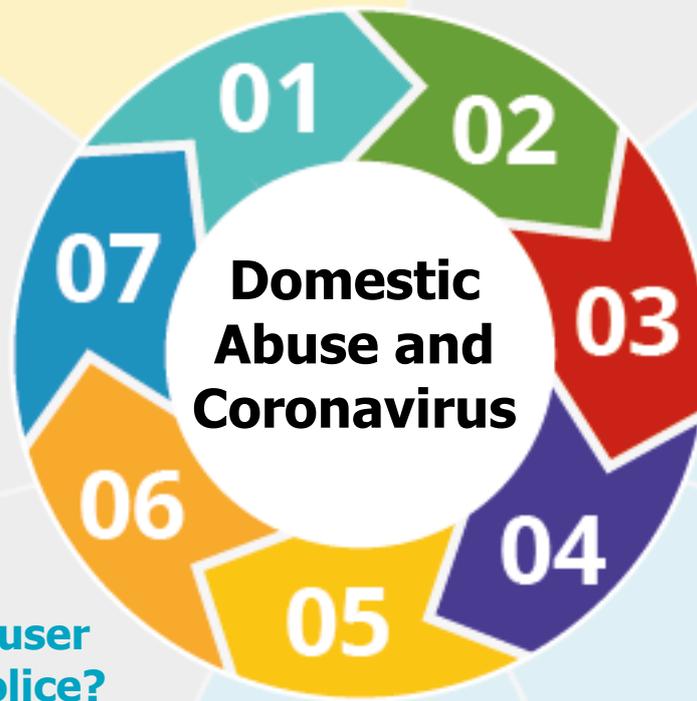
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Are reporting mechanisms still available?

It is feared that victims are under-reporting as they are afraid that services will be unable to support them in the midst of COVID-19. However, DA services are still operating, the police WILL attend domestic abuse calls and victims can breach lockdown rules to access support. Victims can be reassured they can still ask for help

How do you report DA in an emergency?

As always, victims of domestic abuse can call 999 in an emergency. There is an option to remain silent should they be afraid of being heard by the abuser; pressing 55 on their mobile handset will indicate to the call handler that they need the police. This is called the "Silent Solutions System", more information can be found [here](#).



Domestic Abuse and Coronavirus

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